

# **“THE WAR FOR THE WORLD”**

**Past, Present and Future**

**The Visions of  
Daniel and Revelation**

*Also published under the Title “The Kingdoms of the Lord”*

*“The Kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord  
and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever.”*

*“And I saw heaven opened and a white horse and he that sat upon it was called  
Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.  
And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth gathered together to make war  
against him.” Rev 19:11,19*



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***“And there was war in heaven Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan who leads the whole earth astray. He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him.” Rev 12:7 NIV***

***“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us in to temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.”***

Certain things can be learnt from this prayer for those who trust in God: God is our Father God; He has a Kingdom; that Kingdom is coming on earth; He is active in the affairs of men; He forgives us when we forgive others; there is an “evil one” who seeks to destroy us but we are protected by God; God’s Kingdom will last for ever.

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Books by Roland Pletts:

The Shekinah Glory of Christ  
Covenant of Glory  
Daniel, Maria and Abba  
The Monkey’s Wedding  
Ginger’s Great Escape  
Crown of Thorns  
The Lord reigns  
The Coming Conflict

The author spent four decades of ministry in Africa working among different ethnic groups and with different churches.

Cover Art work by author.

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## **WAR FOR THE WORLD - Global Weather Warning - A Storm is Coming**

During the last 2000 years a great war has been fought for the world. Michael and *his* angels are fighting the devil and *his* angels. Who is Michael? He is the Archangel but what does that mean? He is the ***Prince of Israel***. Daniel 12:1. His name means “Who is like God” and is an OT synonym for Messiah who in the OT was called the Angel of the Lord, the Captain of the Armies of God, the Lord of Hosts. In the days of Daniel Jewish people believed Michael represented Messiah. Jesus has two offices: High Priest and King. Melchizedek prefigures both offices and Michael is a pre-incarnate title for the ***Prince of Israel; Messiah***. (see Appendix 3) What has Michael been doing these last 2000 years? He has been at war. In every generation a great spiritual war has been fought by the “devil” and his angels against the Lord and His Armies. Millions of believers have fallen in the battle; persecuted, hounded, martyred. But the day is coming when Messiah, the great Prince of Israel will prevail and they will be raised in resurrection by His voice at His Coming. John 5:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Some people say “There has always been trouble; it’s no different today than it has always been”. (2 Peter 3:14) Yes, there has always been trouble but today it is different than ever before. Dear reader, just switch on your TV and watch the news. What will you see? - War, violence, murder, riots, earthquakes, droughts, floods, crime, famines, civil unrest, revolutions, famines, pestilence and much more. Go to your entertainment channels and what will you mostly see? - murder, crime, pornography, occult, abuse, swearing, loose sex, immorality; this is what many people watch as entertainment.

Stop and think about it. It is truly frightening or do we accept this as normal? Is this the world we want for ourselves and our children? The Lord will allow the harvest of sin to ripen to its awful fullness so that all mankind will learn and understand that the ways of selfish lawlessness ultimately leads to sorrow, destruction, pain and death. He will allow us to go on hurting ourselves with our loose morals and sinful “freedom” and to continue fighting and killing one another until we grow weary of it. Self centred lives with no morals or discipline will ultimately self destruct. The Universal laws do not support it. Only when the full horror of the harvest of sin impacts us and we cry to God will He intervene. When the crop of pain, disaster, malice and hurt ripens then He will reap a harvest; first the tares and thorns, then the wheat. [Matthew 13:24-43]

As we go further into this century massive crises loom. Most people do not understand that unseen forces are at work gathering together invisible powers to unleash a storm of such magnitude that it will forever change the face of the planet. The world will never be the same afterwards. It is only Jesus who can quell the storm, none other.

The question we must ask is where can we find shelter when it breaks? Most of us have at some time heard an early-warning weather report announcing an impending storm, hurricane, gale or raging fire out of control. Tragedy occurs when such early warnings

are ignored; property is destroyed and lives lost. Those who take heed and find shelter are those who are wise. But where can we find refuge? To whom can we go for safety? Long ago a man called Jesus spoke of these times and gave us an early warning. He also told us the place of safety. This book looks at the current world situation and how we got here and considers the implications of present events. It points to the only course of action that can be taken. (Lk.21:25,26; Matt.7:24-27)

Another man, an unskilled fisherman named Peter, warned "*Save yourselves from this crooked generation*". (Acts 2:40) The message today comes with intense urgency. The storm will soon break. This book helps to understand the pattern of history and gives advice as to what every person can do. May it bless you with hope and give you comfort. Have courage and faith.

It is not easy to present these things in a way that is easily understood. I am aware that there will be those who will not accept this book and no doubt some will be critical of it. To them let me say that I do not claim to be a prophet and neither do I pass judgment on anyone. I offer this book as a contribution to understand the times and seasons in which we live. This book does not pass judgement but observes the events of history, the conditions that currently prevail and the general state of mankind. I am in the same boat as the rest of mankind. The storms are coming and the boat we have put our trust in for so long is sinking and many people have no life jackets. Only the Captain can save the passengers and the whole boat as well. When the storms come He is still able to walk on water! (John 6:19-21)

During my life long ministry I have at times come in contact with and seen both angels and demons. They are real and all around us. I have glimpsed the activities of spiritual beings both good and bad. I have also been through a war and seen first hand, starvation, genocide, anarchy, murders and martyrdom. We need our spiritual eyes opened to discern what is happening. Few people are able to look beyond the obvious news headlines to see the true nature of events. However there is growing awareness among people that something astounding is about to happen. Daniel 12:10 says "*None of the wicked shall understand but the wise shall understand.*"

Back in the late 1960s and early 1970s I started ministry on Bible Prophecy. I predicted and taught from scripture that East and West Germany would be reunited. At that time people doubted this and a friend from West Germany told me that he completely discounted it. Yet when it happened in 1989 it was swift and unstoppable. I predicted the collapse of the Soviet Union. Again I was told I was wrong, yet it happened at great speed and nothing could prevent it. I foretold the coming division of Jerusalem. Once more I was told it was not likely yet today there is what is called "the Wall", a long fence and high concrete wall that stretches for many hundreds of kilometres from the north of Israel to the south right through the suburbs of Jerusalem. I also taught the rise of Islam, oil as a means of world blackmail and the prophetic significance of Syria. I

gave talks about coming world financial collapse. Again these things were then considered unrealistic. Over the years I have changed some of my thinking but I offer this book as a help to understand the book of Revelation and present world events. After all, Revelation is a “revelation” or “unveiling” and is intended to be understood. Some teachers of Biblical prophecy say that the events of Revelation are mostly still in the future. However, I believe it has mostly been fulfilled and we await only the final three and a half years of Daniel 12 and Revelation chapters 11,12 and 13.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that who so ever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save the world.”*

Nothing will change God’s love, “He is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Through history we read of many great kingdoms and powerful kings, warlords, conquerors and despots that have come and gone. But there is another Kingdom that presides over all others and will last forever. (Dan 7.) Many people are unaware of it and its laws, citizenship and authority. They do not know its King. Yet they can, it is not a secret, all can find it if they search for it. Jesus said

*“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God” and, “If anyone hears me and doesn’t obey me, I am not his judge - for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. But all who reject me and my message will be judged at the day of judgment by the truths I have spoken. For these are not my own ideas that I have spoken but I have told you what the Father said to tell you. And I know His instructions lead to eternal life.”*

His kingdom has existed for a very long time. The first reference to it is right back at the start of recorded history when a mysterious man called Melchizedek met with the patriarch Abraham the Father of Faith. It was shortly after a great battle between Abraham and four infamous earthly kings who in their wickedness captured Abraham’s family and stole his possessions. Abraham was vastly outnumbered yet he won a great victory and on his triumphant return was met by this mysterious man, evidently someone of great omnipotence. He was called King of Righteousness and King of Peace. True righteousness always produces lasting peace, they go together. Peace will never come without righteousness and justice. Melchizedek offered Abraham bread and wine, the emblems of covenant. We are told more about this extraordinary person in the NT book of Hebrews. Not only was he the Righteous King of Peace but also High Priest of the Most High God, “Possessor of Heaven and Earth”. It is His Kingdom of power and glory that will last for ever and have no end. His throne is the throne of David and He will order and establish it in judgment and justice forever. Blessed are those who belong to that Kingdom. (Matt 5-7) You can belong to that kingdom if you choose to yield your life to the King and obey Him. It is available for everyone, even the thief who was

crucified with the King and who in the closing moments of his life called upon Him and was given assurance that he was welcome. (Luke 23:43) The choice is yours.

## **HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

The greatest theme in Biblical prophecy is the Messiah our Lord Jesus; His birth, family lineage, ministry, death and resurrection were all foretold long before they took place. On the day of his crucifixion many prophetic details were fulfilled; he was betrayed by a friend, sold for 30 pieces of silver, scourged, falsely charged, pierced yet without a bone broken, his garments were divided by lot, he died and was buried with the rich, and then rose on the third day. Great chapters in the OT Biblical prophecies came to pass just as predicted; Psalm 22, Psalm 2, Psalm 118, Isaiah 53, Zechariah and many more.

There are a thousand different views on what the book of Revelation means. Many people approach it with a “Western Mindset” and have all kinds of concepts such as philosophical, astrological, literal and allegorical, eastern mysticism, new age, Gnostic, esoteric and many more. Some see it as a kind of vision of the inner soul’s spiritual evolution, others as a figurative story of mankind’s future. Revelation can mean anything, *unless* one stays within the historical cultural origin of the book which is Jewish. I do not believe one has to be a psychic, scientist, a mathematician, a monk, astronomer or astrologer or have a university degree in Divinity to be able to understand it. But one must have a grasp of the Bible and a personal faith in the Lord of the Bible. After all, that is what the author of the book had, John the apostle. It can only be understood correctly from a Hebrew Jewish interpretation, it is not Gentile in anyway at all.

You may say that is too simple for such a difficult book with so many strange visions and symbols. Even many Christians disagree about what it means but this is because they try to interpret it using conflicting methods; pretrib, midtrib posttrib, amillennial, allegorical, literal all coming from a western mindset of theology.

Many people try and understand the book of Revelation without ever grasping its OT origins, yet *all* its symbols and predictions come from the OT. If we do not first understand the OT foundations we will never fully understand Revelation and will end up with a distorted view of it. This is what has happened with much exegesis; it is faulty because it is not built upon correct foundations. One example of this is the attempt to cram all the events of Revelation into a final few years at the end of the age. This is just not possible; there is far too much to squeeze into a few brief years. Just the opposite is true, 2000 years has been squeezed into Revelation. I believe much of Revelation has already happened since Jesus ascended. There is a specific time of three and a half years mentioned in Revelation, but it is wrong to think that the entire book is only to do with a few brief end time years of “tribulation”. It is intended for all the church and believers in every age. I suggest you read Revelation if you have not already done so.

One reason why people cram its contents into a short end time period is because they are ignorant of history and what has already happened through the last two thousand years. The great wars and persecutions of history in which countless millions perished were horrendous. Don't tell me that Revelation is silent about them. Some Christians focus on the end times as if it is the only great persecution that will happen yet nothing can compare to the "great tribulation" that has occurred over the last twenty centuries. The many conflicts in Europe, the Crusades, the conquests of Islam and the great religious persecutions were awful events. World War 1, also known as "The Great War", caused sufferings of unsurpassed horror. World War II was worse. Expounders of Revelation who say that the events in it are still in the future seem to ignore the present state of the planet. The planet itself has already been devastated. A third of the trees have already been destroyed, vast areas have been turned into deserts, multitudes of animals have become extinct, fresh waters and seas have already been polluted and depleted of their abundant life, and famines, pestilence and earthquakes have already killed millions. The "Black Death" Bubonic Plague killed a third of the population of Europe not to mention elsewhere. Many diseases ravage humanity. There have been numerous devastating earthquakes. We have also seen an amazing increase of knowledge, the development of nuclear power, the birth of the computer and the space age. Man has sent space ships to the moon with a message "We came in peace" yet mankind is unable to live in peace on this planet. The whole world is at war, there are hostilities everywhere, violence fills the earth and every nation is facing internal and external crises; ethnic, cultural, religious, economic, environmental crises and there are endless famines, disease and crimes against humanity. Never before has there been such a time as this. These things will increase until Jesus comes. He alone will establish peace, justice and a reign of righteousness. Many Christian books and films emphasize future horrors so much that we miss the promises of our loving God. Revelation is not about the destruction of the earth but about the salvation of the earth. It is redemptive and hopeful for the future of all mankind.

No prayer goes unanswered. (Ps 69:33,34:17) A child prayed that God would stop all the hate and fighting. When asked if her prayer was answered she said "God hasn't done anything - yet." As the prayers of believers ascended through the ages they fill the temple of God until the moment comes and God no longer delays. (Rev 8:3-5)

When John was taken "*in the Spirit*" he saw events and recorded them. (Rev 4:1) The Lord revealed things that would come "*here after*". John wrote the book of Revelation in about AD96 and the things he saw therefore started long ago, right back in the first century AD and will continue until Jesus has established the Kingdom of God on earth. The people of that time had already witnessed earth shattering events. Jerusalem, the City of God, had been totally overwhelmed, the temple destroyed, the Jews evicted and the city turned into a Gentile centre. These horrendous events were followed by the destruction of the last stronghold of Jewish independence when Masada fell. These things were unthinkable for people of that time. They were followed by the sudden and

utter destruction of Pompeii in AD79. This shocked the entire Empire. Pompeii was the show piece of the Roman “civilization” of the day. It was a city of luxury and many rich and upper class Romans lived there or had holiday villas there. It is also known from archaeological evidence that there was much corruption, debauchery and sexual immorality practiced in the city. It was a city with a reputation for the high life with free morals and the worship of many “gods” much like many modern cities of our present era. It was destroyed when Vesuvius erupted with such suddenness that very few people escaped even though they had four days early warning from the volcano. This shocked the entire empire to its very core. It was universally considered Divine judgment. The smoke of the destruction was visible for hundreds of miles. Seafarers and merchant ships watched from afar and bewailed its sudden, violent destruction. John used this exact language to describe the demise of “Babylon the Great”.

John had himself experienced awful persecution under Emperor Diocletus. Many, many believers had already been killed. Emperor Nero had crucified tens of thousands of believers. The city of Rome had been turned into a vast slaughter house and thousands of crucifixes lined the streets. The words of Jesus *“Take up your cross and follow me”* literally came to pass. For believers all the signs were that the end of the age was nigh but more was to follow.

Roman persecution continued and eventually in AD135 the last Jewish residents in the land rose in revolt. They were led by Simon Bar-Kochbba also known as Bar-Koziba. He was considered by many to be the Messiah and his followers fought fiercely but the Roman armies were far too strong and hundreds of thousands were killed. Almost all surviving Jews were expelled. It fulfilled the words of Jesus *“another will come in his own name and you will receive him.”*

There are some Bible teachers that claim that the words to John *“Come up here”* depict the rapture of the church. (Rev 4:1-2) However, John was not taken away in rapture but was *“in the spirit”* and saw visions of things *to come*, the events that would unfold through the ages including the great spiritual conflicts and stupendous numbers of martyrs who would lay down their lives for the Kingdom. It was necessary for the church to understand these things and the great sacrifice of following Jesus. There would be no quick and easy intervention, for victory would be won at great cost. Revelation was not written to show Christians that they will escape tribulation but the exact opposite, to show them to expect great persecution and to be faithful in the midst of it.

John was not taken away in rapture and in fact it is traditionally believed that all the first twelve apostles were martyred. There are some who say that Paul and the other disciples were misled because they believed that Jesus was to return in their lifetime. It can be pointed out, however, that the Lord Jesus told Peter that he was to grow old and eventually suffer martyrdom. Paul also in the latter part of his life said he was ready to die for Christ and knew he would be killed. It is clear that the disciples were under no

illusion about Christ's return for they constantly referred to it as being in the "end times" It was also universally understood that before Christ would return certain significant events must occur. Zechariah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos and all the OT prophets explain that when Messiah returns the Jewish people will be back in the land. Jesus and the NT apostles including John in Revelation said the same thing. Paul also stated that a *remnant* of Israel will return and the "man of sin" would first be revealed.

It was necessary for John to see the visions of Revelation and share them with the churches so that believers of every age should understand these things; there would be no quick solution but a great conflict through the ages. It would require the sacrifice of many believers to spread the Gospel in every age to every nation and only then will the King return. The Jews, who had dispersed into the nations when Jerusalem was captured by Gentiles, will be gathered back to welcome the King. (Lk 13:35) It will be Judah and all Israel, both Jew and Gentile believers, who will "Bring back the King." (2 Sam 19:11) The OT account of the rebellion of Absalom and king David's eventual return is an analogy of Christ' return.

There are Bible teachers who say that the "church" is not mentioned in Revelation. Yet they ignore many references to believers; those who will be killed, those who reject the "mark of the beast", those who resist the beast and false prophet and are clothed in white garments, those who are called to "*come out of Babylon*" and those who "*keep the commandments of Jesus*". They ignore statements of the Lord and the angels: at the sixth vial "*I come as a thief, blessed are those who keep their garments.*"(Rev 16:15); those "*who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus* (Rev12:17; "*here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*" (Rev 14:12) ; "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on*" (Rev 12:13) ; "*Their fellow servants and brethren that should be killed as they...*" (Rev 6:11). These are all conveniently described by these teachers as Jews yet in context they are Christians, they believe in Jesus. Some teachers believe that Christians will be gone in rapture before these events yet there is no Biblical justification for this and it is derived from an assumption that Christians will escape the last few years of tribulation. If Revelation was not written to Christians why should it have been written at all or sent to the churches? When so many millions of Christians have suffered persecution, travail, and death why should God rescue a favoured few at the end? This idea is a popular theory that appeals to the escapist mentality of some western people who do not understand history or the symbols and message of Revelation. It does not stand up to the events of history or the reality of the times in which we live. The warning John gives to believers is "*Anyone who can hear listen carefully. The people of God who are destined for prison will go to prison. Those destined for death will be killed. This is the time for endurance and faith.* (Simplified Living Bible) In other words believers will be imprisoned and killed but "*here is the perseverance and faith of the saints,* New Standard Bible (Rev 13:10).

It is my belief that the great majority of the events of Revelation have already happened. There are no major prophetic events that need to be fulfilled except for the final three and half year period. The Abomination of Desolation is already there, for good reasons I doubt if there will be a rebuilt Jewish Temple before the Messiah and everything else will take its course. All the great prophecies have been fulfilled and the stage is set for the last act of the conflict between the light bearers and the hosts of darkness. We await the appearance of the final actors and the arrival of the King. This can happen very quickly. Everything is in place. As you continue to read you will see why I say this.

Have you ever asked the question “What on earth is happening?” To answer that question we need to first understand what is happening in heaven. Events on earth are the consequences of things that happen in the invisible spiritual realms. Revelation is not just about what happens on earth but what happens in heaven. There is a great spiritual conflict and this increases as the world moves towards the fulfilment of God’s plans. The spiritual conflict between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of darkness rages around the planet as demonic powers drive mankind to violence, deception, war and despair. Armies of angels hold at bay forces of darkness and prepare nations for the harvest that will come.

The book of Revelation is the concluding chapter of the Bible. The foundations were laid by Moses and the Prophets and then John drew from all that was previously written and with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit finished the final chapter. It needs no further addition. To understand it therefore one must relate it to the rest of scripture, it does not stand in isolation. As when an impatient reader skips through a book to read the last chapter first and thereby confuses the complete story so some would attempt to interpret Revelation without first understanding the preceding scriptures on which it is based. John was a Jew not a Gentile and everything he wrote was from a Jewish perspective. We will never understand Revelation unless we first have a good grasp of Old Testament symbols found in the Hebrew Feasts, in the plan and construction of the Tabernacle, in the sacrifices and in Jewish customs. Everything in the Old Testament is there for us to learn from and the symbols, customs and events are forerunners, shadows, types, examples, previews and echoes of what will be fulfilled. Aspects of *all* the OT Feasts contain prophetic truths and are seen in Revelation. This book only touches on some of these OT aspects, there is much more to consider.

It was John, the beloved disciple, who sat at the feet of Jesus and heard his teaching, received the visions and recorded them. To interpret the book with its symbols one must go back to the Old Testament scriptures. John used these scriptures and visions given by the Holy Spirit to depict what has happened over the last two thousand years and will culminate during a period of three and a half years followed by a thousand years of “Kingdom Age” or “Millennium”. It draws together the “loose threads” and puts the capstone on the final revelation. I believe the return of Jesus to earth will establish His Kingdom with both Jews and Gentiles who believe in him here on earth. I see His

coming *before* the 1000 years of Revelation, “Pre-millennium”. I believe this is a literal period and is the “Day of the Lord” – a thousand years. I think it is wrong to take what the apostle John distinctly designates as 1000 years and change it to mean something that he did not say. Who are we to say that John, who sat at the feet of Jesus, was wrong? I believe the “coming down from heaven of New Jerusalem” is *after* 1000 years, Post-millennium. So the Lord comes *before* the 1000 years and New Jerusalem comes *after* the 1000 years. The Lord will not rule during the 1000 years like an earthly king, He will rule *in and with* his people, His Shekinah Glory will be in and with them. (See my book Covenant of Glory) I also believe there is a period of three and a half years prior to this in which the Lord moves upon the earth in a mighty way. Just as there was a three and a half year period of Jesus’ ministry to prepare and introduce the “Gospel Age” so there will be another period of three and a half years to prepare and usher in the “Kingdom Age”. It is the end of one age and the start of another.

God’s Kingdom has always existed from the beginning of time. It has grown and developed through the history of mankind. In the OT aspects of it were portrayed in the nation of Israel. When King Jesus was born and walked upon the earth it came in a new way, not in outward form but inward in the hearts of men and women. When the rulers of this world rejected Jesus they rejected his Kingdom for he brought it with him. When Pilate asked Jesus if he was a King he replied “Yes.” Jesus told Pilate that he, Pilate, had no real lasting authority because there was a higher authority that over ruled everything. When the disciples set out to spread the Gospel of the Kingdom of God they laid down their lives to do so. That Kingdom has been coming ever since through every generation and into every nation. The world is about to see the next great step forward in the establishment of that Kingdom upon earth.

### **AN OUTLINE OF REVELATION WITH SOME O.T. SCRIPTURES.**

We cannot understand Revelation without constantly referring back to the original OT scriptures. I have included some cross references to OT foundation scriptures for us to better understand what John meant when he referred to them. In a book such as this I can only achieve a very broad review of Revelation. There are many aspects and verses that I can not touch upon.

### **THE SEVEN CHURCHES - Chapters 1-4**

This vision of the Lord walking among seven candlesticks represents the church, seven being a perfect and complete number. Jesus sent messages to the seven angels of the seven churches. These were actual churches that existed at that time. Out of seven churches five were instructed to repent; a sobering thought. Some say that these seven churches represent seven “ages” but I do not believe this is the main focus. I do think however that the messages have truth for all churches then and throughout history. I believe that John himself probably had personal links with these seven churches. They

were all very close to Patmos where John was and he very likely had personal knowledge of their spiritual condition. In this book I am not looking at these verses, it would require a book on its own.

### **THE THRONE OF GOD - Chapter 5**

This is another vision of the Lord Jesus. John saw the most awesome scene ever beheld by human eyes; the throne of God. Around the throne were massed choirs of angels. Out of the throne proceeded lightning, thundering and voices. This is the great throne room of God pulsating and throbbing with the power of God. Seated on the throne is the most beautiful and awesome being, the Eternal Lord God Omnipotent. In His hand is a book sealed with seven seals. This description is based on Daniel 7:9,14 where we read of the “Ancient of Days”. The “Son of Man” is brought before him and receives an everlasting Kingdom to rule every kingdom including the great kingdoms of Biblical world history. Many of these kings have fought against him but he is Lord of creation and King of kings. In the midst of the throne he is the “Lion of Judah”, a Lamb who bears the wounds of sacrificial love; the nail prints, the bruised body, the cleft side. He alone is found worthy for he rose from death on the third day and ascended to heaven and sat down on the throne of power and glory. He now commands and rules the universe. One day every knee will bow before him.

### **THE BOOK OF LIFE - Chapter 6**

The Lord took the sealed book from the one seated on the throne. This is the Book of Life written by the Lord Himself through history. It is first mentioned in Exodus 32:32,33. It is mentioned throughout the OT and is to do with the redeemed of every age. (Num 14:19, Dan 12:1) Those who oppose God are not written in it. It is also seen in Daniel 12. It contains the names of all who rise in resurrection. It has seven seals and the only person worthy to open them is the Lamb of God slain before the foundations of the earth. (Rev 5:6-13; 13:8; 20:12,15) Have you ever seen an angry Lamb? The most wonderful, meek, humble, loving, kind, gentle person who ever walked the face of this earth, the one who was nailed to a cross and responded with words of forgiveness for his enemies will one day rise from his throne and judge the world. God has given judgement to His Son. Many people have discounted the fact that there is a God of justice who presides over everything. Ultimately he will have the last say and he loves every single individual, will judge sin and show mercy to all who come to Him but will destroy all who oppose Him.

Seal by seal Jesus opens the book of life. Each seal releases events in history that culminate in the redemption of the planet and establishment of God’s Kingdom.

The first four Seals are four “*horses and riders*”. They come from Zechariah chapters 1 and 6. In the days of Zechariah God’s people had been scattered in captivity, suffered

persecution and many were killed. The horses and their riders were spiritual powers sent out for the recovery and restoration of God's people. They were directly involved with the preservation of God's people and their return to their homeland. It is to this that John, as a Jew, refers when he records the vision of the first four seals. They are messengers who go through the length and breadth of the world, for one purpose, to destroy those who oppose God and to protect and eventually recover the scattered people of God. They are spiritual powers under the direction of the Lord. They bring about events that move the world towards the end times. One thing many people fail to realise about Revelation is that it records great spiritual warfare in the world between angels and demons through the ages. When John wrote Revelation the nation of Israel had been entirely destroyed by the Romans and the survivors driven into Gentile nations to be hounded and persecuted. There were many Jews in the early church and it was also under severe persecution. Three more centuries of intense persecution followed and many millions of believers perished. But the church survived this horrendous satanic attack and believers far and wide gave their lives to spread the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Churches were established in Antioch, North Africa, Spain, England, Ireland, throughout Europe, the Middle East, India, Ethiopia and many other places.

During this time the Roman Empire was invaded by various northern tribes; the Goths, Visigoths, Vandals and others and this caused great distress, insecurity and fear for the people of the Mediterranean nations. The once stable, secure and invincible Roman Empire began to crumble. Eventually in the fourth century a Germanic king ruled in Rome. There was some respite after the Roman Emperor, Constantine, was converted and declared Christianity to be the "official" religion but it did not last. After a few more centuries the rise of **Islam** became a serious threat to the established Church in many countries; North Africa, Arabia, Nubia, Spain, Syria, the Byzantium Empire to name a few. Wars began in Europe as Emperors and Kings fought for supremacy, followed by the Crusades which plunged the nations into more turmoil.

The great persecutions of the inquisition followed. Many millions suffered and died. Then the Reformation brought new life into the church and subsequent worldwide mission endeavour but not without great animosity, hatred and Christian faction fighting. The industrial revolution added impetus to new development and Empires were established throughout the world by European nations, the very nations of the old Roman Empire. The age of exploration took the Gospel to the furthest reaches of the world. Then the most apocalyptic wars of all time took place; the First and Second World Wars as well as the awful Communist genocides and the most horrendous Holocaust of all history, the destruction of 6 million Jews as well as millions of other innocent peoples including many Christians and others. Please don't tell me that these things were not foreseen by John in the visions of Revelation. Most of Revelation has already transpired and people who understand history see this. The great Babylonian harlot system is not something belonging to a few end years but has dominated history for centuries as has the mark of "the beast". More about this will be considered later in

the book. Through all the violence, brutality, killing, torture, pogroms, holocaust and destruction God's people survived. During the last two thousand years the Gospel has gone to every continent and country and there have been believers in every nation. The ancient people of the Bible, the Jews, have returned to their original land. The stage is set and everything in place for the finale. Soon the curtain will lift to reveal the final cast of actors and the King Himself will step through the veil.

The four Seals in Revelation come from Zechariah. (Zech 1:8, 6:1-8) He saw "*chariots and many horses*". Horses are a figurative term for spirit beings that do God's bidding and protect and gather God's people. (2 Kings 2:11,12 6:17) They are comprised of *fire*. They come from a word that means to leap or fly. There are four groups of these spirits (winds from four corners of earth) that bring about God's purposes; to scatter and gather, destroy and heal. (Zech 2:6, Rev 7:1) There has been tremendous spiritual activity on earth (Eph 6:12) and the seals follow the order the Lord Himself declared in Matthew 24:4-11; wars and rumours of war, pestilence, famine, death, suffering and persecution. Only then will the Lord return mounted on a white horse in flaming fire with his angels, and the armies of heaven also on *white* horses and *fire*. (Rev 19:11-14) In historical times horses were considered powerful weapons of warfare and the number of horsemen in an army depicted its power much like today one counts the number of tanks or missiles. This army is fighting and continues to until Christ comes.

**At the First Seal** a white horse and its rider goes out as a warrior with a crown and bow who goes forth conquering and to conquer whereas Christ comes at the climax of these events and has a two edged sword, the Word of God, not a bow. This seal is a powerful spiritual being that conquers peoples and nations. It is significant how often worldly leaders are depicted riding a white horse as they lead their armies into warfare. Napoleon, Mohammed and numerous others are depicted in this way. Inevitably these conquerors end up causing great devastation and destruction of property and human life. Yet God has used them for His own purposes. God sets up rulers and takes them down. Angels are active over nations and decree what happens in them. (Dan 4:17 10:13,20) This has happened through history; Conquerors and Emperors laid waste to nations.

**At the Second Seal** a red horse of war comes forth. The history of mankind and especially of the last two thousand years is one of almost continual war. Never has there been a period of peace. Jesus warned "there will be wars and rumours of war". In 1939 as King George VI, trembling with emotion announced the start of World War II he said; "This war cannot be compared to any conflict in past history, when army met army on the battlefield. For the first time in mans' history it is a war of nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom." He used the exact words of Jesus in Matthew 24:7. Before it ended 50 million people were killed and the atomic age was ushered in at Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The awful cloud of atomic warfare over shadows our planet. The Second World War was in reality a continuation of the First World War. As Lord Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, stood in his London office watching the blackout fall on the

city he said, “The lights are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit in our lifetime.” Before that war was over 10 million had died. The Armistice was signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, 1918. Surely it was the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the age as darkness fell upon the earth.

The prophetic significance of WW1 is seen in the release of Jerusalem from centuries of Ottoman Islamic domination and Jewish immigrants began to return. WW11 brought about the rebirth of the nation of Israel after the horrendous holocaust of 6 million Jews, a third of their total population. This surviving remnant fled into the wilderness where a place was prepared for them, the direct fulfilment of Rev 12:6,14-16. As I will show in this book Hitler and the Nazi regime was part of the “seventh head” of the Beast of Revelation, the end time antichrist of the dragon of Revelation 12 who attempted to totally destroy the Jewish people.

The United Nations was formed as a world peace keeping force shortly after the end of WW11. A plaque presented to the organisation by the USSR quotes part of Isaiah; *“They shall beat their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”* It sounds good but is incomplete. It starts *“He shall judge between the nations and rebuke many people.”* (Isa 2:4)

The world rejected Jesus and continues to do so and peace will never come until he is acknowledged and obeyed. Peace is illusive because it is something that cannot be imposed upon people who have no inner peace. There can be no peace on earth or in the hearts of men until they make peace with God and yield to “The Prince of Peace”. But today people are in open rebellion against God and His laws and many don’t even believe in God. This is the great apostasy and “falling away” predicted for the “end times”. The world has rejected the only one who has authority to stop the violence, suffering and despair. Many people blame God for everything that goes wrong yet prayer is forbidden in schools and public places. We break His moral laws and under the guise of scientific knowledge continue to discount His very existence. We say we are enlightened but the cruel winds of violence, crime and war still howl across the planet as they howled around the cross that dark day in history when Christ was crucified.

**At the Third Seal** a black horse is let out that represents famine, food shortages and financial inflation in the midst of luxury. When people are disrupted the whole infra structure crashes and displaced people become refugees and productivity collapses, food is short and anarchy sets in. The disparity between rich and poor has long been a source of injustice and suffering. Through history there have been those who have sought to correct this imbalance yet it is greater now than ever. Stalin’s regime is an example of inept and corrupt dictatorship that destroyed the infra structure of whole communities and brought famine and poverty. Cultural revolutions elsewhere ravaged populations, society unravels and cities, farms and industry collapse.

The rider of this horse holds a balance in his hands indicating shortage of food and high costs of living. The increase of world population, misuse of natural resources, pollution, national upheavals and weather changes all contribute to famine, pestilence and insecurity, the collapse of economies and high inflation, unemployment and destruction of productivity hastens the rider onwards. In a world filled with materialism and luxuries millions are starving.

It took 18 centuries for the world population to grow from ¼ billion to 1 billion. It took 80 years for it to double, another 30 years to treble, and a further 15 years to reach 4 billion. It is now over 7 billion! This little planet is over crowded. Its resources are stretched to the limit. Most of the planet consists of oceans and they are already greatly depleted in life. The land masses themselves are often inhospitable; mountain ranges and ever increasing deserts and wastelands. The jungles and forests are being cut down and the rivers polluted. Added to this are significant weather changes experienced since the Second World War. Nuclear tests affected world weather patterns. The ozone layer has thinned through chemical pollutants and the delicate atmospheric balance has changed due to carbon and chemical pollution. Under these conditions it is increasingly difficult for nations to produce enough food. Much of the world is undernourished and millions of children die of starvation because of droughts, floods, war and disease. Many nations cannot grow sufficient food for their people. The big grain harvests of some nations are now dependent upon chemicals and genetic engineering. Genetic modification sounds good but it has hidden risks. One is that the modified crops are unable to propagate naturally. In Africa where I grew up the maize crop was able to generate healthy seed year after year. All one had to do was put aside a percentage of the crop to plant the following year. However, when new modified crops were grown this was no longer possible because the seed no longer germinated. The result was that the local people had no choice but to buy the new seed, unless they had kept some of the healthy original seed. When production of the modified seed failed the people had no where to obtain seed. Only those who still retained the original plant were able to grow another crop. Even though much of the world is poverty stricken some wealthy nations have an abundance of luxury. Materialism grips the hearts of millions yet in the midst of all this there is the imminent prospect of world financial crash. Don't say that the world can go on as it is. If you think so then you are out of touch with reality. There will be a population collapse.

**At the Fourth Seal** a pale horse and its rider “death” kills with war, famine, and even the beasts of earth; the inevitable harvest of death and destruction follow these riders. Pestilence, plagues, disease, famine; these follow in the wake of war. John saw great devastation in his visions. A quarter of mankind dies. This has already happened through history. The Black Plague wiped out hundreds of millions. The “beasts of earth” are not necessarily animals but are the great Gentile empires and emperors. They are described in Daniel 7. We will look more closely at these “beasts” further on.

## **THE GREAT PERSECUTIONS**

**At the Fifth Seal** we see persecutions of great multitudes through the ages brought about by the death of millions of believers who perished for resisting the wickedness of ruthless rulers and ungodly regimes. Since the death of the first martyr Stephen, multitudes have died for their faith in Jesus. Yet more follow and despite persecution in many nations the church continues to grow. Today many people still believe in Jesus and the Holy Spirit still brings renewal. God promised to pour His Spirit upon all flesh in the “last days”. (Acts 2:17) The past century, the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is considered to have been the century of greatest persecution. Yet in the midst of this many are complacent and non committal.

**The Sixth Seal** brings us to the sounding of trumpets and huge upheavals with heavenly omens. The sun, moon and stars are always pointers of the fulfilment of prophecy concerning the restoration of God’s people and the coming of the true Messiah. (Joel 2) Modern scientists monitor the unusual conditions that presently occur in the sun. These cause weather changes and are directly linked to earthquakes and volcanic activity. The sun has a magnetic field that works in an eleven year cycle. During magnetic disturbances huge amounts of radiation are projected into space and bombard the earth. These flares can often be seen as huge dark spots. Upheavals in the sun have huge affects upon the planets and solar system. The Bible describes the sun turning dark and great pillars of cloud on the earth. Since WW11 the planet hangs under the threat of nuclear war. The shadow of such awesome power threatens to darken the sun and the moon. Man has always been a killer for it is his fallen nature. First men sharpened rocks and killed one another. Then they made spears and knives, followed by gunpowder and now the atomic bomb. Scripture seems to indicate that one day nuclear power will be used in a destructive way. This has already happened; the awful events at the end of WW11. (Joel 2:30,31, Zech 14:12) In 1962 and again in 1982 the USA and Russia came within seconds of exchanging nuclear missiles. That is how fast it can happen. We are once more facing a time of looming conflict and if nuclear war breaks out only the Lord can save us.

**Chapter 7** – John described the great number of faithful who endured the suffering through the ages who are **sealed** by God. When we consider the last two thousand years we realise that these events are already largely fulfilled. The notion that the “tribulation” lasts seven years at the end is just not consistent with history. Nothing can compare to what has already happened. The idea that the church is taken out of an end time tribulation is false and based on a western philosophy of “escapism”. Please don’t tell me that the Lord is going to rapture the church to escape the tribulation. The Church of Jesus Christ has already suffered the most awful persecutions of all time. Literally millions of believers have already been killed because of their faith in Jesus for they *“loved not their lives to death”*.

John records the number of God's servants on earth who are sealed. The number 12000 x 12 = 144,000 is I believe a symbolic compliment of perfection. It is extraordinary how many cults and sects claim to be this number and how many of them discount that Jewish people are still God's people or participate in salvation. I believe this is a Biblical number conveying completion and perfection of all believers. They are *sealed* both Jew and Gentile, those who are pure, undefiled, spiritually "circumcised". It portrays those on earth who have endured persecution and been sealed by God. They are numbered, indicating that God knows each and every one of them. It comes from Numbers chapter 1 and other similar scriptures such as Ezekiel 9. Before judgment fell on Jerusalem the righteous were sealed and thereby protected. So much emphasis seems to be given to the "*mark of the beast*" by some Bible teachers yet this amazing protection and *seal* that God gives His people seems to be entirely ignored by many exponents of Revelation. After this John saw another great multitude in heaven before the throne of the lamb that could not be numbered, "*from all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues*", the Gentile believers that could not be numbered so vast is their number. (7:9) This is a preview of the great harvest of believers throughout the age. They carry palms which point to the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. This is a view of the great harvest and establishment of God's Kingdom.

### **Chapter 8 - 10 – THE SEVEN TRUMPETS**

**At the Seventh seal** there is silence. (Zeph 1:7, Hab 2:20, Zech 2:13) "*The Lord is in his Holy Temple let all the earth keep silence before him.*" (Psalm 46:10) "*Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted in the earth.*"

This silence is in preparation for the most awesome event of history. It was foreseen in the OT at the Day of Atonement when the High Priest entered the temple "Holy of Holies" to make atonement. While he was in the temple there was absolute silence and the whole nation was still and in prayer. Only when he came back out was there great rejoicing.

The world and its billions of people are always on the move; rushing from place to place with work, industry, business, pleasure and all the necessary activities of life. As the eye of the storm settles a time will come when all will become still. Because of cosmic upheavals that occur at the return of Jesus I believe a time will come when all our modern sophisticated technology will not function and the whole world will stop rushing. Almost all our technology is dependant upon electrical fields and magnetism. Computers, satellites, communications, weapons, banks and business, engines and most other things will be silenced. Invisible energy bombards the planet. The sun does not only give us light and heat but gigantic magnetic sun storms push radiation into the solar system that can affect even our mental abilities. This is because we all are dependent upon electrical energy and magnetism. Every organ in our bodies including the brain has a magnetic field. When the brain has no electrical charge it is considered dead. Many

people suffer when there are severe thunder storms because of the build up of electrical charge in the atmosphere. Some suffer when there is a major magnetic storm which can also disrupt satellites, radios and other technology. The whole planet is dependent upon the sun not just for heat and light but solar energy. The electrical fields of the earth are linked to the solar system and the sun. Have you ever been somewhere when the electrical power grid has failed? If it is night then the lights go out, the TV, computer and stove do not work, lifts fail; everything comes to a stop. This will happen at the Lord's return. The Lord will switch off the power and everything will come to a stop; there will be silence. Nothing will work, the bedlam will cease as it did at the storm on Galilee. Mark 4:37. The raging waves of humanity will end; people will be overcome with awe and fear.

## **FEASTS OF THE BIBLE - THE SOUND OF TRUMPETS**

To understand the significance of the trumpets one must understand the OT **Feast of Trumpets**. Trumpets were used at different times; to warn the people of danger, to call the people together, to prepare them to move, to overcome their enemies and to call them to repentance for the Day of Atonement. The Jews believe that at the sounding of the Trumpets the names of the righteous are **sealed** in the **Book of Life**. The Trumpets were the last call to repentance, to get right with God and one another, to pay off debts, confess sin, seek forgiveness and Eternal Life. This is what Trumpets represent in Revelation, a call to the all to repent and prepare for the **Day of Atonement**; Judgement Day. They are a wake up call to everyone.

The consequences of the Trumpets are all partial events upon vegetation, the sea (probably a reference to the Mediterranean Sea), fresh water supplies, the sky turns dark (maybe with pollution), a conflict ensues in the Euphrates area (the Middle East; Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Kuwait) which becomes an arena of huge destruction. People who interpret Revelation as futuristic will say this is still in the future. However, taking into account the apocalyptic language John used to describe these vivid visions they are in my view events already mostly fulfilled. Take cognisance of the rise of Islam with armies that marched through the Middle East and the Crusaders in their wake, followed by the Mamelukes, the Ottoman Empire, the European armies during the Great Wars and subsequent wars even to recent times. Vast desolation was caused to the land, rivers and seas. Also bear in mind that sun, moon and stars have symbolic meanings linked to Israel which we will consider more fully later. As a matter of interest when armies conquered these various lands they destroyed the vegetation by cutting down trees which were used for fuel and war. Then they taxed every tree left so that land owners cut down those remaining. The land, sea and fresh water were devastated and this has happened again and again world wide. For example, during the Vietnam War chemical toxin was sprayed from planes that destroyed large swathes of forests. The world 2000 years ago still had a pristine virginity about much of it but now almost everything has suffered terribly. Vast forests have been destroyed. I have personally witnessed this in my life in

Africa; where once beautiful forests grew now there are brambles and thorns. However, the Trumpets still await total fulfilment for once they begin they continue to sound until Jesus comes. The destruction of vegetation and water continues. The star called Wormwood of the third trumpet pollutes fresh water. The explosion at “Chernobyl in Russia is significant for Chernobyl means Wormwood in Russian. The threat of nuclear pollution is still real as we have seen in the more recent Japanese disaster. Wormwood is a Biblical description of judgement. At the fifth trumpet smoke pours out of the “bottomless pit”. If one is looking for a literal fulfilment then one need look no further than the Gulf War. Hundreds of oil wells pumping oil from deep within the earth were deliberately set on fire and the sun obliterated over vast areas. The description of the warfare that follows (Rev 9:14, 16:12) could well fit our modern weaponry. All this is linked to the land of the Euphrates. During the Gulf War a third of the population were casualties in one way or another and there is still no peace for it opened the “Pandora Box” of ethnic and religious fanaticism in the Middle East. The conflict in Syria, the rise of ISIL and the huge numbers of victims and refugees are part of this prophecy.

**The Seventh and final Trumpet** sounds over a period of time; it will start to sound at the beginning of the last three and a half year period and the full blast will happen at the end of that time. This trumpet is of great significance. Paul the apostle refers to this trumpet and John also. It is called the “last trumpet” and comes from the OT. (1 Thes 4:16, 1 Cor 15:52, Rev 10:7, 11:15) We will look again at the Seven Trumpets later.

### **THE FINAL HALF WEEK THREE AND A HALF YEARS - Chapters 11-13 – Daniel 9-12**

These chapters describe the last three and a half years, 42 months or 1260 days during which the Lord will intervene in a mighty confrontation with Satan. This period is foretold in Daniel 12. Jesus himself taught directly from Daniel 12 indicating its authenticity as the Word of God. (Dan 12:1 – Matt 24:21) This is a literal period and there is absolutely no justification to say otherwise. It is in fact the last half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week foretold in Daniel 9:24-27. The first three and a half years were fulfilled by the Lord Jesus at his first coming. The second half is to be fulfilled at his second coming. (See Appendix 1) Many preachers on Revelation emphasize this period as the rule of antichrist yet ignore the verses that describe the authority and power of the Lord during it. To really understand these chapters there are no shortcuts, we first have to fully understand the prophecies of Daniel. So read Daniel. We will consider this in more detail later. (See my book “Covenant of Glory” which explains this period.)

### **TWO GREAT PROPHETS - Chapter 11 – Zech 4**

This describes the ministry of two great prophets called “Olive Trees”. Their origins are found in Zechariah 4 and they minister for 1260 days and are then killed in the city of Jerusalem. They will declare that Yeshua is Messiah and many Jews will believe. They

stand against the Jezebel spirit of the Babylonian world. Jerusalem is referred to as the city which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt and is still unsanctified and living in the ways of the world. (Rev 11:8, Isaiah 1:9, Jeremiah 23:14, Ezekiel 16.)

### **THE HOLOCAUST - Chapter 12 – Gen 37**

There are three symbolic women described in Revelation. The *first* is seen in this chapter and represents Israel. This chapter describes the preservation of Jewish survivors and the remnant who return to the land of Israel. The symbolism of the woman clothed with the sun, moon and twelve stars originally comes from the dream of Joseph in Genesis 37. It represents the patriarchs and twelve tribes of Israel. There are other OT verses that relate to the nation of Israel as a woman betrothed to the Lord and the new birth of both Jews and Gentiles in the Kingdom of God. This chapter describes the Great War that has raged through history between Michael and the armies of the Lord and Satan. Every generation has fought against the Kingdom of God, many faithful believers have died but Jesus will prevail.

### **SATAN’S TWO BEASTS - Chapter 13 – Daniel 7 + 8**

This describes the rise of *two* end time satanic “beasts”. These are the final manifestations of the four beasts that are found in Daniel 7 and 8. They have existed in the past but in the end two “beasts” arise; one is a beast with seven heads and ten horns and a mouth uttering great blasphemies and the other is a goat with two horns that speaks like a dragon. They are satanic powers that have existed throughout history to the last final period of activity. They are not hard to identify if we first grasp their origins in the pagan world nations and false religions. Once we have this understanding we are able to follow their progress through history to present times.

### **THE REDEEMED - Chapters 14:1-7**

These verses give another view of the 144,000 who are redeemed and are in fact part of the “*first fruits unto God and to the Lamb*” This unmistakably indicates that they are among those who believe in the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God. This is followed by yet another declaration concerning “*the everlasting Gospel to preach to all who dwell on the earth and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people.*” There is a great harvest at the end of the age. The cry goes up for the Son of Man to reap the whole earth. Rev 14:14-120. This is the “Day of the Lord.” Joel 3:13. The “**Feast of First Fruits**” represents the start of the ingathering of this harvest.

### **JUDGEMENT - Chapters 15, 16**

These chapters describe the time of God’s judgement. The seven Vials are poured upon ungodly nations that continue to resist and defy the Kingdom of God. These judgements

are selective; they fall only upon those who have received the number and name of the beast, in other words people who have deliberately chosen to continue to be the perpetual enemies of God as were the Amalek of the OT. The first angel pours out a vial upon the earth and a foul disease falls on those people who give allegiance to the beast; the second kills those in the sea, the third affects the rivers; the fourth allows the sun to scorch people who blaspheme God; the fifth falls on the throne and kingdom of the beast which is filled with darkness and pain; the sixth “dries up” the River Euphrates area and the seventh is poured on the “air” (spirit dimensions) followed by earthquakes that destroy “Great Babylon”.

I cannot go into details to say how some of these things could be fulfilled but they are all possible given the capabilities of modern warfare. However, I believe these are not just done through human agents but are also spiritual powers and spiritual events with armies of angels.

### **COLLAPSE OF WORLD SYSTEMS OF BABYLON - Chapters 17+18 – Jeremiah 50-52**

In these chapters we see the *second* woman in Revelation described as “Babylon the Great Harlot.” It is symbolic of the systems of the world and is a synonym for world nations. That this city is not ancient Babylon is fairly obvious. However it represents the final outworking of all that Babylon stood for and gave birth to over millennia. Babylon was where large numbers of Jews were taken into captivity during seventy years in the first Diaspora. It was a place of false worship and actually the name originates back in Genesis 11 where it was called Babel. The captives in Babylon lived as spiritual slaves in a pagan land and some compromised and took its values as their own and were fully assimilated into it. However, Babylon is a synonym for the World system *not* Israel.

Much later at the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 Jews and Christians fled in the Diaspora into numerous nations and they considered this a repeat of their Babylonian experience. In Jewish thinking these nations were like Babylon. Babylon became a synonym for the nations into which the Jews dispersed during the second Diaspora. Compare this with Jeremiah 51, Isaiah 21, 13 and numerous other OT verses. It is endorsed by the angel who explained this vision to John. He said the vision John saw of the City of Babylon represented the great city that ruled over the kings of all the earth at that time. This certainly was not Babylon or Jerusalem for they were already destroyed. It was *Rome* that was the current World Power. (Rev 17:18) The angel said Rome was the Great City of Babylon and the Jewish people themselves considered Rome to be the *new* Babylon. Rome and the Roman Empire persecuted both Christians and Jews and a whole lot of others too. John had already survived a vicious persecution. As centuries rolled by the Empire went through massive changes but the persecution continued. Babylonian values became entrenched in the nations. Babylonian banking and trade practices dominated these nations and many became rich and powerful. The sad thing is

that church institutions also took advantage of the worldly systems of corruption and assimilated them into their own systems. They became powerful through wealthy indulgences and enslaved the souls of many. Today it is Babylonian spiritual values that preside in the world.

These chapters give a vivid account of the eventual collapse of world financial systems and values. As with Pompeii there will be a sudden and total judgement. For over forty years I have taught on the crash of world finances as predicted in the Bible. “Babylon the Great” has its origins in ancient Babel, a city built to “reach into heaven”. (Gen 11) Nimrod united the people of that time but it ended in confusion as they were scattered across the face of the earth and divided in many languages. The Babylon of Revelation is a reflection of today’s world, a repeat of Babel, as multitudes of people of many cultures and tongues are brought back together in a union of Babylonian values, religion, finance, knowledge, morals and spiritual values. Knowledge has increased to such extent that we have even reached into the heavens with space travel. Today man has reached a pinnacle of achievement and pride. But it is in a world in which many live in rebellion to the spiritual principles of the universe, defies the laws of God and even denies His existence. It will not endure in its present form.

### **THE HEAVENLY FEAST - Chapters 19+20**

These chapters describe the power of the Kingdom of God *coming upon earth* in a new and glorious manner. The Lord Himself comes with the armies of God mounted on white horses in flaming fire, with angels, spiritual beings of fire, in “clouds of heaven” Then there is great rejoicing. The **Feast of Tabernacles** or “**Sukkot**” was celebrated after the **Feast of Atonement, Yom Kippur**, and was the greatest time of rejoicing. This is seen in Revelation 7:9 when people dressed in white and waved palm leaves. At this time there was also the ceremony of the pouring out of water, symbolic of the outpouring of God’s Spirit, the lighting of the great candlesticks, and traditionally the time of the **Presence of God in Clouds of Shekinah Glory**. On the day of “**Simchat Torah**” the ark in the synagogue is opened and the Torah carried aloft. It is the time of greatest joy. (Rev 11:19) These events are depicted in Revelation if one knows where to recognize them. On this final celebration the last reading of the Torah takes place and then there is a new beginning. The person assigned to do the readings has the title “*Bridegroom of the Torah*” and “*Bridegroom of the Beginning*”. This is none other than the Messiah.

### **THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH - Chapters -21**

In this chapter we see the *third* woman in Revelation a beautiful Bride, pure and spotless as a virgin. It describes the inauguration of the eternal order of God that will never pass away and the glories and beauty of the heavenly “Bride” clothed in pure white and depicted as an Eternal City of righteousness. (Isaiah 60-65)

## **CHAPTER 1 - ACT 1: IN THE BEGINNING**

As we look at world conditions we must remember that the world has arrived at its present condition through a journey called history. Things do not just happen in a vacuum without cause. Through history the process of cause and effect influences men and nations. To understand the present, therefore, we need some grasp of the history of the world and its nations. The Bible is the oldest book in the world and is of greatest importance to us. Although it is not a history book it nevertheless records historical events many of which have been verified by archaeology. More important, it gives logical explanations and reasons for mans' spiritual decline. The ancient prophets all predicted that certain events would overtake mankind. The amazing thing is that the Prophets (the Bible was not written by just one prophet) foresaw the same things and foretold the same events and this with no collaboration! To understand present conditions we must therefore have some understanding of history.

Some of the great forces that have moulded man, directed history and fashioned nations are: the need to procreate; the need to grow and obtain food; the desire for wealth and power and to control others, religious beliefs, trade, knowledge often so-called secret knowledge, the learning of skills, military power, superstitions; the "possession" or "ownership" of land, nationalism, the pride of race and culture, the desire to establish secure and permanent kingdoms; the spiritual quest for meaning, and the urge to explore and discover new frontiers. Mankind has always dreamt of a world free from fear, injustice, sickness, pain, poverty and even death. But driven by primeval forces this dream has never materialized. Invisible forces have pushed men and women to the limits, have raised civilisations to pinnacles of achievement, have driven explorers to face the hazards of uncharted seas and lands, and mixed with pride, greed and lust they have plunged the world into suffering and conflict. These are the forces that are at work in the world today like cruel winds that whip around the planet. Certain things still influence the nations; finance, food, territory, energy, race and religion. Conflicts over them are pushing the world to the brink of disaster.

Yet there is a more powerful force than any of these - and that is love. It is unpredictable, often unexplainable, unexpected and is the one power that cannot be bought, controlled or destroyed. Although seen many times in the sacrificial lives of many people its full majesty is displayed in a unique man who died on a cross. He is called the Son of God, who stepped into history and became vulnerable in the form of a man and changed the course of history. The God who wrote history with His Son! History is His Story.

### **WORLD HISTORY**

Recorded history goes back to ancient civilizations of the Middle East, Assyria, Egypt and the peoples associated with them. This is where the Bible starts its story. The Bible

gives only a brief explanation of the origin of the earth and universe. In this age of scientific search for knowledge controversy has raged over the validity of the Bible account but the Bible was never intended to be a scientific thesis. To use science to try and discount the Bible is a futile exercise as it is not a scientific recording. It belongs to a historical genre of writing that conveys spiritual reality through parable, story and mystery, not scientific data. In fact the difference between knowledge and faith is contrasted right in the opening pages. (Gen 2:9) The creation account is, however, quite profound in many of its statements and deserves serious consideration. Its main scope is to do with the origins of creation through the creative power of God. The way it is written gives room for all sorts of scientific theories except for the idea that everything just happened, which has no scientific basis at all. In fact to say that something can happen without cause must be the most unscientific proposal to ever dupe humanity. When I was a young man I worked for a decade with top scientists, zoologists, palaeontologists and archaeologists, and none of them ever denied the reality of God. The apostle Paul comments on the foolishness of those who try to use their knowledge to deny God. (Rom 1:19-23) When Charles Darwin put forth his ideas of natural selection and the survival of the fittest he in no way was trying to discredit God. He was in fact a man of Faith; the problem was that some in the church attempted to discount his observation by insisting scripture had to be taken absolutely literally. This is a Gentile mindset and way of reading it; the Hebrew way is to understand it as originally intended - a spiritual account embracing the mystery of faith, not a scientific thesis. Scientific research came out of the Renaissance and was in fact accompanied by the Reformation. The Church contributed towards it and many scientists were Christians.

## **THE FALL**

Genesis records the origins and growth of nations and one in particular. It tells of God's plan for mankind and His special relationship with one man in particular - Adam. It tells how that loving relationship was spoilt by disobedience and mistrust which plunged the whole human family into sorrow, jealousy, pain and suffering of all kinds. It thereby gives an explanation for why the human race is so prone to wickedness and evil. It gives the cause of what is evident all around us - the tendency towards corruption originated from our broken relationship with God. Self-centeredness is the seat of sin. Sin is an old fashioned word for rebellion and breaking God's law of love and justice. All the cultures of earth have similar concepts about our origins and the fall of mankind. Genesis describes how very early on humanity became divided into two types of people not along racial lines but spiritual - Cain and Abel; those who were violent toward others and wanted their own way and those who were submissive and meek. When Cain slew Abel the blood "*cried out from the ground*" and justice was required.

## **ANGELS GOOD AND EVIL**

Creation is not just physical and material but also spiritual. There are spirit realms and

dimensions beyond those we see around us. Everything in creation exists because of frequencies or wave lengths. Light has various wave lengths and even the atom has a vibration that holds it all together. We are all held together on different frequencies and the entire universe is made of different dimensions all on different wave lengths or vibration frequencies. Scientists know that by far the greatest part of the universe is what they call “dark matter”. It is intangible and invisible but there. This is what the Bible calls the spirit realm. There is a lot more going on around us than we know about. There are unseen spiritual forces and beings that manipulate people and nations; “spiritual rulers in heavenly places”. (Eph 6:12 Col 1:16) Right from the beginning of the story it tells how mankind was in close association with and influenced by spiritual powers of the unseen world; what we call angels both good and bad. Some of these powerful beings deceived mankind and led them away from a loving God of justice into a self centred life of self indulgence and harm to others. More about this later.

As mankind expanded new skills were learnt and with them conflicts increased. All manner of evil practices became prevalent. The world was filled with wickedness. One man, Noah, kept his integrity and God chose him and his family to start again. Noah warned of a coming flood of judgement and pleaded with his generation to have a change of mind concerning their evil practices. But he was disregarded. The storm clouds darkened and a great flood swept the ungodly away. (Incidentally there is much geological evidence for an extensive flooding of the earth. World-wide fossils, coal beds and oil deposits were not necessarily formed over millions of years but could have formed under rapid, catastrophic conditions. There is scientific evidence for this which is ignored.) The world after this catastrophic period was very different from before. Different laws governed nature and the planet. Things began anew and with technological advances “civilisation” grew. Nimrod built Babel and other great cities, nations grew and religious beliefs formed.

## **ABRAHAM and ISRAEL**

God called one man, Abraham. He left Ur in ancient Assyria to seek the true God. During a lifetime of faith God made a Covenant with him. One day Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son, Isaac; a strange command to say the least. Abraham responded in obedience but was stopped from the deed just in time. God supplied the sacrifice Himself and promised Abraham that from his “seed” or offspring, the very person he was prepared to sacrifice, would come a redeemer, one who would cancel the curse of sin and bring blessing to all nations and people. (Genesis 15:4, 17:21) Because Abraham responded and gave his son to God in unconditional obedience, God in turn was totally committed to do the same. That is how Covenant works; each partner can ask for anything. One day God would send His only Son as a sacrifice to redeem all mankind. This was the reason why Satan the “adversary” did everything possible to destroy the line of Abraham.

Abraham now lived in a land called Canaan. During this time God revealed Himself to Abraham, teaching him and leading him day by day. God blessed Abraham and those with him but hard lessons had to be learnt. Lot, who was Abraham's nephew, only just escaped death when the city in which he lived, Sodom, suddenly and mysteriously exploded under a cloud of fire and ash. Lot's wife who lingered in the danger area was engulfed in the inferno and was turned into a pillar of salt. Because of the well-known reputation of Sodom and Gomorrah as centres for free sex, luxury and debauchery this event shook the ancient world. Even to this very day it remains an area of utter desolation, like a monument to the morals of that generation. The storm came with such violence that the area never recovered.

God promised to make Ishmael into a great nation. God cares for all people. Another promise was through the line of Isaac and Jacob and his twelve sons who would become a people of covenant and who settled in the land of Canaan after being delivered by Moses from slavery and bondage in Egypt. Moses did mighty signs in the land of Egypt to reveal God's power but Pharaoh and the Egyptians hardened their hearts and refused to yield. Eventually the armies of Pharaoh were destroyed in judgement and the Israelites were set free from slavery and oppression.

They had come from Assyria and been in Egypt for over four centuries but this was a new beginning. Moses led them into the wilderness and the wilderness experience purged them of all they had learnt before. Moses had grown up as an Egyptian Prince educated in all their learning and religion. He had already spent forty years in the wilderness unlearning it all and learning a new way of walking in faith with God who made a Covenant with him. Then he led the whole nation for the next forty years and taught them too. Through Moses they received the revelation of God's **Law** and with it an understanding of righteousness and love. Although God is compassionate and merciful He will not compromise with wrong-doing and the Ten Commandments formed the foundations of society; mercy blended with justice. It has never been rivalled. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness during which time God disciplined and prepared them a new generation entered the "Promised Land".

The conquest of the Canaanites took time, little by little. Joshua the great warrior leader overcame them battle by battle, foot by foot. This was a purposeful strategy for the land was filled with exceedingly great "giants" and ungodly tribes. It is hard for us to understand just how wicked these people actually were without going back into the Biblical record. They indulged in the most cruel and devious practises. There comes a time in every nation when time runs out. Joshua's conquest and destruction of them was that time. They had been given 420 years to change their ways yet had grown worse. Some repented and were spared but the majority were beyond redemption. Indeed some became perpetual enemies of God especially the Amalekites. They consistently defied the laws of God and took every opportunity to destroy His people. God has no enemies as such; it is individual people and sometimes whole communities who make God their

enemy by the way they live. The Amalekites represent all who perpetually resist and fight against God. They will eventually be blotted out. 1 Chronicles 4:42,43 Ezekiel 35.

Slowly the nation of Israel comprising 12 tribes with a tribe of Priests, took form and developed, first under Judges and then under Kings. From time to time Prophets appeared. They spoke messages from God intended to keep the nation pure from sin. Although these spokesmen were fallible and had themselves great weaknesses they never failed to bring warning concerning false practices and attitudes. Many false prophets claimed to speak in the name of the Lord and the true prophets were often rejected and killed. They were tested and sometimes even fell but their message was true and always came to pass.

Jerusalem became the centre for both worship and administration. Having come out of Assyria and Egypt the new nation had been influenced by their cultures and festivals. Israel, however, differed in fundamental concepts. They believed in only one sovereign God and worship centred on a Blood Covenant, a unique concept that had come from the origins of the nation itself. God had entered into a Covenant with the nation whereby sin was pardoned by the shedding of blood. God also promised to provide the supreme sacrifice. Although other nations did sacrifice they did so to placate the wrath of their gods rather than an offering of “grace thanksgiving”. The Israelites were expressly prohibited from partaking in the many “heathen” practices of those times. Israel was likened figuratively to a woman betrothed to the Lord. She was called to be pure, like a beautiful bride.

The Hebrews built no mighty monuments; they left no fancy tombs filled with treasure, no great statues. They left something more enduring, a testimony to God’s acts in history, a record of His divine law and a prophetic testimony to future events; they gave us the Bible considered by many as the most significant collection of writings ever comprised. The Bible is not a historical book but a record of God working in history. History was for the Hebrews the plan of God centred on His people to whom He declared His nature, revealed His judgments and showed His mercy. As such, Judaism contrasts with religions of nature and contemplation. Religions of nature discover God in the surrounding universe; for example, in the orderly course of the heavenly bodies, or more frequently in the recurring cycle of the withering and resurgence of seasons. This cycle is interpreted as the dying and rising again of a god in whose experience the devotee can share through various acts and thus also become divine and immortal. For such a religion the past is not important since the cycle of seasons is the same year after year. Religions of contemplation on the other hand, see the physical world as an impediment to man’s spirit rather than as beneficial. The spirit must be set free from all that is tangible and rise by contemplation to union with the divine. Through meditation they cut links between tangible reality to attain a state of perfection. The sense of time itself must be transcended so here again history is not important.

The Hebrew religion, however, was grounded in history through God's mighty acts among the children of men. It looked back to what God had done in the past and remembered these events by means of "Feasts". It looked forward with faith; because of God's past faithfulness He would not forsake His people in the future. The Bible declares God's power in Creation and declares His Sovereignty through His judgements and His Love through acts of mercy.

And so the nation grew through encounters with God. At first it was "ruled" by people called Judges; men and women who were filled with wisdom and the Spirit of God. Afterwards came monarchs, Saul at first, followed by King David. David was a man of integrity although he made bad mistakes. David's reign became synonymous with the concept of a future Messiah who would establish a Kingdom of righteousness that would endure forever. After years of consolidation, peace and unity eventually were achieved during the reign of King Solomon. He organized the kingdom, imposed taxes, promoted and controlled trade and had a vast army. He built a beautiful temple in Jerusalem and the glory of his kingdom spread to distant lands. Even the Queen of Sheba came to visit and worship the God of Israel. Israel became renowned as a nation of wisdom and justice. God was with them. But it did not last.

Solomon made a bad mistake. Not only did he marry many heathen wives but he also compromised with their many gods. He was drawn into paganism - even the cult of Molech [also called Sikkuth and Saturn]. This was the chief idol of the Ammonites and part of the worship of Baal. [Baal was the sun-god who brought fertility and rain.] The cult practised human sacrifice and even newborn babies were offered to the idol and burnt in fire! Drums were beaten to cover their screams. Solomon also allowed other pagan rites.

These were the seeds of destruction. Because of compromise, apostasy, ambition, and rivalry, the nation divided and civil war broke out between the northern and southern tribes. Spiritual leaders called Prophets were raised up by the Spirit of God and warned of judgment but few took heed. The nation began to disintegrate. With internal corruption and external threats the people turned away from the faith of their founders. Squeezed between the superpowers of the day, Assyria and Egypt, Israel had no where to go. They turned more and more to idols and falsehood. More and more of the kings turned to despicable ways of corruption, lust, greed, murder and apostasy. The clouds gathered. The prophets did not cease to warn of the need to change their values and turn from falsehood. Only a remnant remained true and the time came when the Prophet Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal to a showdown on the slopes of Mount Carmel. A terrible drought had devastated the land and brought great suffering. Throughout the scriptures rain is considered God's blessing and the absence of it as a sign of judgement in the land because of sin. The true prophets proclaimed that only God could control the rain and the weather. The false prophets were unable to bring rain. Elijah's prayer broke the drought, but only after sin was judged, the false prophets slain

and the people repented. Fire from heaven vindicated his words and the people turned back to truth. But only for a season, soon they were back at their old tricks. The full force of the storm broke. The words of the prophets came to pass.

In 722 BC the northern kingdom fell into Assyrian captivity and ceased to exist. The southern kingdom was weakened, the temple pillaged and destroyed, and the nation conquered by Babylon in 586 B.C. Many people were taken into captivity as slaves. The pagan Gentile nations had triumphed. It seemed God had deserted Israel. Yet those who truly believed held on to their faith and the promises given to them.

All through those dark days the prophets foretold of a future when the nation would be restored and spoke of a Redeemer who would save them. They pointed the people back to trusting and obeying God and called them to repent. They reminded the people of their special origins and historical Covenant with God. They predicted a day when despite being scattered far and wide they would return from every nation in which they had wandered, back to the land of their forefathers. They foretold of a time when the Messiah will establish a Kingdom of justice and the entire world will live in peace. The future hope of peace on earth is a Jewish concept. In fact Jewish principles such as family life, the Ten Commandments, the nature of God's law and our responsibility to each other still form the foundations of stable and righteous society. The problem is that nations have turned away from them. We have become "clever" and no longer believe in a God of truth, have compromised values of honesty, no longer honour marriage, redefined sin as psychological problems and discarded our hard won spiritual heritage for the pottage of the world.

## **THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

The Jews, for that's what they were called from the days of their captivity, were indeed scattered throughout all the nations. For two and a half thousand years they remained there although a small portion of them returned to the land in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. They formed a nucleus that survived both the Greek and Roman invasions and experienced times of national revival. They rebuilt the temple and restored worship but never on a scale predicted by the prophets of old. It was but a partial fulfilment. And yet an important development came out of this period. From an obscure village in northern Galilee came an itinerant teacher and healer - Jesus of Nazareth. A man who challenged the false practices and values of his day, who taught faith and righteousness in a way that upset the self-righteous and religious, and who expressed his love for all men everywhere by drawing men and women of all races and classes to himself. He stepped on the world stage for a brief moment and it did not seem he had a major role. Yet He changed the whole world.

He is the most controversial person of all history. There are many conflicting opinions about him. Many have died for their faith in him and many have rejected and despised

him. Some say he wasn't even Jewish? Who was Jesus? Was he a Jew? Was he the Son of God? He was as Jewish as anyone can be. His proper name is Yeshua and he was born in Bethlehem in fulfilment of the prophecy of Micah 5:2. He came from the tribe of Judah. He was circumcised as a baby. (Luke 2:22-35) He grew up in Nazareth a little village in Galilee a backwater in the vast Roman Empire. His parents were devout Jews and he was schooled in the Jewish religion. (Luke 2:41-49) He attended Synagogue, kept the Sabbath and went to the Holy Feasts. (Luke 4:14) He even dressed like a Jew and was called Rabbi. (Matt 9:20 - The word "hem" means tassel which is what Jewish men had on their garments.)

The teaching of Jesus was a simple daily faith in God as Father and respect and love for fellow men. It was not based on ritual but was centred on life. He told us of another Kingdom of love and justice and displayed that Kingdom in the way he lived. He met people in everyday situations and brought God to them; on the fishing boats, under the trees, herding the sheep, meeting them in homes, healing the sick, caring for the poor, comforting the bereaved. When he did go to the temple or synagogue he was opposed and turned away. The religious leaders feared him because they could not control him. He exposed the hypocrisy of the religious system. He warned of coming judgement and foretold the destruction of the glorious temple and the elimination of the nation. He warned of the storm that would sweep them away. He told all men to repent. To repent is an old fashioned word meaning to change our mind, to own up to sin, to have a change of values, to confess our shortcomings and to accept responsibility for our actions. Perhaps we need a word today that conveys the truth about repentance. A reappraisal, - an evaluation of all we value, our principles and goals, our actions and beliefs, a reassessment of our goals and aspirations, a turn around, a change of mind and heart. Sin, the transgression of the law of God, seems an old fashioned concept now days. But then many people don't believe in God anyway! Let me reiterate that repentance is a very healthy and positive attitude.

To repent means to turn from self, the seat of sin and self justification, self exaltation and self indulgence, to God; to change direction - instead of going away from God to go towards God. Jesus did not condemn most people. In fact most of his warnings were directed to the religious hierarchy who had begun to think of themselves as the only ones worthy of salvation, who did not have to repent, and who condemned others for not maintaining the standards they set. If there was one thing Jesus could not tolerate it was the self righteous intolerant attitude of some of the Pharisees and other religious leaders. Jesus had a relationship with God whom He called his Father and taught that God is a loving Father who wants to forgive all who come to Him. He called people to rekindle their faith and to serve God. He said that his Father had sent him for a special reason - to die as a sacrifice for the entire world. Falsely accused of starting an insurrection Jesus was crucified. The title placed over his cross was "King of the Jews". His blood stained Jewish soil.

In normal circumstances that would have been the end of the matter but his followers began to grow in great numbers. They claimed to have seen him after he had risen from the dead. These first Jewish disciples found in him the fulfilment of many ancient prophecies and claimed that he was the promised Messiah who would return to judge the entire world. In Him they saw the fulfilment of God's grace through the promised Blood Covenant. They faced persecution and rejection but nothing could stop them. They went into the world as witnesses of what they had seen. They had walked with Him after He had risen from the dead. (1 Jn 1:1) They changed society and the world. They survived the upheavals of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and the massive persecution and scattering that followed. As the Jewish people were dispersed the believers in Jesus Messiah also, with new and vibrant leadership, went into the entire world to win the Gentiles to God. They taught that all men should, through repentance and faith, prepare for the Messiah and his coming Kingdom. They endured.

For nearly two thousand years the Gospel of Jesus Christ has gone out to every nation. Millions have believed and been changed by the power of this one life. Undoubtedly the gospel profoundly affected both individuals and nations. The Gospel released men and women from fear and superstition making them able to stand against tyranny and oppression. It lifted people into better, more rewarding lifestyles by changing their values. It motivated individuals to care for and love the destitute and the oppressed and to stand for right. It made people into thinkers and opened the way for scientific and social advance.

But again and again it became institutionalised in religious systems that brought bondage and sought control over the minds of men instead of setting them free. It became rich, and ambition and rivalry crept in. Corruption and internal discord tore it apart. Divisions rent it asunder. In the desire for wealth and worldly fame churches embarked on magnificent building schemes to out do each other. Each new spire had to be higher than the one down the road. There is not a single instruction from Jesus to put brick to mortar in the name of his church. And yet this has preoccupied Christian activity and consumed astronomical amounts of money. Churches continue to build their glorious effigies all in the name of God. Throughout the world great monuments stand testimony to mans' pride. Not content to at least build simple, functional buildings man seems unable to resist the temptation to glorify himself in his man-made structures. I am not against beautiful buildings and their attraction but God does not dwell in temples made by men. He has the entire universe yet He dwells in the hearts of His children! In ancient times when the tower of Babel was built [meaning Gate of Heaven] it did not impress God and He destroyed their pathetic monument and scattered them through all the earth. So too church buildings fall into decay and their ruins are found everywhere. Some present cathedrals require exorbitant funds to maintain them, yet others are now used as bingo halls, casinos etc. Christianity has been divided again and again into cults, sects and denominations and then scattered. It almost seems a grand repeat of Babel!

Nation fought nation over religious dogma and the innocent suffered. Denomination persecuted denomination in self-righteous zeal. Christians, so-called, killed Christians and a great number of Jews as well. The powerful Gentile church forsook its Jewish roots and considered they were the new people of God having replaced God's ancient people. During all this time the Jews suffered great adversity and persecution. Hounded from one town to another, from one nation to another, they fled before their tormentors. Yet they clung to the promise of the coming Messiah. Without a temple and without sacrifice they turned to the written word. Their scribes and Rabbis wrote and collected together teachings interpreting the faith of the patriarchs. But through it all true believers held to the faith and promises given to the forefathers. Through the storm clouds both Jew and Gentile believers look for the Messiah and peace, justice and the Kingdom of God on earth. All the ancient promises predict the coming of God's Kingdom but not without judgment and purging. Just as God judged His nation in the past so too every nation faces the same judgements, repeated through history and culminating in a final event. Some people say that God is a loving God who will not judge but Jesus paid the ultimate price. "Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ"; those who reject grace face judgement. There is only one Gate to Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus died on the cross he overcame Satan. (John 14:30, 16:11) Ever since then there has been a great war raging. It is the war for this world and for the hearts of men and women and the very future of this world. Jesus, the Son of God, alone defeated Satan. Victory is certain. Since then however, a great war has been fought. It involves armies on both sides. Satan has his people and fallen angels and God has His faithful followers and Angels.

## **CHAPTER 2 - ACT 2**

### **THE GREAT KINGDOMS OF HISTORY**

The Hebrews experienced many hardships in captivity that moulded their thinking and attitudes. It was during these times that they were prepared for the next step forward. In Egypt they endured slavery and oppression which prepared them to establish their own nation. When they turned to God in their suffering God raised a deliverer for them - Moses. Later in Babylon they were purged forever from idol worship. From then on they became a people of “the book”. They studied the scriptures and the words of the prophets. They became the custodians of what became known as God’s Word and they preserved it for the Gentiles. After the destruction of the temple they established synagogues where they met together for teaching and reading the Word. Their faith grew stronger and they were welded together as a distinct people who trusted in God.

#### **DANIEL - STATESMAN AND VISIONARY**

In about 605 BC a young lad named Daniel was taken to Babylon as a slave. He was destined to be one of the world’s great visionaries. He rose to the highest position in the land and served the kings of Babylon and Persia that followed. He was a man of great faith and uncompromising principles. Gifted with an extraordinary insight into the future he predicted the rise and fall of the kingdoms of the earth.

#### **DANIEL - Chapter 2**

In his inspired interpretation of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar Daniel described the empires that would endure to the very end times. The great statue in the dream made of gold, silver, brass, iron and clay represents the course of world history. We do not have to guess at the meaning the Bible gives to this dream. The Gold represents Babylon, the Silver the Medes and Persians that followed. This is the *key* to interpreting the rest of the dream. Every element in the statue represented a different people and kingdom; the Brass was the Greeks that followed and the Iron that followed them was the Romans. [Notice the deteriorating values of these components from gold to iron, to clay and then miry clay.] The entire world has been influenced by the culture and thinking of these great empires. The Iron extended down into the legs and then clay came indicating another people that joined the Roman Empire. In the dream each element represented a different people and nation. So the clay represented *another people* mixing with the Romans. Rome was to endure but in a changed form. It split in two and was invaded by numerous other peoples all mixing together. These people were represented by clay even to the toes but eventually the clay deteriorated into mire. The head was gold but the toes ended up iron mixed with mire, a mixture of many different peoples. There are some interpreters who say that the clay represents Christians but I think the dream represents worldly kingdoms and peoples. In the final days of the toes of these kings a “heavenly stone” will crash upon them sweeping away the entire image to establish an eternal

Kingdom. This dream has been perfectly fulfilled through history. The Roman Empire was split into two legs, the Western Roman and Eastern Byzantine Empires and was invaded over many centuries by various peoples. Just as Iron and clay cannot bond so too these people never fully amalgamated but formed different nations in East and West Europe and often clashed with one another. In the days of the final kings Daniel predicted the coming of the “Stone from Heaven” that will crash upon them and shatter their power and establish an enduring Kingdom; the Kingdom of God.

## **DANIEL - Chapter 7**

Daniel’s explanation of the dream was confirmed in another vision where the course of history was depicted by four terrifying beasts: the first like a Lion with wings, the emblem of ancient Babylon, the second like a Bear raised on one side, the unbalanced alliance of the Medes and Persians, the third like a Leopard with four heads, the Hellenic Empire of Alexander divided in four under his generals, and the fourth a great animal of immense strength illustrating the military might of Rome. In John’s time the first three kingdoms had already come and gone and it is this final empire that John described in the New Testament as having seven heads and ten horns. (Rev 13) The kingdoms of the lion, the bear and the leopard were incorporated into one and became the fourth and final beast which would trample underfoot the entire world. However, he described this final kingdom as having all the characteristics of the previous four in Daniel. (See chart.)

Daniel foresaw the rise of Persia followed by the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great. He told of the conquests of Alexander and also of the division of his empire after his death into four sections under his four generals. These were Hellenic Kingdoms ruled by Greek Royal families. He warned that a terrible persecutor would arise out of Seleucia (modern day Syria and some of Turkey, Iraq and Iran), Antiochus IV Epiphanies. He would cause much suffering during the wars of the Maccabees. In 168BC Antiochus, whose title means “Illustrious Deity”, set up in the Temple of Jerusalem an image to Olympian Zeus, the Greek god of war and defiled the altar. This was especially intended to antagonise the Jews. Antiochus claimed to be divine and the statue of Zeus bore his features! He forced the Greek gods and values upon the Jews. The Greeks were great lovers of art and philosophy. They had many festivals dedicated to numerous gods whom they worshipped in athletic sports [conducted in the nude] and feasts and parties. Some Jews accepted these foreign gods but the Maccabees resisted and rose against Antiochus and fought overwhelming odds to eventually repel the invading armies and cleanse the temple.

Daniel also predicted the kingdom that would follow the Hellenic kingdoms - Rome. He predicted the coming of the Messiah and the destruction of the temple by the Romans. He turned the pages of history, as yet unwritten, revealing the things that would happen – even to our days!

## THE ROMAN KINGDOM

True to Daniel's words the Romans came marching with military precision, conquering all who resisted. None could withstand their mighty war machine, it was an iron rule. The Jews, chosen of God, were swept away when they attempted rebellion. The magnificent temple was destroyed in AD70 just as Daniel and Jesus had said. Over a million Jews perished in these wars. They were put to the sword, died of famine and survivors were sold as slaves. There followed a time of great persecution and the sport of gladiators. Both Jew and Christian, and anyone else undesirable, were put to death. It seemed that no one could stand against the might of Rome.

But slowly the decay set in - from within. And from the north came a new foe - the "Barbarians". Racked with internal discord, immorality, corruption and greed, monetary collapse and communication difficulties the Empire slowly began to fall apart. Constantine, the Caesar who became a "Christian", moved his capital to the East thus effectively dividing the empire in two. The West could not stand against the inroads made by the northern hordes. Who were these invaders? They were the Germanic tribes [the Visigoths, Vandals, Ostrogoths, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Franks and others] moving in from the North and East. They established themselves in principalities and eventually a Germanic king was crowned as Caesar in Rome. The first true German on the throne of the Caesars was Maximinus Thrax [A.D. 235-238]. In AD476 a Germanic king, Odoacer, deposed the last western Emperor and ruled in his place. The Clay had mixed with the Iron. These tribes were slowly converted to Christianity and the church in Rome became powerful and influential over the new states.

When Constantine was converted to Christianity a profound change swept over the church. Before then, for nearly three hundred years, it had suffered persecution. This had kept it pure. Only the very committed dared to belong to it at the risk of their lives. Early Christians believed in the temporal nature of the present order and were not caught up in its worldly fashions. They were pilgrims "passing through" and had no need of its sham. They believed that this present world order would be destroyed and lived with the expectation of the return of Christ to earth to establish His Kingdom. Because they truly believed in the return of the Messiah they purposely did not put down permanent roots. The church had no outward show, no wonderful buildings and no lordly hierarchy. Christ had never instructed them to put brick to mortar, nor to set up a religious order but rather to go out and witness to the entire world. They openly testified about God's love and forgiveness through the shed blood of Christ, and God's gift of eternal life through his resurrection.

The Gospel spread very quickly even to remote nations. Believers met in homes. They cared for each other with love regardless of position or status. They followed the teaching and example of Christ by sharing with one another food, clothes, money and possessions. On the last night of Christ's life he established a covenant-meal with his

disciples and broke the Passover bread and drank the cup saying that the bread was like his broken body and the wine like his shed blood. He illustrated his total love for them and encouraged his followers to do the same for one another, not in just a symbolic ritual but in real life circumstances. This “sacrament” is today a contention as different churches disagree as to the manner to observe it. Yet Jesus never intended it to be an outward ritual but a way of life. Almost all the apostles who ate that meal with Jesus later died for him. The early Christians obeyed and emulated Christ’s sacrificial love and even laid down their lives for one another. When they “broke bread from house to house” they ate real meals and shared everything they had in a sacrificial way. They gave of themselves for the well being of others. This is what Paul the apostle meant when he taught in 1 Corinthians 11 and 12 that believers were all one body and needed to care for each other. If one member suffered then the whole body suffered. He said that some, the rich, were over indulging in their meals while others, the poor, were going with out. Some had become sick and some even died. Why was that? In the context of what he wrote he meant that they were going hungry and some had even died because they were not being cared for. The original Lord’s Supper or communion was a real meal in which the collective members of the local “body” of the church ministered to one another’s needs. The early Christians were bound in love and shared all things. If someone did not have a coat then someone else gave them a coat. If someone had no food then others supplied their need. It was a genuine community of love. They shared the “body and blood” of Christ, his life and teachings, and were willing to be broken so as to give it to thousands of others just as the Lord had taken the few loaves and fish and shared it, using his disciples to distribute it to the 5000 and the 7000. They faced gladiators and lions together. They valued human life beyond natural bounds. First century Roman Christians rescued and raised babies that had been abandoned outside the city walls, and this was at risk of their own lives, since saving abandoned babies was a capital offence! They were willing to be broken, and to shed their blood, for the good of others. They ate together real meals and shared all that they had; their communion was a real sharing of everything in life not a ritual. It was because of their love, simplicity and flexibility that they survived the great persecutions.

All this was to change. Overnight Christianity became the official state religion and everyone wanted to get in. They brought with them all the pagan practices of the gods of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome [December 25th was the birthday of the Sun God; the green Christmas tree reflects the Osirian belief of the cycle of life and death; the worship of Ishtar, Queen of Heaven and Cybele, Mother of the gods exalted Mary, etc.] Magnificent new basilicas were erected to rival the ancient temples. Instead of the freedom of simplicity the church became regimented and controlled. Instead of going out to change the world the world was brought in and changed the church. Instead of a personal trust and faith between God and the individual large numbers of people with no genuine conversion experience relied upon priests to represent them to the new Christian God. Instead of being a vibrant living and dynamic way of life it became boxed in behind four walls and governed by ritual. Instead of it being expressed in a life of loving

care and sacrifice it degenerated into dogma and outward forms. It lost its spiritual vibrancy and was easily controlled. Soon the church became an “eternal” institution structured by rules, regulations and worldly pageantry. The church was never intended as such but rather to be a witness to the temporal nature of this passing order and a declaration of the future Kingdom of God. The misconception that the structured church was the kingdom led to heresy and error. St. Augustine [354-430] one of the leaders in the church taught the “City of God” concept - that God had established his permanent kingdom on earth through the one visible organised state church. The early faith of the first Christians became almost unrecognisable. The “church” had gained a place in the world but lost its soul. To win numbers it forfeited love and righteousness. The state-church became a powerful institution in the new order. It became the new Babylon and embraced the cults, rituals and beliefs of Gentiles and lost its Biblical spiritual foundational truths.

The great image of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had a head of gold and then declined from silver and bronze into iron and then into potter’s clay until it became miry clay. It declined from pure gold into iron and dirty clay. The gold represented Babylon and so did the iron, the whole image was Babylonian. The kingdoms of this world have their origins in Babylon and still practice Babylonian values. The “City of God” had become the “City of Babylon”.

### **THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE**

The Roman Empire gradually succumbed to the invasions of various tribes from the North and East. Initially it was the Germanic tribes that invaded and won control. It divided in two forming the Western and Eastern Empires. In 800 AD Charlemagne was crowned by the Pope as Emperor over “the Holy Roman Empire” or what is often called in history books “the Germanic Empire” or “Deutsche Reich”. It was “holy” because of the church and Roman because of its origin. It was Germanic because of the Teutonic peoples. The Eastern Byzantine Roman Empire was invaded from the south and east and later more tribes invaded Europe both in the West and the East; the Huns, Slavs, Magyars, Tartars, Turks and others - the miry clay, - mixed groups that formed the peoples of Europe and the old Roman Empire. A succession of “Holy Roman Emperors” followed; royal families like the Habsburgs of Austria and Hungary, became powerful monarchs all claiming Divine right to rule.

### **THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE**

The Eastern Roman Empire became a powerful Christian state, which was a centre for art and learning. It broke away from the western section and withstood the attacks of the Crusaders before falling in 1453 to Islamic armies. It had extensive influence and won the Russians as converts in about 988 AD. When Constantinople fell many people fled to the North and West. This influx of learned people contributed largely to the

Renaissance. New skills and influences came to Russia and in 1473 a Byzantine princess married into the Russian royal family. Moscow was transformed as the new spiritual centre of the Greek Orthodox Church. Magnificent buildings were constructed comparable to anything found elsewhere. It was declared the “Third Rome”. The Tsars were the new Caesars and the church became the one true Orthodox Church. To this day Russia holds to the insignia of the double headed eagle which came from the eastern Byzantine Empire and originally from the Roman legions. It is part of the old Byzantine Eastern Roman Empire.

## **THE FINAL KINGS**

The division of the Roman “iron” kingdom into East and West is vividly depicted by the two legs of the dream’s statue. Daniel tells us that in the days of these kingdoms ten kings will arise who will come together and give their authority to someone who will deceive the world for a short time of three and a half years. He will seek to bring the entire world into a one-world order. How remarkable that John should tell us that out of a united East and Western Europe the nations will relinquish their sovereignty to serve another who will control them!

John confirmed this when he wrote the visions God gave him when imprisoned in the Isle of Patmos. He saw the same great beasts of Daniel’s dream amalgamated into a final beast with seven heads and ten horns. Once again we need to first understand the significance of the original OT prophecy in order to understand what John is seeing. The beasts of Daniel 7 were the great kingdoms of antiquity; Babylon, Medes and Persia, Greece and the Hellenic Empires, and Rome. They form a final world kingdom. Just as Daniel was told how to understand the dream so too John was told by the angel how to interpret this vision. (Dan 7:15, Rev 17:9-11,18) The seven heads depict seven kingdoms, five of which were already past at the time John wrote. They correspond to the great kingdoms of antiquity as Daniel has already indicated; Babylon, Medes, Persians, Greece and the Hellenic Kingdoms. These are the five Biblical kingdoms or Gentile “heads” that have through history been used by the adversary to persecute God’s people. (Some people see them as Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Medes and Persians, and Greece.) The angel informed John that a city called Babylon was the city that ruled in his days. This was Rome, the sixth great kingdom in history. (Rev 17:18) After this one more head or kingdom was to come – the seventh, which would continue for a while. We know from history that this seventh head was the kingdoms that comprised the “Holy Roman Germanic Empire” and the “Eastern Roman Byzantine Empire” including Russia, depicted as the two legs of the great image of the dream recorded in Daniel 2. The Holy Roman and Byzantine Empires were built on the foundations of Rome with Roman Laws, Roman customs and Roman Religion. If one travels through these countries one will find evidence of the old Roman Empire everywhere one goes. This was the “beast” which “was, and is and is to come”.

But then John gave an outstanding prediction. He said one of these seven heads was given a fatal wound by a sword then revived and came back to life as the *eighth* and last kingdom which for a brief period will rule in the world. (Rev 17:11, 13:3,18, Dan 7:24, 8:23) The wounded head is an entire kingdom, not an individual. One of the kingdoms will come alive again even though it was given a fatal wound with a sword. The sword is the symbol of war; in other words one of the heads destroyed by war will revive and form a final *eighth* head. We may ask, "Which kingdom was so badly wounded by war and revived?" Many past kingdoms suffered war but there were two wars in history that out did all others, The Great War otherwise called the First World War followed by the Second World War. Actually it was one war with a half time break. They devastated Europe, both East and West, and left it in ruins. It was wounded by the sword with a fatal wound. Millions perished. Most of the world was dragged into war; Europe, Russia, Japan, the Far Eastern nations and many more.

Europe was battered, the cities, industry and agriculture smashed and the economy in shreds. But it came alive again. Some say it was a miracle. In just a few years it recovered to unite into what is now called the European Union. Germany, the major cause of the War, lay divided and mortally wounded for several decades but then almost "miraculously" united and is now the major economy. The "Holy Roman Empire" still exists today; the European Union in the West and Russia in the East forming the two legs of the image of Daniel chapter 2. Just as depicted in that dream they are made of mixed elements, iron and clay, and these will never bond or mix. These elements represent the mixing of peoples into ten toes of the final time. It is significant that historians see that *ten* major *ethnic* groups of people formed Europe. The heart of Russia is comprised of people from the same origins and also part of it. Not only has the "Holy Roman Empire" survived but the rise of Islam has also taken place. The Caliph of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled Turkey and the entire Middle East was disbanded at the end of WW1 but is rising again as Muslims once more seek for an Islamic Caliph that will bring greater unity among themselves. For the last hundred years Islamic nations have awoken as the West poured expertise and development into them. Some of them are very wealthy and control large reserves of energy required by Europe and the world.

In the end there will be "ten kings" but they still will not be united and three will fall before another. We are now seeing the resurgence of the "Holy Roman" kingdoms and the scenario described at the end of this age when nations will come against Israel. There is a gathering tide of anti-Semitism that will flood Israel. Europe and the world will bring intense pressure upon Israel to accept a two state agreement for the Palestinians and give up half the city of Jerusalem. This will seem good but it will end in disaster for Israel when her foes turn against her, which they will.

Israel's borders will be indefensible and the Jewish people will face annihilation as the world stands by and does nothing.

## **CHAPTER 3 - ACT 3**

### **A UNITED EUROPE - THE UNFULFILLED DREAM**

The Holy Roman Empire or Germanic Empire [symbolised in the image of Daniel 2 as Iron - Clay] had its roots in the kingdom of the Franks under Charlemagne's reign. After the overthrow of the Lombard kingdom in Italy the Pope crowned Charlemagne emperor in the year AD800. He was a Germanic prince who ruled over Germanic tribes converted to Christianity. They spoke both Latin and Germanic languages. In Spain, Gaul and Italy the Latin speech prevailed in different forms. North and East of the Rhine the Germanic group prevailed. Generally most of Europe is made up of these two basic groups but with the addition of other ethnic peoples who have mixed with them especially in the old Eastern Empire now comprised of Greece, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Syria and other nations. The history of Europe has been one of conflict and of divide and rule.

After the Germanic invasions came the Huns, Slavs, Turks and others. In the Far East China had built the great wall to keep them out. And so the old Latin speaking Roman Empire passed away, but the Latin Church grew in power, with the Pope taking the title "*pontifex maximus*" - the head sacrificial priest of the Roman dominion - the most ancient title of the Emperor.

With the support of the Roman Church Charlemagne's empire expanded rapidly. His aims were to perpetuate Roman rule over a united Europe. For centuries Europe would see the rise and fall of Popes and Emperors, all struggling for power and unity. It was an unhappy marriage of State and Church. True to the ancient vision the iron and the clay would not mix well. In AD936 the German king, Otto 1 the Great, came to power and claimed the title of Roman Emperor. The German Reich of the Medieval Holy Roman Empire continued for several centuries through fluctuating fortunes and different dynasties. In 1273 the throne went to the Austrian house of Habsburg who dominated Europe and whose descendants clung to the title "Holy Roman Emperor" until Francis II lost it in 1806. During these centuries a running battle for supremacy was fought between Pope and Emperor. Each sought to control the other. Emperors raised armies and Popes called on God. The church claimed Divine authority on earth and kings claimed Divine right to rule. The church imposed rules and regulations upon people and claimed to hold the destiny of the souls of all. It exalted itself and claimed dominion on earth over all. This happened both in the Western Empire and the Eastern Empire.

The State Church claimed to have the final say in all matters of faith and instructed people how and what to believe; woe betide anyone who did not obey. Even kings had to kneel in submission. And those who did not were excommunicated and murdered. The Bible was locked up and kept from the common man. The dark ages rolled over Europe. The great inquisitions took place weeding out dissenters and those who did not belong to the institutionalised church. Jews and true believers in Christ who did not

submit to the State Church were put to death. A new Babylon had arisen, bringing souls into bondage and drinking the blood of the saints. Like a harlot she sought her own glory, dressed in gorgeous vestments, and all the time got more and more wealth and splendour at the price of indulgences - the promise of pardon and salvation by the payment of exorbitant fees. The very things that Jesus had resisted were built again - all in his name!

## **THE REFORMATION**

Then out of the Middle Ages came the Renaissance and Reformation. From the rebirth of art and learning, came spiritual awakening, reform and change, and more conflict. Reformers fought reformers. Men were burnt at the stake. One system of worship was replaced by another. Nation marched on nation, kings and princes fought in the name of Catholic or Protestant. European nations began to look for wider horizons to control and exploit - all in the name of God. Explorations opened up sea routes and established far-flung outposts for the opposing nations. A new era of Empires started. Like tentacles European nations extended their conflicts and cultures into the world. But the gospel also went into the world as a witness to all nations, for among the explorers and empire builders were godly missionaries whose only motives were to bring the love of God to a dying world. Among the division of Christianity there were still those who sincerely tried to follow Jesus and recapture something of the first, fresh faith of the early believers. Catholics, Protestants and others all have a share of great men and women who obeyed Jesus and laid down their lives for others. As a result of the Reformation the age of world missions had started. Many devout men and women left their homelands fleeing religious persecution. They looked for a brave new world of freedom and liberty. The New World was born but its birth was marked with conflict.

The Reformation released people from the restrictions of the State Church and encouraged personal faith and individual study. The new freedom created a climate for scientific development. The power of the state church took a severe blow, the medieval serfdom system was broken and private ownership developed as skills were acquired. Capitalism developed in Europe, although it had been around for a long time in history. The landowners began to lose their power and the peasants became restless. Soon the industrial revolution started, and with it an upheaval in society that was to lead into real revolution that swept across Europe like a cruel storm overthrowing kings and queens. In Britain the ministry of such great preachers as the Wesley brothers among others widely influenced the common people and some historians claim this was Britain's saving deliverance from the violent revolutions that swept France and other nations.

The industrial revolution did not immediately create higher living standards in fact quite the reverse - men, women and children laboured under appalling conditions. People moved from an agriculture-based economy to towns where they lived in slums. Society became fragmented and "classes" formed. For many it was hell on earth. As families

were uprooted people were divided. Children became orphaned and waifs and society became impersonalised. People began to lose their roots and to some measure the individual lost continuity of family and community. Those that were able immigrated to the “New World” - many were trapped. Slowly a wealthy middle class emerged and the age of materialism was born.

Industrialization bolstered the empires because of the need for raw materials. Empires exploited the colonies for their own ends. Britain boasted an Empire upon which the sun never set. Industrialisation exploited people and natural resources and began to create mountains of garbage and pollution which have defiled the earth. Capitalism saw the growth of wealthy business, powerful banks and the expansion of empires. It really took off when the industrial technology went into making new war machines needed to bolster the conflicts of the Empire builders. Armies marched and fell. Peasants stormed the bastions. Great warlords plunged nations into hellish wars. Leaders schemed and tricked each other for their own ends. With the advent of Napoleon a new Universal Empire was planned. The Pope crossed the Alps to crown Napoleon as Roman Emperor and exhorted him to follow the example of Charlemagne. Napoleon conquered and was himself conquered.

## **THE RISE OF PRUSSIA AND RUSSIA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

Out of the confusion arose a small nation in Europe called Prussia ruled by Frederick William just one of the many rulers who claimed to be Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Thirty-nine German States united in a new German Confederation, which was brought under Prussian leadership by Emperor Otto von Bismarck. The Second Reich was born. Bismarck fought and defeated his neighbours and Germany was dominant until the First World War. At this time another nation, the ancient kingdom of Russia, fell to revolution.

Born in Prussia in 1818 Karl Marx had spent a lifetime teaching his philosophy of “scientific socialism.” Based on the concept that economic power shaped culture he advocated a classless society created through the assumption of power by the working class. Marx believed that with the overthrow of capitalism no class would be able to exploit another. All wealth would belong to the state and not to a few individuals. Class warfare would cease. [Unfortunately there is no evidence that once a communist society is formed men will instantly stop being selfish and become completely devoted to one another. Invariably the men in power have the wealth and the rest are reduced to poverty. Marx denounced religion, which he called “The Opium of the People.”] His slogan “Workers of the world unite” sought to rally the workers together. Marx moved to England and wrote the “Communist Manifesto” but died in poverty. Trade Unions began to form and grew in power but the workers did not easily unite. When war broke out in 1914 men of all nations joined their own armies. Patriotism proved a stronger power. “Christian” nation fought “Christian” nation and both claimed to have God on

their side. Armies were shattered on the battlefield in conditions that can only be described as sheer hell. World War 1 was called the “Great War”. It was triggered by the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand heir to the Austrian Hungarian “Holy Roman” Empire.

These conditions created the climate for a new philosophy, the teachings of Marx. They were truly international and went beyond nationalistic, religious and cultural divides. They were vigorously promoted by Lenin in Russia. He rallied the workers and in 1917 the old order was swept away and replaced by communism. If the workers had not wanted to unite before they had no choice under the new Communist Party, which became all powerful. Stalin followed Lenin and enforced on them a dictatorship that is one of the great legacies of oppression. Many millions perished. The Soviet Union was destined to rise as a world power. And a new international perspective began to develop in the nations.

Also in 1917, another crucial event took place, the fall of Jerusalem. General Allenby of the British Army captured the ancient city of Jerusalem without a shot being fired. Centuries of Ottoman control was broken and Palestine came under British Mandate. This was the most significant event of the time and opened up the ancient land for the return of Jewish survivors after nearly 2500 years of wandering without a homeland. The Ottoman Kingdom had lasted for hundreds of years. In 1453 the Turks had captured and overthrown the Christian Eastern Roman Empire. The Christians had fled into Europe and Jerusalem had languished in the declining fortunes of the Turkish Empire.

Meanwhile for a brief period in Europe the Weimar Republic existed until another flag was raised - the broken cross. The Third Reich unleashed its deadly storm. In a remarkable short period of time a new revival of Germanic-Roman power arose; with Mussolini and Hitler the Rome-Berlin Axis was born.

## **THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

Hitler was a man inspired by evil but he had some knowledge of history. He simply revived the Holy Roman Empire complete with the old Roman emperor worship, Roman salute and eagle emblems. Hitler was deeply involved with occult and demonic strongholds. He modelled his new arena where Nazi rallies were held after the Greek Altar of Pergamos where hundreds of bulls had been sacrificed. Pergamos was called the Throne of Satan. (Rev 2:13) The Nazis claimed to be a pure race [despite all the racial mixing over the centuries] and embarked on a campaign of persecution and conquest. Hitler’s dream was to dominate the world with a united Europe. The madness plunged the world into war. Over 50 million perished. Nazi hatred blamed most of the ills of Germany and Europe on the Jews. The despised Jew became the scapegoat. For centuries the state church had been openly anti-Semitic. The so-called followers of Christ forgot that Christ was a Jew and were the very ones who persecuted his people.

They owed everything they had to the Jews and yet they hated them vehemently and falsely accused them of being Christ killers. Martin Luther and others had written about the Jews in very derogatory terms. A climate for deception and all manner of unspeakable evil had been set. A great antichrist arose, the Holocaust took place, six million Jews were murdered - a third of the Jewish nation. Hitler accomplished on a grand scale what so many others had tried before him. Again and again through history the Jews had faced pogroms and persecution and fled from country to country for refuge. As one door closed behind them so another would open before them. (Rev 11: 16) But now there was no where to flee. The devouring dragon stood before them. They were taken as sheep to the slaughter. [Revelation chapter 12 describes this horrific genocide. The symbolism of the woman in this chapter comes from Joseph's dream [Gen.37] and represents Israel. The twelve stars do not represent angels but portray the twelve tribes of Israel of which a third were destroyed by the devil.] In the camps another six million people perished with them, many of them God-fearing men and women. Some German citizens resisted but most were powerless and were themselves controlled by the Nazi leaders. Many paid the price with their lives.

After bitter bloodshed the allies smashed the Nazi war machine. In the Far East atomic clouds, like great pillars of smoke, hung over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ushering in the age of nuclear power. The earth lies under this awesome shadow. Albert Einstein, one of the world's greatest intellectuals, warned that there is no defence possible against such a destructive power. Man has the total destruction of the planet within his means. Broken bodies returned from war, but broken lives were never restored. Men and women had seen unthinkable horrors. Russia lay bruised, Poland devastated, Britain badly bruised, society broken; Europe lay divided and wounded by the cruel sword of war, its great cities in rubble, its people dazed. Divided into East and West it would never rule again. Germany at the heart of Europe was cleft in two; Berlin was a divided city. It seemed the dream of a United Europe was forever destroyed.

## **THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND RUSSIA**

Wonder of wonders - Europe came alive again. Step by step, through economic and political treaties it was rebuilt and revived. In 1958 the Treaty of Rome was signed forming the European Economic Community. The EEC brought six nations together in trade agreements. Out of this trade pact came the European Community with one currency union. Then in 1989 within the space of a few brief weeks the impregnable "iron curtain" collapsed. The fall of the Berlin wall caught nations off guard and took the world by surprise. The disintegration of the powerful Soviet Union followed and this released Soviet States and Eastern Europe from communism to become part of the new financial order.

The reunification of East and West Germany was a bridge to unite the whole of Europe

by bringing the East and West blocks together after years of conflict. The world saw the healing of the *seventh* head that was wounded unto death. The ancient Roman Empire was healed. These nations initially signed a trade agreement that developed into a one currency financial agreement which now seems to be heading towards either full political union or fragmentation. Over the years its authority was stamped upon the member states in both a financial and legislative manner. A leading British expert on the EU described this in his book with the words, “Babylonian Captivity of the British economy” and on other member nations as well. It started as a trade market and became a fully legislative body passing laws on member nations. The European Union achieved the greatest union of states since the old Roman Empire. It is significant how it has taken the 12 stars symbol from Rev 12:1.

Financial crisis in these European nations is bringing economies to the brink. Russia needs closer ties with Europe and the situation could open the way for economic, financial and political collapse in Europe. Conditions are becoming a repeat of the great social and financial disorder that occurred in the wake of the “Great Depression” and ultimately led to war. What will fill the vacuum and control the rising tide of chaos? Don’t forget that Russia is linked to the old Roman iron-clay kingdom. The nations of the old Soviet Union are in financial straits and also desperately need aid. The Russian economy is in need of outside finance and trade links with Europe and the Middle East and China. Russia in turn has reserves of energy that are required by Europe. A New Order will form linked with nations that once comprised the old Eastern Roman Empire; Europe and Middle Eastern nations that were all historically part of the old Roman Empire. This will be the final *eighth* head of the “beast”.

The European Community and related trade areas comprise over 500 million people and is one of the most powerful trading blocks in the world. European currency and banks are influential in world commerce and trade. Whatever happens in Europe will affect the rest of the world. European technology, economy and expertise provide the means for full political control of member nations. Many leaders now advocate not just the financial integration of Europe but the full political union of all its nations. There is no such thing as “free trade.” Trade is controlled worldwide through international banks and institutions which have the potential to dictate terms to the entire world. Food is an essential item which can be used to manipulate nations. No one, rich or poor, bond or free, east or west, capitalist or socialist are able to stand against the power of the world financial order. Both Europe and Russia have nuclear weapons. Russia is historically linked with Eastern Roman kingdom and will have a place in a new united order. Breakaway Soviet Republics may also have some nuclear power. Some are linked with the Muslim world. Central Asia has vast areas under Islam. Iran and North Korea are developing nuclear power and Pakistan and India have it already as does China. Are these the kings of the East who will be involved in the conflicts around Israel? China and the Far East face political and ideological upheavals. China has also become a key power in world finance. The storm clouds gather. War and upheaval threaten the world.

The fall of Middle Eastern regimes has caused instability and opportunity for strong fanatical religious take over. Powerful nations face each other with nuclear warheads over oil barrels and religious conflict. All the ingredients for potential disaster are there.

The world is poised to see the rise of the final head of the Beast-Dragon predicted by John the apostle. Marx was in a way right. Finances dictate nations and society. Wealth can trap souls and ensnare people. Jesus warned of this danger when he said that men should not serve mammon. Angered by the corruption of his day he overturned the tables and drove the moneylenders and racketeers out of the temple. When the Pharisees attempted to trick Jesus over money matters Jesus took a Roman coin and asked whose image it bore. When they replied “Caesar’s” Jesus told them to render to God the things that were God’s and to Caesar the things that were Caesar’s making distinction between the two. Jesus said it was not possible to live for God *and* for money. Sadly the words of Jesus were vividly illustrated when Judas, his close friend, betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. Through history men have sought wealth. Even the church has twisted the teaching of Jesus to follow the god of materialism. Of course poverty is not to be thought of as holiness but neither is wealth a sign of righteousness. Jesus said the rich would not enter into heaven, those who are rich but have no heart for God or their fellow men. Some churches have immense wealth and teach that wealth is a sign of godliness.

The Bible predicts that “ten kings” from the Holy Roman Babylonian iron-clay kingdom will relinquish their sovereignty to a power that will control them and the trade and commerce of much of the world. Judas earned the title “Son of Perdition”. This is the same title designated to this final world leader - also called the “Man of Sin”. He and those with him will be the money kings. The technology for financial control is available in the form of international legislation, computers and satellite communication systems. No nation can now survive independently of the International Monetary Banks. The finances of the world are shaking. Weakened through inflation the economies of many nations are in deep trouble. Massive debts will be cancelled and money devalued. The day will come when a worldwide re-adjustment of money and debt call-in will plunge nations into financial bankruptcy. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is all but fulfilled. The statue in his dream was comprised of gold, silver, brass [or bronze], iron, clay and miry clay, illustrating the devaluing wealth of the nations. He erected a huge statue to this money-god and demanded worship of it. As in ancient times when Babylonians worshiped the image so too many through the ages have succumbed to the same lie. But the vision ends with the coming of a heavenly stone that sweeps away corruption, overturns Babylonian values of the world and establishes an Eternal Kingdom. This present shaking is necessary for the removal of everything that can be shaken so as to make room for the Kingdom of God. (Heb 11:26-29)

## **THE BABYLONIANS AND BANKING**

Modern banking practices have their origins in Babylon which was the centre for world

trade and worship. Babylon takes its name from Babel an ancient city of power, pride, wealth, united control and knowledge. The tower of Babel was a turning point in world history and it greatly influenced the world. They were so close to achieving not only one world government but to reaching into the "heavens." However, it was not a godly city and came under judgment. Something happened in the thinking of the people that affected their brains. Their minds became impaired and their ability to communicate disrupted. They could no longer understand one another and were scattered in the confusion of different languages. (Genesis 11:1-9) Babylon became the next Babel and its hanging gardens were of extravagant beauty. In ancient times gold became the standard for wealth. Its unique physical qualities made it ideal as a money base. Gold and silver were minted into coins. Emperors stamped their image upon them.

As men accumulated more and more gold it became difficult to protect. The concept of banking was born when gold was left in a central depository for safekeeping and receipts were issued. Because it was heavy it was not easy for people to carry gold around and so it was put into safekeeping and protected under permanent guard. Those guarding the gold, however, found that because it was not being used and just sat there they could use it themselves by lending it out to others - for a fee. So they developed a system whereby they earned interest or held collateral as security for money that did not belong to them. The people began to trade with the receipts so the gold continued to sit. In this way the same gold was lent out again and again, thereby supporting many loans which made the bankers themselves wealthy. This is a simple explanation but is the same basic technique that expands the economy, causes inflation and allows wealth to accrue in the hands of a few. The same amount of real wealth is stretched further and further. The result is erosion of the buying power of the currency. The problem is that our systems of banking are based on faulty foundations; usury, massive loans and high credit.

Depressions, recessions, inflation, deficits and the like are all processes that can be controlled but have been used to manipulate the economy. Through history nations that maintained a powerful currency based on the gold standard were nations that stayed strong. But as soon as they began to devalue and replace the true money with make-believe money they became weak and eventually fell. The stability and durability of nations is directly linked to the condition of their currency.

During the development of any nation, if the administration is based on sound moral and religious principles with a strong currency and sound productivity its economy will grow proportionally. Because of over spending and huge loans nations fall into debt. Rulers then impose heavy taxes and devalue the currency in an attempt to meet outstanding debts. Slowly the gold currency is replaced with impure coins or paper money. With public confidence declining people begin to hoard true wealth which is withdrawn from circulation or goes underground. The usual result is oppressive and restrictive legislation and heavy taxation to try and control the money situation. This invariably backfires causing people to become dishonest; speculation becomes frantic and the economy takes

a downward spiral. This is not a new phenomenon. Ancient Greece experienced an economic depression in about 600BC, which left massive defaults on loans, foreclosures on farms and bankruptcy for artisans. The threat of slavery hung over the people. The Greeks did not forget this lesson and tried not to allow a repeat of these conditions. The Romans however, were not so careful. The original Roman tender was a copper bar which in the fourth century BC weighed in at one pound but by the middle of the third century had devalued to four ounces and to a half ounce in 70BC. Julius Caesar established a new gold coin and maintained the silver denarius which were both stable until the infamous Nero began devaluation all over again. Successive Emperors each devalued the coins of the Empire so that by the reign of Gallienus [AD 253-268] the only silver left in the coin was a thin outer coating. The treasury however, still demanded that the taxes should be paid in gold or pure silver but there was none left – all had found its way to lands beyond the Empire's borders! The Roman economy was in a shambles. As the monetary system fell apart so did the empire.

The Byzantine Kingdom lasted longer. Its main currency was a gold coin called the Bezant fixed at a certain weight of pure gold, which remained constant for 800 years! Tell that to your bank manager! It dominated trade, from the northern Barbarians to India and its strength was almost legendary. Many monarchs from other nations never bothered with their own coins but kept accounts in the Bezant. No restrictions prevented the travel of bezants anywhere in the world yet the empire never experienced a shortage of gold. All Byzantine bankers and moneychangers were required by law to swear an oath never to devalue or change the coin. The decline of the Byzantine Kingdom corresponded with the decline of its money. Eight hundred years of pure money coinage came to an end when an unpopular and extravagant ruler resorted to paying off his debts with inflated money. With government cheating, social and political turmoil, dishonesty and immorality, the nation collapsed and could not withstand its enemies.

The experiment of paper money started and at first was fully backed by gold. It soon fell into the old pattern of devaluation as nations inflated their economies to service debts and pay for wars or other government spending. They resorted to cancelling or withdrawing notes to replace them with new notes of less value. The inflation cycle has devastated world economies. Added to this today we now have access through computers to stock markets that are difficult to control.

An amazing invention was made in about the middle of the last century – the computer. It started as a massive machine with limited ability but today it is the master of intelligence and reduced in size so that almost everyone in First World countries can have one as well as financial, industrial and commercial institutions in most countries. It has changed the way the whole world functions and does business and commerce. It has influenced our technology and the way we live more than anything else. In about 1980 the internet was first formed; today it has massive communication links like a gigantic web linking computers worldwide and stores the combined knowledge of all mankind. It

has united the scattered peoples and languages of the world into one World Wide Web of communication and trade like a gigantic City of Babel. It has changed the manner of banking more than anything else; how investments, stocks and shares are made and how wealth is created and money moved around the world. People can access stock markets anywhere and every day vast sums of “money” changes hands as people “buy and sell” on the World Wide Web; www. It has taken banking into a new zone beyond control of local institutions. Speculators can now buy vast amounts of shares at opportunistic prices. They can also bring about the collapse of companies and even influence international currencies. It facilitates massive loans and investment and international trade transactions. Not only do individuals use it but large banking corporations. Banks exchange money and borrow and loan among themselves using the best deals they can find at the best rates. However, if one bank collapses this can have a domino affect upon others. Whole banks can collapse overnight leaving people out of pocket and bankrupt large financial corporations.

This process continues to wreak financial havoc. Despite huge loans that can never be repaid, more are issued thereby expanding the economies with created, printed money and book keeping entries beyond the value of true national productivity. Nations become more and more in debt. They owe vast amounts and are controlled by world financial houses which dictate terms to them. These large Banking Houses and Reserve Banks are privately controlled. Many nations are deep in debt. Through credit buying people live beyond their means and in a false materialism. Many economies are now built on credit. Credit gives short term wealth and long term poverty. All nations whether capitalist, socialist or communist are in debt to these financial institutions. Inflation eats away at the buying power of the man in the street making him a financial slave. The result is that some people can become excessively wealthy while others have no chance to do so. For many people an honest day’s work is not enough to survive on. The emphasis in much of the world today is to gain wealth, become rich and live in luxury at any cost. Rich people are seen as successful, clever and to be emulated even at the cost of the poor. Today we have the extremes; the very wealthy and the very poor. I am not judging rich people, what I am saying is the present systems are ungodly.

There is a limit to how far world finances can stretch and they are showing signs of imminent collapse. Those who put their faith in money will be sadly disillusioned. In times past money has been cancelled and people have found their savings were worthless. Stock markets crashed, banks foreclosed and companies went into liquidation causing the great depressions. People exchanged their gold and silver for potatoes and bread. Others took their lives. The money god has floundered in the past and will do so again. This will precipitate an international crash of world finances. James the half brother of the Lord Jesus warned about this. (James 5:1-8) He described how gold and silver will become corroded, something that they do not do, and this is the context of the coming of the Lord. So what did he mean? Our financial systems that started off with gold and silver will in the end days collapse to become totally worthless. Money systems

will collapse. Rev 18:1, Zeph 1:11,18. The World Wide Web will also crash with it. More about this later.

As we have seen National collapse has not been a one off event. It has happened repeatedly through history. This time it will be an international collapse. President Abraham Lincoln after the passage of the National Banking Act of 1863 and shortly before he was assassinated said, "I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country; (financial) corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in High Places will follow and the Money Power of the country will endeavour to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."

In recent times nations have consistently sold their birth rights by handing over the reigns of their finances to international corporations. The "Gold Standard" was cancelled and step by step control of national wealth was relinquished until national governments are no more than pawns in the hands of the International Money Lords. Individual citizens in every country carry the load of debt owed by that country, trillions of dollars. Forget about your bank balance, you are in debt.

Watch the international currencies flounder and remember that the Lord is your true wealth and provider! Whatever surplus money you may have should be channelled into genuine Christian work and care of people. That is the best investment you can make. (Luke 11:15-21, 16:13)

Jesus made it abundantly clear that one cannot serve both God and mammon. They represent two different kingdoms. (Luke 20:22-25) The Lord expects absolute integrity in our use of money.

The other development that has come out of computer technology is the tremendous power of IT systems to completely control the entire world from local civil administration to national defence and world order. Everything today, not just banks, is run on computers. All manufacturing, wholesale, retail, transport, law and order, research, communications, power – in fact everything including the sophisticated weapons that are in the front line of national defence. Whoever controls the IT systems of the world ultimately control the entire world! We have put all our eggs in one place.

It is like a giant Tower of Babel and what will happen if it crashes or someone can find the way to completely control it? Some may say this is not possible but the most sophisticated computer systems are now open to hacking.

## **CHAPTER 4 - ACT 4**

### **ISRAEL - MISTAKE OR DIVINE PLAN?**

As the dust settled and the Second World War came to an end something happened quite unforeseen or planned. Hitler had not found the final solution for the Jews after all! He obviously had not read the Bible. Most European Jews had been murdered in gas chambers but survivors began to move almost inexplicably towards their ancient land. During the First World War Britain had defeated the Turks and captured Jerusalem. Britain was awarded a mandate over much of the Middle East. The British government issued the Balfour Declaration that was sympathetic to Jewish aspirations and supported a homeland for them in Palestine.

After WW 1 they had begun to return to the land in increasing numbers and establish isolated communities. They purchased land on which to settle from the local people, often the poorest land there was. They worked in the fields removing huge stones and gradually restoring the desolate environment. "Palestine" lay waste for centuries, devastated and largely destroyed through countless wars. It was mostly a barren wilderness with little fresh water and some large malaria-ridden swamps. Nobody in his or her right mind would want it. The locals gladly sold the land for outlandish prices. There had always been a small Jewish presence in the land during the years of occupation, first by the Romans and then by Muslims, Crusaders and Turks. The conquerors had imposed heavy taxes upon the people and raped the land of its wealth. The Turks for example had taxed landowners for every tree growing on their land. The result was that the land was almost devoid of all trees. It had been turned into a desert.

Jews once more moved towards their ancient homeland after the Second World War. It was because the nations closed their doors to Jewish refugees that Israel exists today. They were a people unwanted with no where to go. Jews were put in camps all over again. For centuries they had prayed "Next year in Jerusalem". Now they came, the homeless, wounded, sick and bereaved - the shattered remnants of a people from over two thousand years of persecution. Like Ezekiel's vision (Ezekiel chapter 37) it was as if the very graves opened to bring them back. Nothing could stop them, not guns or threats of death. They had been through it all before. They had nothing to lose. It was an embarrassment for Britain. They tried to play a double game - to keep out the Jews and reassure the Arabs. It did not work. Israel was declared a nation in May 1948.

And still they came - back from over a hundred different nations speaking different languages and with different features, but Jews - the remnants of God's ancient people. It was as if the Second World War had given birth to a new nation. (Rev 12:4,13,17; Isa 26:17-21, 66:7-13) But it was a nation that not everybody wanted. Was this a grand mistake or was there another explanation? The neighbouring nations tried to strangle the baby at birth. Despite the ratification of the new nation by the world community in the United Nations Israel was attacked. A fierce battle followed and despite poor

weapons and great odds the nation survived. This was the first surprise - more were to come. The nation faced perpetual threat of attack and annihilation. Surrounded by enemies who refused to recognize its right to exist and vowed its destruction Israel became a nation besieged. In 1967 the Six-Day War was fought and won. Surprise number two - or was it three or four? Several nations threatened to drive the Jews into the sea and called on local Palestinian inhabitants to leave everything they had because after the victory they would be given it all back and more. This resulted in thousands of displaced Palestinians. Then in 1973 Israel was attacked on the most Holy Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Israel fought and won against overwhelming odds. Was this just a coincidence? It was a bad choice of day to attack. Scripture says that if Israel's enemies attack them on this Holy Day God Himself will defend them!

That any nation should have been so completely dispersed, decimated, scattered and yet survive and be restored to its ancient land, language and religion is amazing. How much more incredible is this when these events were written many years before they came to pass, like a pre-planned blueprint just as the prophets foretold. Still they return despite the difficult conditions in the land. They are being welded together, both Ashkenazi and Sephardi groups that loosely represent the ancient division of the northern and southern tribes. Representatives of the whole house of Jacob [both Judah and Israel] are back in the land. They came from Russia, Albania, Ethiopia and everywhere else – outstanding prophecies uttered thousands of years ago now fulfilled before the eyes of an antagonistic world. Whether the world likes it or not Israel cannot be ignored. In ancient times Israel was always in the thick of it. It still is. The very fact that there is a modern nation called Israel must speak to all who have ability to think. Israel is a phenomenon that testifies to the accuracy of the Bible. The Bible says it cannot be destroyed despite satanic attempts by so many through the age. It survived when other nations ceased to exist. God will once again test the entire world through Israel. Is this why there is so much anti-Semitism and rejection of the truth of scripture? The Jews are accused of so much even to taking the blame for an international world conspiracy. Modern Israel is like all other nations, unsanctified. The time is coming when God will deal with Israel and all nations and call out the “Israel of God”. Israel will survive not so much as a political nation but as the people of God.

It is not the first time the Jews have come back to their land. They came back to the land after four hundred years of slavery in Egypt. They also came back after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Their return after wandering through all the nations of the world was foretold as a time of great trouble when many nations would oppose them and much suffering would result. But it is the sure sign that we are approaching the end of this present age and that the “Times of the Gentiles” are running out. Some church groups twist the scriptures to claim that Israel has been discarded by God and that Christians and the church are now Israel. All the scriptures that tell of blessing they apply to the church and all the warnings and judgments they apply to the Jews. In fact it is quite strange how many groups claim to be the true Israel and yet want nothing to do with the

Israel of the Bible. What a surprise awaits them. In history there has been a conflict between the gods of the nations and the God of Israel and the very name of Israel still seems to evoke an ancient animosity. It seems there are those who will forever be perpetual enemies to God and His people.

## **THE GREAT RELIGIONS AND THE RISE OF ISLAM**

Through history many have claimed to be sent by God and have started new religions. Today there are many religions but three are of particular importance in the world. These three come from the Bible lands and are linked to Bible revelation. All three claim Abraham as their father. They differ from the great religions of antiquity - those of ancient Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Rome and Phoenicia - in that they are monotheistic and affirm the basic belief in one God. The question is which God? Judaism in its original form is the most ancient of these. Christianity in its purest form is complementary to it and endorses its principles and promises. Islam has major differences. It is contrary to the teachings of both the Old and New Testaments. It sees no need for a Saviour but believes that individuals merit salvation through their allegiance and works. It denies the lineage of Isaac as the promised seed and rejects the belief that Jesus is Messiah or that he even died on the cross. It robs the Bible of its message of salvation to all mankind through the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ. It believes that the true seed was Ishmael but offers no mediatory Saviour, no sacrificial atonement and no redemptive grace. It means submit and it grew very rapidly and conquered vast areas and many people. It is the youngest of the world's great religions but claims precedence over all others. Caliph Omar captured Jerusalem in A.D.638. The building known as the Dome of the Rock was constructed on the ancient Jewish temple site. Islam swept through the ME and Africa and a century after this was powerful enough to threaten "Christian" Europe but their armies were defeated by Charles Martel, grandfather of Charlemagne, at Tours in 732. Religious wars have ravaged humanity all through history. Wars between Catholics and Protestants killed millions. Today the Christian West with its loose morals disrespects God's Grace and the Islamic East has nullified it by its harsh code of religious morals. No religion is of any merit unless it teaches human value and love. Jesus displayed this kind of love. He was crowned the King of Love when he took the sins of the world upon himself and died. Jews, Christians and Muslims need to all emulate his example. Until they stop fighting there will be no peace. Jesus will come again and bring peace. He alone has the power to do so because his Kingdom is founded on love.

## **THE CRUSADERS, MAMLUKS AND OTTOMANS**

With the "Holy Land" under Islamic control and the Byzantine Empire threatened by them, Western Europe embarked on a number of campaigns to try and capture Jerusalem. These wars lasted over two centuries [1095 - 1291] but eventually failed in their objective but many thousands perished. Spurred on by religious zeal to free Jerusalem "Christian" armies marched across Europe towards the "Holy Land". Some

never arrived but stopped to wipe out Jewish communities and also to attack the Byzantine Empire itself.

After the Crusaders, Jerusalem fell in 1260 to the Mamluks. Meanwhile the Byzantine Empire never recovered from the attacks of the Crusades and weakened severely it fell to the Turks in 1453. The beautiful churches of Constantinople were converted to Mosques. It seemed as though it was the end of the world and the intruders, who denied the divinity of Jesus as the Son of God, were seated in the very “temple” of God. Christians fled. Islam triumphed and the Ottoman Empire grew to its zenith under Suleiman the Magnificent in 1520-1566 and ruled from Hungary to Mesopotamia, and southward to Egypt, Tunis, Tripoli, Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Java and Indonesia Islam held sway. Central African Christian nations also fell causing great upheavals in central Africa. The Ottomans ruled over Jerusalem from 1516 until the First World War when General Allenby captured it without firing a shot in 1917!

#### **DANIEL’S PREDICTION – THE FALSE PROPHET - the Goat that speaks like a dragon. Rev 13:11 + Dan 7:20,21; 8:9**

Daniel warned that a militant leader called the “King of the North” would arise from Seleucia. Seleucia is today Syria and parts of neighbouring countries from Turkey to Iraq and Persia, modern Iran. This man was **Antiochus Epiphanies** who forced the Jews to worship Greek gods in the temple of Jerusalem in 168 BC. John used this same OT account to describe the rise of what he called the *False Prophet* in Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:10, 13:11 who according to Daniel was destined to be involved in a great conflict over Jerusalem. In Revelation he is described as the Goat from Daniel’s vision. (Dan 8) Everything in Revelation is drawn from the OT scriptures and foundations. John did not introduce this beast for the first time. He drew from Daniel and amplified its meaning and final fulfilment. In order to grasp what John meant we have to first understand it in its OT context. In Daniel the goat beast looks like a lamb with two horns but speaks as a dragon. It comes from a vision that shows a line of goats or rams each depicting the rise of a nation. We are told that the first ram in the vision with two horns was the joint kingdom of Media and Persia. (Dan8: 20) The next ram was Greece and the single great horn was the first King; the historical time frame indicates this was Alexander the Great. This horn was smashed and four horns grew in its place; in other words when Alexander met his end the Greek Empire was divided among four horns. This is exactly what happened when Alexander died; his kingdom was divided between his four top generals. The Greek “Royal family” of Seleucia took control of the “northern” area which is now Syria, parts of Turkey, Iraq and Iran. The “Royal family” of Ptolemy took over the “southern” region, Egypt. Alexander had effectively Hellenised vast areas and established Greek culture, values, administration and religion. This was perpetuated in the years to come and Israel was caught between the super powers of the time; Syria the “King of the North” and Egypt the “King of the South. Eventually Antiochus Epiphanies tried to enforce Greek religion and values upon the

entire Jewish nation. Greek philosophy was a serious threat to the people of Israel for it is far removed from Hebrew belief and true Christian values. It has now pervaded the entire world systems including the church. By using Daniel's image of the Goat the apostle John in Revelation seems to refer to a repeat of this event on a massive scale. It was not a new concept to Jewish people. They considered Antiochus a forerunner of the antichrist.

The original language of Daniel from 2:4 to 7:28 is written in Aramaic, the universal language of the time. In these chapters the prophetic visions all deal with world Gentile power. In chapter 8 there is a break dividing the book. The language now used is Hebrew indicating that it is directed towards Israel. The vision culminates in the defilement of the sanctuary, Daniel 8:11 through to 11:45. The man who did this was Antiochus Epiphanies. He declared himself "god" in the flesh. The concept of divine emperors originated with the Greeks and was assimilated by the Roman Emperors. However, in Revelation it is the "**False Prophet**" who sets up the "Abomination of Desolation" and demands worship. Antiochus was the forerunner of the False Prophet and came from the ancient Assyrian region which later became the Ottoman Empire.

The Goat of Revelation 12 comes from this same region in the above scripture. The "*King of the North*" was the king of Seleucia. John called him the False Prophet. Rev 16:13,19:20. Middle East nations have now grown powerful largely because they control a major portion of the world's energy resources. When manufacturers of the combustion engine developed their new motors they brought dependence upon ME oil. For many years there has been a mutual co-operation between the First World nations based in Europe and USA and the oil rich Middle Eastern oil nations. We now have much of the world dependent upon ME oil. The old Roman Empire is divided in two; Christendom and Islam with Israel caught in the middle. These are the two beasts described by John.

For centuries the Islamic world lay like a giant asleep in the desert. Today they control vast wealth, have controlling shares in banks and commerce, own huge areas of estate and have powerful armies. We are told that about a third of the world is Muslim at least in name. The radicals are on the rise. Fundamentalist Islamic revivals have overthrown governments and influenced international decisions. Radical Muslims want to regain their Holy Shrines particularly the City of Jerusalem and the temple mount and see the end of the Jewish State. They have tried in the past to achieve these goals without success. They need a strong leader to unite them. Massive upheaval came out of the Gulf War and the aspirations of some Islamic factions have not changed and are grounded in their religion. They await a coming leader and prophet. This is what John foresaw in Revelation. Under the guise of the "Arab Spring" radicals have risen with the call for a Caliph. Is this the preliminary move towards the rise of an Islamic leader?

Daniel predicted the arrival on stage of such a man. It is interesting in the light of other scriptures about Gog and Magog that he is called the "*King of the North*". The present

upheaval in Syria is the prelude for the rise of the False Prophet. Is the curtain about to go up for the final act? Pressure is exerted on Israel to give up land and Jerusalem. According to Daniel, the “king of the north” will establish his headquarters near the Holy Mountain Jerusalem (Dan.11:45) and take control of the temple mount and half of the city will fall captive. (Zech 14:2, Rev 11) A three and a half year conflict will ensue. (Dan 12) The scriptures predict that an abominable event will cause desolation. This prediction was fulfilled long ago when the land was conquered by Islamic armies and the Dome built there called the Abomination of Desolation by the Crusaders. Over its door in Arabic is written, “God has no Son” which for someone like the apostle John would be entirely false. The city and land lay forgotten for many centuries but a future crisis will plunge the nation into another time of desolation.

The international community is being dragged as if by invisible hooks into events in the Middle East. Israel has historically always been the scapegoat and blamed for all the ills of the world. Like the scapegoat of the Bible it was driven into the wilderness to perish. Nations will again turn against Israel. The prophet Ezekiel foretold such a situation many centuries ago. (Ezk 36) He told of a coalition of nations against Israel; Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Gomer, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Put, Beth-togarmah and many other peoples. Modern translations of these Biblical names point us to the sons of Japheth i.e. Europe and Russia, as well as Middle East countries; Iran, Syria, Turkey, Libya, North Africa and many others as well. At some time in history all these nations have come against Israel. Today a great number of nations have turned against the Jewish State. The war is a religious conflict, or jihad, the roots of which go back thousands of years to the days of Isaac and Ishmael. The little land of Israel is indeed a land of world contention far beyond its reasonable importance causing much controversy amongst the nations. Different peoples have claimed it and lived in it over the centuries. Yet in the Bible God claimed it was His own land and said He gives it to who ever He chooses. The question is which God and to which people? Psalm 105:7-12 tells us in plain language. The unfolding drama will be a massive spiritual showdown and the world will have ringside seats. Israel is becoming more and more isolated. Will the God of Israel show Himself?

Some Muslims believe in the coming of an Imam or Prophet who will triumph in a time of great adversity; the Jewish State will be eradicated and both Jews and Christians will submit to Islam. Strangely, many Muslims believe that Jesus himself will return. The Bible predicts the intervention of Jesus to save the world and bring reconciliation. Jesus said that the nations will be separated into sheep nations and goat nations. Only the sheep will survive! What then will happen to the great Goat described by Daniel? Jews believe that the Messiah is still to come and will bring justice and salvation. What a surprise if he turns out to be Yeshua. They will probably feel like the brothers of Joseph felt after they sold Joseph into slavery but were later confronted by him when he was their Master. Christians believe that Jesus will come again and save the world from destruction. No religion is of any merit unless it teaches respect and true love and justice. Religious wars have plagued the world and religions justify their need to take up

arms to kill others. Jesus above all others displayed the law of love by loving his enemies; he was crowned the King of love. There are many sincere and devout people among all these faiths yet many profess faith but serve themselves and their own ends. The Messiah will sift the motives of all.

## **THE PLANTING OF A NEW TREE – ISRAEL**

In the final week of Jesus' life he entered Jerusalem, cleansed the temple and then taught about the Kingdom of God. The people sang his praise but one of the saddest things was when he came over the Mount of Olives and looked with compassion down upon the town. He stopped and wept; not just a few trickles to dampen his cheeks, he broke down and wept uncontrollably.

He recalled how he had wanted to gather the people under his protection and foretold the city would be utterly destroyed. (Lk19:41-44; Matt 23:34-39) He actually announced when this would happen; "this generation".\* It was fulfilled in AD 70 when the Roman General Titus desecrated the temple, destroyed the city and carried away 97,000 into captivity. The Jewish historian Josephus recorded the horror of those days. Over a million Jews perished, thousands died of famine and at one time 4000 a day were thrown over the city walls. Luke 21:20-24 came to pass just as Jesus said. Never again were Jews permitted to live in Jerusalem, the temple lay in ruins and the people scattered.

After announcing judgment upon Jerusalem Jesus later continued his prophetic discourse with the disciples on the Mount of Olives. (Matt 24:32-35) He gave a *key* to understanding the future. It was the Parable of the Fig Tree. A parable contains a spiritual truth and this particular one centres on the Fig Tree. What did he mean when he said "Now learn the parable of the Fig Tree"?

There are conflicting interpretations about this but in my mind its meaning is clear. In the OT the nation of Israel is likened to a vineyard, and vines and figs were often identified together. (Isa 5; Jer 8:13; Joel 1:7,12; Hosea 2:12, Ezk 34:27, 36:8) Figs and vines were planted together and were slow growing, protected and considered national treasures. Their destruction was a national calamity. Jesus taught that Israel was like a Vineyard with a Fig Tree planted in it. (Luke 13:6-9)

After three and a half years of his ministry Jesus came to Jerusalem looking for spiritual fruit but even at that time the leaders were planning his death. As he entered the city he approached a Fig Tree and being hungry looked for fruit but found none. He rebuked the tree and it withered and died. Jesus gave an actual visual demonstration of his parable. The nation was doomed to die just as the Fig Tree had. After being falsely charged, scourged and sentenced Jesus was led through the streets to the place of execution. A crowd of women followed him weeping in distress. Jesus turned to them and in great

compassion warned that they should take heed of themselves and their children for utter destruction would fall upon their nation and generation. (Luke 23:27-31)

Before this at the Mount of Olives Jesus had something additional to say; *“Now learn this parable from the fig tree; when its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves you know that summer is near, so also when you see all these things know that He is near at the doors.”* (Matt 24:32,33)

He spoke to them a parable: *“Look at the fig tree and all the trees...so when you see these things happening know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you that this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.”*(Luke 21:32) (See note on Generation.)

Jesus predicted not only the utter destruction of the nation but also its restoration. There are hundreds of scriptures that endorse this. Amos 9:14,15; Isa 11:11-13; Ezek 36, 37 and many more tell of the return of what are called the *remnant* of Jews to the Biblical land of Israel. These are the survivors of the pogroms and holocaust of the last two thousand years. They have been planted back in the land and against all odds taken root and blossomed. Representatives of both houses of the nation of Israel have returned, the Sephardi Jews coming mostly from Egypt, Spain, and North Africa and Ashkenazi Jews coming mostly from Europe and Russia. The Ashkenazi are mostly the ten tribes of the northern kingdom and the Sephardi, also called the southern Jews, are mostly the people of Judah. (For a detailed study of this see “Israel, Lost Ten Tribes” by J.E.Mullan) Isaiah 11:11-14 tells us that the outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah will all return. DNA tests prove the origins of people in modern Israel are directly linked to historical Jews. There are those who may dispute this but it is fulfilment of Biblical prophecy. The restoration of Israel was the real miracle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They continue to come. In 2012 the last scattered “Sons of Manasseh” have returned from India, the oldest *remnant* dating to the destruction of the first temple in 722BC.

That any nation should have survived over 2000 years of wandering and persecution, remained true to their God and religion, and finally returned from over 100 nations speaking as many languages and be restored to their homeland is an incredible event! But how did this all start? Back in 1897 Theodore Herzl founded the Zionist movement to help Jewish people return to a home in “Palestine” secured by law. By 1915 there were 43 Jewish settlements of 100,000 people. World War 1 stopped the influx of immigrants. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917 the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Alfred Balfour, issued the Balfour Declaration and after the end of the War it was ratified by the League of Nations. More immigrants returned but World War II put a stop to it and the Nazi initiated the most horrendous holocaust of all time in an attempt to totally eradicate the Jews as a people. The result of this great persecution was the fulfilment of Jeremiah 16:15,16 and many other scriptures. At the end of the war European Jews were homeless and displaced. They had no where to go and no nation offered them a home. They

flocked back to Palestine and Israel became an independent nation on midnight the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1948, fifty years after Herzl. The new state was immediately attacked by armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Psalm 83:1-9 could be a statement of that time. The tiny nation survived this initial onslaught and grew in strength as Jews migrated from all over the world; 280,000 from Asia, 198,000 from North Africa, 2,300 from India, 50,000 from Rumania and many more. From Yemen 46,000 trudged across the desert to be airlifted to Israel. They were urged on by the words of their Rabbis; “One more step little children, we are going to meet the Messiah.”

The Hebrew language was restored (Zeph 3:9) and their ancient cities rebuilt. In 1955 six million trees were planted in remembrance of Jews killed during the war. Since then many million trees have been planted. Malaria ridden marshes have been drained and now produce crops. Irrigation schemes make what was once a desert blossom. The former wastelands have been turned into a garden. (Isa 27:6; 35:1,2) Surely the Fig Tree has blossomed again.

However, the new nation was not welcomed by all and its short history is one of conflict. During the 1950s there was the Suez Crisis. In 1967 the Six Day War occurred. Greatly outnumbered Israel survived and captured the Old City of Jerusalem including the “Wailing Wall” the last relic of the Temple destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. With tears in his eyes the chief military Rabbi said “We are now realizing the dreams of 2000 years. We are entering the Messianic era.” This was fifty years on from the Balfour Declaration of 1917. In 1973 the Yom Kippur War took place. Attacked on the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year, the Nation was very nearly overwhelmed but defeat was turned into victory. Conflict has continued; in Lebanon, Gaza; border conflicts, shelling and urban terrorism has resulted in the death of thousands on both sides. Talks about peace start and stop and make no progress. They never will unless the nations submit to the King of Peace. Until the world and the nations accept Israel and give her a secure position in the world there will be no peace. Jerusalem is called the City of Peace but there will be no peace until the King of Jerusalem is acknowledged by Israel and the world.

These are all signs that the “Times of the Gentiles” are coming to an end. There remains a final period of 42 months when the “holy city” will be trodden under foot by Gentile powers. (Rev 11:2-8-13) This city is figuratively called “Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was crucified”. In the context this refers to earthly Jerusalem: it is not Babylon which appears later in Revelation and is Rome and the Gentile nations but it is the city of Jerusalem still unsanctified and living the ways of worldly sin.

### **THE THREE AND A HALF YEARS - Rev Chapters 11 - 13**

Chapter 11 describes the last Three and a Half Years. Why did John write so much about

the last three and a half years? It was because this was uppermost in the minds of early believers. They understood the prophecy of Daniel chapter 9 and knew that Jesus had ministered for three and a half years in the first half of the final seven years and wanted to know what will happen in the last three and a half years. Two things will happen: Satan will oppose and destroy God's people but God will protect and strengthen them.

This chapter especially tells believers of a period of direct intervention in the earth during which the world will hear the witness of the two great "Olive Trees of God" two of the greatest Prophets of all History. It will take place in Jerusalem but reach the furthest corners of the planet. Every nation on earth will hear their message. These two Olive Trees are likened to the two prophets originally found in Zechariah 4:3-14. In that original context they are seen bringing restoration to Israel at their return from Babylonian captivity at the time of the rebuilding of the nation. It is in this same context that John refers to them except the historical time frame has changed.

They will pour strength and renewal into God's people world wide and their message will go out to all nations in the world although many will reject what they say. (Rev 11:9,10) They are modelled after the two greatest Prophets of the Bible, Moses and Elijah, have the same ministry and power and do the same miracles as they did. Because of the unique and mysterious manner in which both these two OT prophets departed this world I believe they are in fact the same two men taken out of their historical time and put back in the end time. They are not reincarnated but are translated from one time to another time. Elijah never died but neither was he glorified, he was simply removed and the next time we see him is when he appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Moses too had a strange departure. Even though he was not ill or infirm he was instructed to die and in obedience he did so. We are told that God buried him but no one knows exactly where. He is the only man in the entire Bible who was buried by God Himself! However, there was an immediate confrontation for his body. Why did God claim back his body? It was not to put on show in a mausoleum. He must have been raised to natural life for he was not glorified; Jesus was the first to rise in resurrection life. Although the Bible says that men die once we find that sometimes this rule is broken. (Heb 9:27) For example Lazarus died and was raised to life four days later, not glorified but back to natural life. In both the Old and New Testaments several other people were restored to life after death. This scripture actually teaches against reincarnation but does not prohibit natural restoration. It is clear from Jude 9 that something unusual happened to Moses. The next time we see Moses is when he and Elijah appear with Jesus on the Mt of Transfiguration. According to the apostle Peter this Transfiguration was a preview of the "second Coming" (Parousia) of Christ. (2 Peter 1:16-19) Even if one considers these two prophets not to be Moses and Elijah they certainly have their same ministry and authority. However, Jesus himself said that Elijah will yet come again and other scriptures indicate this. (Mal 4:4-6) (See my book "Covenant of Glory" for details on this.)

Their ministry lasts exactly 1260 days and it will be so awesome that it will shake the entire world. It will be on a par with the great “Acts of God” at the time of Exodus under Moses and the purging of Israel under Elijah. These two Godly “Olive Trees” will be empowered with supernatural power to do earth shattering things. (Read chapter Rev11) It may well be that inspired by them many others will be anointed in the same way and do similar things. Their ministry will be replicated in the Spirit filled church. Once again the world will tremble at the sound of the greatest men ever empowered by the Holy Spirit. Millions will hear the Word of God which will be backed by the awesome power of God’s miraculous acts. So many commentaries on Revelation emphasize the activities of Satan and seem to ignore such potent Divine intervention. At the end of this period they will be killed by the “beast” that comes up from the Abyss and for a short period it will appear that the powers of darkness will have triumphed just as when Jesus died. But this is only a lull before the great day of the Lord when;

*“You have taken your great power and reigned, when the nations were angry and your time of wrath has come and the time of the dead that they should be judged, and You should reward Your servants and prophets and saints and those who fear your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth. Then the temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of His Covenant was seen in His temple.” (Rev 11:17-19)*

It is at this time that The “Ark of the Covenant” is seen in His temple. This is none other than the Lord Jesus, Messiah Yeshua, he is the “Ark of the Covenant”. He is seen in the temple. During the last few days of Jesus’ earthly life he cleansed the temple and took his rightful place in it, teaching and healing and receiving worship. The temple in Revelation is not a rebuilt earthly temple but is the “Tabernacle of David” a *spiritual* building made of living believers. Jesus will appear among His people.

## **THE 1290 DAYS AND THE 1260 DAYS**

This last three and a half years is a crucial period in prophecy. It comes from Daniel 12. The Prophet Daniel *never* foretold seven years but only three and half; 1290 days to be precise. It is to this period that Jesus *directly* refers when he quoted Matt 24:21 (Compare this with Daniel 12:1.) It is called the time of Jacob’s Trouble. (Jer 31) During this time Jerusalem will be trodden underfoot by the Gentiles (unbelievers) for 42 months. It is also the time in which the two great Prophets of God will extend their worldwide ministry from Jerusalem for 1260 days. When the Lord referred to the 1290 days of Daniel 12 he said “*those days will be shortened for the sake of the elect*”. He did not tell us by how much they will be shortened but John does. In the OT they were 1290 days, in the NT they are 1260 days; they are shortened by 30 days. Why is this? Jesus said it was for the sake of the elect. John gives us a clue, it is to do with the sounding of the last trumpet. At the end of 1260 days the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds and the “Mystery of God” is finished.

Jesus revealed certain things only to the disciples who had special access to him. He often drew them aside and answered their questions and expounded truth to them. There were three disciples very close to Jesus and John, the beloved disciple, was closest. He certainly had special access to Jesus and spent time learning directly from him. It was to him that Jesus entrusted the visions of Revelation. John understood these things for he had sat at Jesus' feet and learnt the "mysteries of the Kingdom of God."

Also, Jesus spent 40 days after his resurrection teaching the disciples the things concerning the "*Kingdom of God*". (Acts 1:3) We are not told what things he taught but this must have been a period of intense impartation of knowledge and preparation for their worldwide ministry. Why were these things not revealed? I think we only receive some of these things when we spend time in His Presence with His Spirit. I believe Jesus gave full explanations for every scripture including all the prophecies of Daniel. The early disciples understood their meaning and fulfilment. John gave special attention to this future period of three and a half years because it is the last half of the seventy week prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27. Jesus reduced this final time from 1290 days to 1260 days for the "sake of the elect". Matthew 24:21,22.

The seven trumpets of Revelation bring about events in heaven and on earth. (Rev 8:6-10:7) The *seventh* trumpet *starts* to sound at the beginning of this period and *ends* at the end of this period. Many believers see this time as the rule of antichrist over the world and miss the hidden truth. During this period something wonderful, awesome and truly amazing will take place. (Rev 10:7; 11:3,7, 14,15) Those who are written in the Book of Life will be sealed. See my book "Covenant of Glory."

## **THE SEVEN TRUMPETS**

The Feast of Trumpets is on the first day of the seventh month on New Year's Day just ten days before the Day of Atonement. These days are called the "Days of Awe" for they warn of the holiest Day of the year and call people to repent, get their lives right, pay off their debts, confess their sins and get ready for the day when the High Priest enters the Holy of Holies to represent the nation before the Presence of the Most High God. I have been in Jerusalem on Yom Kippur and it is silent and no one moves for they are prostrate before God. Once having made Atonement the High Priest comes out again and appears to the people. Only then do they break forth in universal rejoicing. This corresponds to the Seventh Seal which is the last seal before the book of life is opened.

Revelation tells about the sounding of Trumpets and calls God's people and all nations to get ready and prepare for the appearing of Jesus the High Priest. A Jewish tradition is that when the trumpets sound three books are opened. The first book contains the names of the redeemed who receive rewards. The second book contains the names of those who repent before the Day of Atonement. The third book is of the wicked who refuse to repent and perpetually oppose the Lord. Another tradition claims that the blowing of the

Ram's horn has three meanings. It is a call to repentance; it is to remind God of His Covenant with Abraham and to plead for mercy; and to confound Satan who traditionally accuses on Atonement.

The book of Numbers chapter 10 tells how Trumpets were used during the journey through the wilderness to gather the people together and to signal the commencement of the journey. They were also used to sound an alarm of war. This is seen in Joel 2:1,15 and Jeremiah 4:5, 51:27 when the trumpet sounded the invasion of the northern armies. Another sounding of the trumpet was in Exodus 19:13-19 when God came down and met with them at Mount Sinai; at that time the trumpet sounded louder and louder. It was not a short blast but sounded over a *period of time*. There was thundering and lightning and thick darkness covered the mount, the earth shook and quaked and the people trembled in awe. This is also seen in Rev 11:19; the seven Trumpets sound warnings to prepare for the time of Atonement and to meet God. As the trumpets sound in Revelation they have partial effects on earth. Bear in mind that the apocalyptic language John used may well describe things that he was not familiar with but we are. He may have described them in ways we do not easily recognise.

**First Trumpet:** a third of the earth is burnt. Hail, fire and blood were thrown to the earth. Much of the vegetation on earth has already perished at the hand of man. Vast forests have been cut down and there has been much destruction caused by wars through the age. During the Vietnam War chemicals were sprayed on the forests to kill them so they could not give protection to the "enemy". The way the forests are destroyed is very serious. Trees and vegetation are the lungs of the earth and their destruction is one of the main causes of weather disruption affecting rainfall and bringing droughts.

**Second Trumpet:** A third of the sea is defiled and dies. Much of ocean life is already extinct or endangered. Has the world forgotten the horrendous nuclear tests that were conducted in the Pacific Islands? The seas are full of pollution. I think this refers also to the Mediterranean Sea which is central to all Biblical lands but seas worldwide are polluted; reefs have perished, whales and dolphins have been slaughtered to near extinction, fish have been over exploited and endangered.

**Third Trumpet:** a third of fresh waters supplies are polluted. The star Wormwood may refer to the Chernobyl Nuclear blow up and other similar disasters like that in Japan. The freshwater crisis is very serious; huge lakes have all but dried up and rivers are polluted.

**Fourth Trumpet:** a third of the sun, moon and stars are darkened. These solar symbols are often linked in the Bible with the people of Israel. If one wants a literal fulfilment then one needs only to look at the great palls of toxic cloud that hang over all the major cities of the world and the pollution of war.

**Fifth Trumpet:** the Abyss is opened and demonic beings are released upon earth. There is a huge spiritual outbreak upon the earth of demonic occult fanatical power and bondage. We will consider more about this.

**Sixth Trumpet:** a great war erupts in the River Euphrates region. The Euphrates has always been central to the Middle East, strategically important both geographically, economically, financially and spiritually. It flows from the mountains of Turkey through Syria and Iraq. This was the historical “Fertile Crescent” where “civilization” began. It has for long been plagued with war, from Alexander to the Crusaders. The Gulf War and Syrian Conflict are part of this trumpet’s blast.

**Seventh Trumpet:** when this trumpet *begins* to sound the “Mystery of God will be finished”. Rev 10:7. When the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet begins to sound the two great prophetic “Olive Trees” also begin their 1260 day ministry which ends when it *fully* sounds. Rev 11:15. This is the duration of the last three and a half years. The two prophets will eventually be overcome by the Beast that comes out of the Abyss but not before their message goes out to the whole world.

## **THE WAR OF THE FALLEN ANGELS – Rev Chapter 12**

John wrote that a “beast” will come out of the “bottomless pit” or “shaft of the Abyss” and will kill the two prophets of God. Who is this “beast”? The apostle Peter said that fallen angels are reserved for judgment in what is called “Tartarus”. (2 Pet 2:4) This is not the same place as Hades where the souls of people go but is a place where fallen spiritual beings are held. Contrary to medieval beliefs there are no demons in Hades. Demons are active in this realm and torment people in this present world. However, some fallen beings are held captive and in Rev 9:1-11 John described how, “locusts and scorpions”, figurative terms for demons, will be released from the bottomless pit. They have a “king” called in Hebrew Abaddon and in Greek Apollyon meaning Destroyer. Demons are just that; destroyers of people and nations.

There are hordes of unseen demonic beings already upon this planet and working against the Kingdom of God to afflict and destroy as many people as possible. They are active today throughout all nations. Many Western Christians think that demonic oppression is something that only happens in third world nations among deprived or less “civilized” people. There is still a great deal of spiritual darkness in those nations and demon possession is common. However, there is much demonic power in Western society as well. Educated westerners will absolutely reject this, however, it is true. I have seen demonic evidence in Africa where I ministered the Gospel for many decades. At the preaching of God’s Word spirits manifested and came out of people, some with screams others with shaking and convulsions, yet others resisting and complaining with abusive language and harsh, jarring voices. When I came over to UK and ministered in the same way the same thing happened. People fell down and spirits came out. Of course when

this happened I was not invited back to minister. Western society is riddled with demonic oppression which is manifested in many ways; the prevalent culture of violence, domestic violence, loose and abnormal sex, murder, drugs, depraved behaviour of every kind as well as binge drinking and alcoholism. In the West whole generations of young people have been gripped by these things. Many older people forsook the faith of their forefathers and were alcoholics and fornicators and younger generations have followed and fallen into deception. They are daily exposed to demonic influence through TV, magazines, internet, drugs, alcohol, sexual depravity, demonic games and in other ways. Some readers will think this statement is going over board and if you are one then I think you need to open your eyes to what has happened. Much of our “entertainment” is derived from watching, reading or listening to smut, loose sex, disrespect for others, violence, murder, rape, pornography and occult.

Not only that but increased levels of sickness, despite all our modern facilities and advanced medical treatments, are partly a result of demonic affliction. Multitudes of demons hide behind psychological disorders. Many physical ailments are caused by sin which brings demonic access. As I say, this is discounted by the majority of Westerners, even Christians, but despite all our increase of knowledge and scientific research the truth of God’s Word doesn’t change. I can tell you from personal experience and five decades in ministry that demons are real. I have seen both angels and demons, but psychiatrists will simply say that such beliefs are delusional. Actually the reverse is true; those who deny the reality of spiritual powers are themselves in denial. I can tell you where demons are most active; in habitual sinful practices of loose sex, in alcoholism and drugs of all kinds and in lack of forgiveness and self value, bitterness, resentment and pride. Research by Physicians points to the reality that the stress of bitterness, hatred, anxiety, poor self evaluation, lying, broken relationships, lack of forgiveness and similar things is the number one cause of illness. Add to that all the pollutants, chemical toxins including all kinds of medications and their destructive side effects and the increase of viruses, disease is now epidemic. What I am saying should not be confused with genuine mental diseases, disabilities and sickness. However, it is clear that even these are on the increase. Many foetuses suffer because their mothers smoke, drink and unwittingly or deliberately take certain medications and drugs. There are also a lot more chemical toxins around to which we are all exposed. Many people are “damaged goods” from birth through no fault of their parents or themselves. So I am not saying that everything is demonic but I do reiterate that demons are real and have infiltrated the very fibre of our society. Children are especially vulnerable to spiritual attack and deception and in some places children suffer from abuse and even slavery, starvation, isolation and neglect of their very lives.

Hordes of demonic powers are also evident in the increase of violence and lawlessness and anarchy. Religious fanaticism is a driving force behind much violence in the world. Whole nations are driven by religion, ideology and cultures that are intolerant of others and breed hatred and intolerance. This is seen throughout history but more so now than

ever. Millions of people have been wiped out by wars and violence. Just consider for a moment the horrors of the Crusades, Inquisitions, Colonialism and Communism, Holocausts, Fascism and despotic emperors and dictators and current events world wide. What is known as the “Black Book” gives an account of these horrors. It is my opinion that these trumpets started long ago and continue to sound. (More about this later.)

### **THE “SIGN OF ISRAEL” – A WOMAN GIVES BIRTH - Revelation 12:1**

There are three symbolic women in Revelation. Chapter 12 describes, through the use of various symbols, the “great sign of Israel” and the spiritual battle that has been fought over God’s people through the ages. This sign is a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon at her feet and twelve stars around her head. This woman is *not* Babylon who is depicted as a harlot and a figure of the Gentile Babylonian nations. Neither is it the Church described later in Revelation as the Bride of the Lamb depicted as a pure virgin. So who is it? The symbols used in Revelation 12 are as ancient as the nation itself and go back to Joseph’s dream. (Gen 37:9, Isa 66:6-9, Mic 5:3) The sun, moon and twelve stars speak of Joseph, his family, Abraham and Sarah and his 12 brothers, the patriarchs and tribes of Israel. These symbols of sun, moon and stars are always linked in scripture as omens and signs to do with Israel. It is Israel from whom the promised seed came. (Gen 3:15; Isa 26:16-21, 9:6,7; 66:7-9) She gave birth to a man child who will rule all nations

Because of enmity between Satan and the “seed of the woman” the Jewish people were singled out for perpetual attack and destruction. The lineage of Jesus is traced directly through Israel with several miraculous conceptions and births, Mary being one. If Satan can destroy Israel then the promises of God will be nullified. No wonder they have suffered more than any other people. Our salvation as Gentiles has come directly through them. Not only that but the apostle Paul makes it very clear that future redemption of the world will also come through them. (Romans 11:12,15) This is why Satan raised up such devilish instruments of destruction through history such as Haman and Hitler. (Esther 3:6) The “great dragon” has through the ages again and again killed Jews in pogroms and holocausts. In the last century a great attack was made by Hitler to sweep them to utter annihilation through Nazi gas chambers and concentration camps. This was an attempt to stop them returning to their land and the rebirth of Israel, an important prophetic event. It is this that John points to in Rev 12:4, not to an angelic rebellion. The stars in Revelation 12 are not symbols of angels but of the twelve tribes of Israel, Jews. A third of them were murdered by the antichrist. This was the greatest holocaust of any people ever conducted in history. If it had not been for the combined Allied Forces that stopped Hitler, most of which were Christian nations, he would have succeeded in the destruction of almost all Jews. It may not be accepted by many people but the primary spiritual significance of both the First and Second World Wars was the preservation and establishment of the Jewish people in Israel. Jewish survivors fled to “*their place in the wilderness*” back to the land of their origins. There they will be

protected for the final *“time, times and half a time”*, in other words three and a half years. The “times of the Gentiles” are drawing to a close.

Daniel tells of one more final attempt by Satan to utterly wipe out the Jewish people. This will take place during this final half of the seventieth week of Daniel 9:24-27. No where does the Bible mention a seven year period in the end times. The first half of this 70<sup>th</sup> week has already been fulfilled by Jesus as foretold by Daniel in chapter 9 and in the Gospel accounts of the NT. There remains only the last half; a period of three and half years, 42 months or 1290 days. (Dan 12) It was to this period that Jesus referred in Matt 24:21 and to which John also refers in Revelation.

We read in Daniel 12 and Revelation 12 that Michael the “Great Prince of Israel” will arise and a battle of enormous proportions will occur. Two great armies clash but these are not earthly armies but heavenly armies. They are in direct conflict over the nation of Israel and the future of the planet. Very few people understand that there are mighty beings good and evil that are locked in deadly combat. People are prepared to accept the possibility of what are called aliens yet discount what the Bible calls angels. Angels are messengers who have great authority and power beyond our own. Aliens are fallen angels who have one aim, to destroy God’s purposes and take over the world.

In past centuries Jews were scattered into numerous nations (Ezk 20:35) but now a large number are gathered together in a comparatively small area making them an easy target for weapons of mass destruction. There will be another conflict this time directed against them as a nation and any nation that harbours them.

## **THE ANGELS OF WRATH GO OUT TO WAR – Chapter Rev 12**

To understand this heavenly war we must take a look at the nature and activity of angels. From the beginning of time mankind has been in contact with and greatly influenced by a superior race of intelligent beings; angels. Through the ages spiritual beings have interacted with mankind. The Bible calls them angels, “sons of God”, the heavenly Host, the Morning Stars and the Mighty Ones. If people accept the Biblical account then a lot of the mysteries of the past would be better understood. Some of these angels fell in rebellion against God. There are angels loyal to God and there are fallen angels opposed to God. This concept is very ancient. All ancient cultures have mythology and traditions about “angelic” beings; the Hindus, Incas, Chinese, American Indians and many more. Greek mythology is perhaps the most well known and records interaction with “demigods” who had extraordinary powers. Consideration of this is beyond the scope of this book but Jewish traditions go back to Genesis chapter 6:1-5 where interaction between fallen beings and mankind is recorded. Greek mythology records the same thing; “gods came down to men.” In Jewish belief this interaction birthed demonic beings. There are different ideas as to how this may have happened whether by sexual intercourse or by manipulation of DNA. What ever it means they became the giants

called Nephillim, Rephaim and others who opposed God. They influenced nations and became the perpetual enemies of God.

Mankind advanced with skills such as farming, smelting, astronomy, writing, mathematics. As nations developed and formed their own identity angels took a leading role over them. Although all people knew about God and had access to God through clearly understood channels people were deceived by fallen angels who contributed to the decline and control of mankind through demonic powers. The result was that fallen angels gained foothold over nations. Different nations now have presiding spiritual “princes” ruling over them as seen in Daniel 10. Fallen angels and demonic beings continue to oppose God.

When Joshua led the people into the “Promised Land” they found giants in the land. Goliath was one of them, over nine feet tall! There were others all opposed to the Kingdom of God. Even today there are exceptionally tall people and I am not inferring that they are ungodly. People who have seen angels say they are tall and strong. However, in those times there were giants in human form who were controlled by fallen spiritual beings opposed to God. Jesus came to break the power of these fallen principalities and spirit rulers and redeem the lost.

Revelation 12 gives a glimpse of angelic activity and intense spiritual conflict that is taking place in the spiritual realms and how it affects events on earth. Through history an evil and malignant power has infected the planet and misled mankind. The Bible says this power is a “being” known by different titles but here named the “*dragon, that old serpent called the Devil and Satan, which deceived the whole world*”. (Rev 12:9) Fallen spiritual beings rule over nations. When a nation turns to God through repentance and obedience to His loving laws spiritual revival takes place and the nation becomes strong and healthy. However, many nations are covered by darkness like a thick cloud which blocks the goodness of God. The spiritual “heavens” over these nations are closed because the people have never received Christ as Lord and King or have once served him but turned away from him. (Psalm 2) Only the light of the Kingdom of God breaks this darkness of Satan’s deception.

Long ago God promised a Saviour to deliver the world from the curse of this monster. This promised Saviour was to be born of a woman and would eventually crush Satan. (Gen 3:15, Isa 7:14, 9:6,7, Rev 12:5, Ps 2:9) This is God’s Son Jesus. (Gal 4:4,5) God especially chose the nation of Israel to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus who came through a young virgin. In a symbolic way it was the whole nation, clothed with the sun, moon and stars that gave birth to Messiah. Through history the dragon tried to prevent this by attacking the nation. When Jesus was eventually born Herod attempted to kill him as a baby. (Matt 2:16) Satan stood before the “woman” to devour her child. (Rev 12:3,4) His earthly parents fled with him to Egypt. Jesus was eventually as a man condemned and murdered in the most horrendous manner. However, although so badly

crushed (foretold in Isaiah 53) he was victorious over death and the hatred, cruelty and injustice of the world. The Father raised him from death and he was caught up to God's throne. He lives, having triumphed over principalities stripping them of their power, he overcame death and hell. (Col 2:15) The church was born at this time and those who belong to him are *in him* seated in heavenly places. They rule and reign with him. (Eph 2:4-6) There is coming a time when there will be another travailing in birth. This is the birthing of God's people into a new age. The "Man Child" is the body of believers both Jew and Gentile, the "Israel of God" which will be fully restored not as a political entity but as the people of God.

To portray the future John had to look back at the past and show how God's people were birthed. He described how the dragon persecuted the woman and she fled. The Jewish people dispersed into the nations, the "wilderness of the people". (Ezk 20:35) This persecution continued during two thousand terrible years. During that time the dragon spewed out a flood of lies, hatred and persecution against them. They fled from nation to nation. When persecuted in one country they fled to another where they gained sanctuary for a period before having to flee again. The "*earth opened its mouth and swallowed the flood which the dragon spewed from his mouth*". (Rev 13:15-16) Eventually there was no where else to flee and they returned into their own place "*in the wilderness*". (Rev 12:14) This has already happened. There remains a short period during which Israel will be supernaturally preserved by God. It is back in the land that the final three and a half years of the last half of the week of Daniel 9:26,27 will work out. This last time of testing will be the birth pangs of a new age, The Kingdom of God. It will follow a great "Abomination." Notice, however, that the dragon in his rage will make war on "*the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus*". (Rev 12:17) These are Christians! All through the ages the dragon has persecuted both Jew and Christian but notice when this last great attack occurs; right at the end during the final three and a half years when the "beast" arises for the last 42 months. (Rev 13:5-7) When Satan is cast down the heavenly realms are cleared and the power of God breaks through. (Rev 12:9-) Then Satan rises up from the sea of nations. (See my book "The Coming Abomination.")

Although Jesus judged and defeated Satan at the cross Satan is still writhing like a snake as he seeks to destroy God's people. (1 Pet 5:8) This great conflict has raged through history but took a new turn since the restoration of Israel in 1948. After WW11 surviving Jews fled back to "*their place in the wilderness*". Ezekiel foretold they would return from all countries in which they had been scattered and said they will be brought "into the wilderness of people". Ezk 20:35. Surrounded by hostile nations the world will turn against them. This is the time of "Jacob's Trouble".

Step by step God's purposes are coming to pass. We are already well down the path towards the total defeat of evil and fulfilment of all things. There have been several steps in this. During Christ's earthly ministry of three and a half years Satan was cast from his

precarious position in the heavenly places. (Matt 12:29, Lk 10:18) Satan was defeated at the cross but not bound and continued as the “accuser of the brethren”. (Rev 12:10) During the end three and a half year conflict he will be totally overcome in preparation to be bound a 1000 years. During this time His Kingdom will increase and He will reign in righteousness until all things will submit to Him.

Satan is the “accuser of the brethren.” He is an evil, malignant, hateful, destructive, callous, deceptive power that has become the perpetual enemy and adversary of God and all mankind and can never change or be rehabilitated. He wars against us and we are all involved in this war.

The conflict that started at the heart of the universe is being confined step by step to this planet. Satan was first dispelled from heaven. Secondly sentence was passed upon him at Eden. Thirdly he fell from his realm in the heavens at Christ’s ministry. The fourth all conclusive judgment was at the cross. The fifth has been taking place since then. An army of elect angels are fighting in holy fury against him. He is cornered and fighting desperately knowing he has only a short time (Rev 12:12) The sixth judgment will take place at the return of Jesus and the seventh and final at the end of the 1000 years. (Rev 20:10) Right now there is a conflict in the invisible spiritual realms of the world. The fallen rulers in heavenly realms are being defeated and thrown down. Corruption and evil throughout the world is being exposed. Wicked and corrupt people will be brought to trial. This is all part of the preliminary preparations for the return of Christ. Everything that can be shaken is being shaken so that the Kingdom of God that cannot be shaken will be established forever. (Hebrews 12:26-28)

The Bible says that there are three realms, what we might call dimensions – the heavenly realm, the earth realm and the realm “under” the earth. The Abyss or “Bottomless Pit” is a spiritual realm “under” the earth in which rebellious spiritual entities are held bound until the time they are exposed, judged and destroyed. There are also fallen spiritual beings in the heavenly realms. These realms are invisible to us but superimpose upon our realm. Each realm is on a certain vibration or frequency that defines that realm. We will consider more about this later.

We are coming near to the time when God’s Kingdom will be established upon earth. Some people think that the Christians are going to be taken away. God is not taking the Christians out – He is bringing the Jews back in! The remnant will return to the Lord in a great spiritual rebirth. It will be during a time of great conflict in which many will perish. (Dan 7:25) The last and final “Abomination that brings Desolation” will take place resulting in the cleansing of the land, the church and the whole world.

The new Israel will not be a political nation but a people of God from every nation both Jew and Gentile.

## **CHAPTER 5 - ACT 5**

### **THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM**

#### **THE TWO BEASTS OF REVELATION - Chapter 13**

The Bible indicates that two powerful “beast” systems have influenced the world and will reach a climax in the end times at which time they will collapse and be destroyed. These forces have shaped the nations and moulded thinking for many centuries. They have not just appeared suddenly. When John described these two “beasts” in Revelation he did not introduce them for the first time. They are not new characters that have stepped on stage for a last few years at the end. They are foundational, originating many hundreds of years back in history. Jews were aware of them, their symbolism and reality for many centuries. As we have seen they came from Daniel and are also foretold in other scriptures. As I have already indicated they are powerful spiritual entities or “kings” that have existed through history and manipulated and controlled entire empires.

#### **THE FIRST BEAST – 13:1**

In Revelation John described a beast which is an amalgamation of all the great nations mentioned through Biblical history. It looks like a lion, a bear, a leopard and a great devouring beast with great fangs; the four nations that Daniel saw in Daniel chapter 7. So the beast John described in Rev 13 incorporates all the characteristics of previous nations; Babylon, Persians, Greeks, Romans and the Empires that came from Rome. As I have already explained Daniel interpreted the great image as depicting the course of Gentile world power through history. The Word of God does not contradict itself and by putting the visions of Daniel chapters 2 and 7 together there emerges a prophetic picture of the course of history. It is from these visions that John builds a picture of the end time “beast” that will dictate to the world.

However, as I have said this is not a new development but has developed through history and culminates in a finale, the last three and a half years. The end time “beast” is a union of the previous 4 and will come out of modern day European, Middle Eastern and world nations.

#### **THE NUMBER AND MARK IN HISTORY – Rev 13**

The “beast” is especially defined by a “number and mark”. Let us consider how to understand this. We have to remain within the Biblical historical context to arrive at the true meaning. Some teachers have said that the mark in the hand and forehead is a computerized chip. Technology in computerized systems is already used to number and identify people with national ID, bank cards etc. However, this is not the primary fulfillment of these scriptures. Revelation was not written for a few end years but for all

times.

The number and mark have a spiritual fulfillment for *all ages* including the end time. If the mark were merely a physical mark in the body such as an incision, tattoo, punching or chip the appropriate Greek word would be *stigma*. However, the word *charagma* is used. (Strong's 5480 *image, stamp, statue*) This Greek word is linked to the word *charakter* (5481) (from which we get our English word character). *Charagma* is used for the making of an idol whereas *charakter* is used for the "image" of Jesus. (Heb 1:3) Both words have the same idea of a likeness or image of another, of being made into or conformed after another.

Christ is the "express Image of God" and wants us to be like him. The question we must ask ourselves is "Do we have the likeness of Christ or the likeness of Satan? Are we shaped into the image of Christ or Satan?" "Do we have the nature of Christ or Satan?" Again and again believers are exhorted to "put on Christ" and have "the mind of Christ", to obey him and be filled with His Spirit. It is in this context that John writes in Revelation 13. To fully understand this concept one has to discard the notion that the mark is merely a physical mark. It is spiritual. It starts in our minds and hearts.

It originates from the OT command to bind God's laws upon our hands and foreheads. (Deut 6:8, 11:18) God wants our every action to be controlled by His precepts and laws. Every thing we do with our hands must be directed from minds obedient to God. It is this truth that Paul the apostle refers to in his epistle to the Romans chapters 7 and 8. He says the carnal mind is at enmity with God. Again and again he repeats the need to have our minds renewed in the image of our Creator. (Rom 12:2, Eph 4:23, Col 3:10, Heb 8:10, 10:16, Phil 2:5) God says "*I will put my laws into their mind and write them in their hearts*". If you serve the world's values you already have the mark of the beast.

To receive Satan's mark in the hand and forehead is in direct contrast to being sealed by God in the forehead. In Revelation we read that God seals his servants on their foreheads. (Rev 7:3, 14:1, 22:4) This is a spiritual seal and once again goes back to the OT this time to Ezekiel 9:4-6 where those who sigh and cry for all the abominations committed are marked on their foreheads. In the NT we read that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13 2 Cor 1:21,22) Satan compels people who worship him to receive his *mark* and they become his slaves. In contrast God *seals* those who love and obey Him and they are His children. People who live by the values of Satan take on his image and forfeit their God-given image. They sell their souls to Satan and "worship the beast" in all they do.

Most religions and ideologies compel people to conform to their outward forms and rituals. One can tell who is a priest because of their robes and behavior. Some Jewish, Christian and Muslim sects conform in dress, ritual and attitude as do other religions. They are told how to pray, when to pray, what to say and do; their whole lives become

subject to their masters. Various sects and persuasions fall into this trap and people in them can be identified simply by observing their outward image which is replicated in all of them. In extreme circumstances people can completely lose their individuality and become “brain washed” slaves. Many people have been misled by false leaders and eventually are made to think and act in obedience to their sect or leader. They all have the same mindset. How else can one explain how religious people can torture and kill others who do not conform to them? Outwardly people look and act the same because inwardly they have taken on the *charagma* of the one they serve. It is not necessarily wrong to conform to some things. Soldiers wear uniforms. They have been disciplined and taught in the same way for a purpose. However, Jesus wants us to be true to His image, not to that of the world or various religious movements or even to some spiritual leader. Those who obey and follow Jesus are sealed by the Holy Spirit and become His instruments for peace, love and true righteousness.

## **THE MARK**

There is a teaching that in the end days the “mark” will be a computerized “Radio Frequency Identity” chip that will be inserted under the skin in the hand or forehead. Since the development of computers the technology for this certainly exists.

However, this mark is primarily spiritual not physical. This is because of the nature of the original OT scriptures that John the writer of Revelation draws from to make an analogy. As a Jew he understood the hidden truths of the OT. His thinking came from the original instruction God gave us to write His laws upon our forehead and to bind them upon our hand. (Deut 6:6-8, 11:18) The language was spiritual. God intended us to ensure His laws so filled our minds that they become the guiding principle to our actions. All our deeds are done by our hands. We should have God’s laws written in our minds and thereby live and carry out our deeds and actions guided by those laws and values. God never intended it to be a physical thing. Again and again throughout scripture the meaning is clear; we are to be filled with His Spirit and to live and function in harmony with His laws. It is within the mind (forehead) that we believe, love, worship. All our actions should come first from our mind and all we do should come from hands directed and controlled from our minds. As scripture says, we should have “the Mind of Christ”.

Let me recap. If one obeys and worships the image of Satan one will conform to his *charagma*. It is his image that ‘comes alive’ and speaks within that person. That person is controlled by the values of Satan and becomes a walking talking robot doing the will of his master, an instrument of his power even causing others who do not worship that same image to be killed. This is seen in modern day religious fanaticism. But it can be more subtle than blatant fanaticism.

Paul the apostle wrote in Romans 12:1-8 “do not be conformed to this world but be

transformed by the renewing of your minds”. In today’s world, the emphasis is on getting rich no matter what. Today’s heroes are those who go from poor to rich. Covetousness is promoted with sophisticated advertising; “ambition” is put first even at the expense of others; greed is seen as success. Until we understand our sick society we will not be able to see how we are being squeezed into the world’s mould; how much of the spirit of the world we have absorbed. Christ’s values have been reversed and we hardly recognize it. The “mark” of the world is the Harlot’s name. Rev 17:5.

## **THE “MARK” OF THE EMPEROR**

This mark is not confined to the “end times” but has long existed. People in the time of John in the NT were already in great tribulation. The Roman Emperors claimed to be “gods” and took the title Supreme Pontiff and had to be worshipped if required. The idea of a man being “divine” was introduced by the Greeks and the Roman Emperors perpetuated it. Early church believers who refused to worship the Emperor and assimilated his values were killed. Christians were never encouraged to rebel or disobey the civil authorities but if they were forced to disobey the laws of God or die they chose death. During the first and second centuries the imperial seal of the Roman Emperor was called the *Charagma* – the mark. Those who refused to worship the Emperor and accept the worldly values of the time were killed because they refused to take the mark of the beast. They were sealed by God with the name of the Lamb upon their foreheads. (Rev 7:2, 9:4, 22:4 Ezk 9:4-6) This was not a physical mark but a spiritual seal. Those sealed by God had the “*charakter*” or image of Jesus and his “seal of approval”. Why is there so much emphasis now days upon the mark of the beast and so little on the seal of God and His name? Both are on the forehead, both depict the spiritual standing of the individual. Even today discerning people can see those who have the “mark” of the beast and the “seal” of Jesus. Just look around and watch people as they live their daily lives. It is often possible to see people who have the “mark” of the Beast. Their disposition of evil is written upon their face and their actions are driven from their inner disposition. They have been pressed into Satan’s image and taken his likeness and values, his mark or *charagma*. Their eyes are dead, their words are filled with hate and their deeds are evil. They live and function under his control.

It is also possible to ‘see’ people who shine with the countenance of Jesus. They have the Lamb’s name written upon them. Jesus mentioned the light within people which at times is so real it can be discerned. Some people, who spend time in His Presence and obey him, literally shine with the Holy Spirit. Moses shone with the Lord’s Presence and God’s people are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

So on the one hand there are people who have the *character* and image of Jesus and on the other there are people who have the “*charagma*” and image of Satan. This has prevailed all through the centuries and continues to do so until the end. The “mark” has manifested in every age and in different ways. Under the Roman Emperors it was his

image. Under the historical state churches it was unquestionable obedience to their beliefs even under the threat of torture. Under Hitler it was total submission to him and the Nazi party at the price of death. Under Stalin it was the Communist Party; it had to be obeyed and demanded allegiance by all even at the cost of losing one's employment, land, possessions and life. There have been many antichrists who have imposed their "mark" of servitude upon the souls of men and many expressions of the same spiritual, mental, financial and physical slavery. In the present age it is more subtle; those who serve the corruption and loose values that prevail and are contrary to the laws and principles of God's Kingdom have compromised their inner Godly image and sold their soul to the devil.

There were numerous Roman Emperors or "kings" who severely persecuted God's people over an extended period of time. Many of the Roman Emperors were "antichristian. The Empire collapsed and broke into different regions and eventually became what was known as the Holy Roman Empire and more emperors or kings arose. Charlemagne was King of the Franks who established the Western Holy Roman Empire in AD800 and others followed such as the great kings of Europe; Ivan the Great Tsar of Russia, Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Frederick the Great of Prussia, Napoleon of France, the Hapsburg Emperors of Austria, Hitler and Stalin. They did not rule harmoniously but were in conflict with one another just as the image Daniel described; they were a mixture of iron and clay that did not adhere together. In fact World War 1 began because of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria the heir to the "Holy Roman Empire". In the final period of world turmoil ten will exist. They come out of the "beast" system that rises out of the sea. This is a figurative statement and is not a literal animal coming out of the sea but the final "beast" with "ten kings" that arise out of the old Biblical Holy Roman Empire, an empire that was linked to and surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea. In the Bible the Mediterranean is called "the sea" as it was in close proximity and central to all of them. The latter development of these European Empires saw them expand their influence and establish colonies and impact nations world wide. These final "kings" will "arise out of the sea" of nations under the control of the "beast".

The Roman Empire brought extreme persecution on early Christians. Almost every Emperor conducted violent campaigns against Christians. The apostles Peter and Paul were both killed in Rome. Emperor Nero was excessively brutal. He crucified believers, killed them in the arena and burnt thousands of them. Domitian (AD96) conducted a harsh campaign against them in Rome and Italy. Trajan (AD98-117) killed many leaders. Hadrian (AD117-138) allowed persecutions. Pius (AD138-161) killed many leaders including Polycarp. Aurelius (AD 161-180) conducted a barbarous persecution and many thousands were beheaded or thrown to wild animals including Justin Martyr. Under Severus (AD193-211) many martyrs were beheaded, crucified and burned. Maximin (AD235-238) killed many leaders. Decius (AD249-251) carried out a violent extermination of Christians throughout the Empire. Valerian (AD253-260) was more

severe than Decius and brought utter destruction on the church. Diocletian (AD284-305) conducted the most brutal of all persecutions throughout the whole Empire. He put Christians to death in the cruellest manner possible. It was a systematic effort to abolish Christianity. Millions of Christians were killed. Almost all the early “Church Fathers” were martyred. In the Roman Catacombs there are millions of Christian graves.

Despite all this the Church was not extinguished. Eventually in the 4<sup>th</sup> century the Emperor Constantine made “Christianity” the official state religion and persecution stopped. Unfortunately from then on the Church took on more and more of the values and character of the worldly Empire. Theology was formulated that prohibited all freedom of worship outside of the State Churches. Once again severe persecutions of believers began and continued through the centuries. This time it was the “church” itself that committed the acts of violence. “Heretics” were cruelly hunted out and killed. Charlemagne officially established the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE in AD800 and was crowned by the Pope. Western Church leaders claimed more and more divine authority. Unfortunately some were totally godless individuals known for their cruelty, apostasy, violence, immorality and abusive ways. In the Eastern Roman Empire the Byzantium Church also grew strong. These State Churches became entrenched in worldly powers, became excessively wealthy, and the leaders, clothed in purple and gold, at times lived in debauchery and extreme immorality, harlotry, sodomy and child abuse.

Constantinople, named after Emperor Constantine, was now called the “Second Rome”. Eventually in AD1453 the Eastern Empire had become so corrupt and weak that it fell to Islamic armies. Many Christians fled to Eastern Europe and Moscow now became known as the “Third Rome”. The power of the State Church became entrenched in all these countries and the old Roman Empire (Babylon) became the countries of “Christendom”. The heads of the “State Church” took the title of the previous emperors; Supreme Pontiff.

Throughout the centuries millions of Christians and Jews were killed by the church! The Inquisition was responsible for the death of millions. In thirty years alone over a million Protestants were killed. That campaign lasted many centuries and was one of the most horrendous things in history, all in the name of Christ. It was impossible for many people to work, to make a living, to have a home, to survive. Whole towns were exterminated. It completely stamped out the Reformation in Southern Europe. At times the Protestants were as bad and intolerant and severely persecuted Catholics and even burnt “heretics” at the stake.

Not only that, but the State Churches persecuted Jews unrelentingly. Over the centuries they conducted Crusades and pogroms, expelled them from countries and forced them to convert to their form of Christianity. Poisonous theology was spewed out from the Churches that made Jews scapegoats for every hateful cause. It was this that prepared the way for the Holocaust. When Hitler came to power he called his regime the Third

Reich. Nazis saw themselves as the Third Revival of the Germanic Empire which was in reality the continuation of the Roman Empire. Jews were persecuted under the Nazis and at different times were severely persecuted in other nations including Russia, France and Britain. No wonder they want nothing to do with Christians. The “Church” as a whole has never apologised or repented for this outrage against Jews or fellow believers. The churches have never publicly confessed this. We need to repent.

In Revelation 17:7 we are told about “*Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots*” and the Beast that carries her. This is the second woman of Revelation. Notice that the Beast is not the Harlot but carries her. Apostasy in various forms has always ridden on the back of the great State powers. They have gone hand in hand, a marriage between State and Religion. At times secular and religious leaders vied for power but the one always sought to manipulate and control the other. This Beast had “seven heads” which are seven mountains on which the woman sits. (Rev 17:9) Rome was known as the “city of seven hills”. However, the term “heads” in the prophetic language of Daniel and John represents *more* than hills but different kingdoms or ‘mountains’ and their meaning is explained in Rev 17:10. Five of them had already fallen in the days of John (past tense), one existed at his time (present tense), and one was still to come (future tense). Together they represent the Beast “that was, and is, and is to come”. (Rev 17:8) It is fairly easy to see that the kingdom in power in the days of John was the Roman Empire. The five previous notable historical empires are considered to have been Babylon, the Medes, the Persians, the Greeks under Alexander and the Hellenic Empires that followed as seen in Daniel. (Some think they were Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, and the Greeks; the five notable kingdoms of Biblical antiquity.) The Kingdom that was to come after Rome, the seventh, was the Holy Roman Empire in its various forms including both Eastern and Western sections.

The Nazi regime was the last manifestation of the seventh head of the Beast that persecuted the Jews. The Nazis revived the Roman Eagles, the Roman Salute and the worship of Fuhrer as their Emperor and its “mark” was the Swastika. Many German people were as much victims of Hitler as others. Hitler was the final seventh head of the Beast of Revelation 12:3-13:1 and swept a third of the Jews to death. He became Chancellor in January 1933. In June 1934 the “night of the Long Knives” occurred which started Jewish persecution. In September 1935 laws were passed that deprived Jews of German citizenship. The Holocaust followed. A third of the Jewish people were destroyed as depicted by the fall of a third of the stars. (Rev 12:4) The rebirth of Israel came out of that horror. Now here is something that is often overlooked; the Beast was given a fatal wound and healed. This was not an individual who was wounded but the entire beast that was healed and became the final eighth head. (Rev 13:3,12) Has this been fulfilled? Keep within the symbolism and consider what happened to the seventh head. During WW11 Europe under the Nazi was completely devastated. Its cities lay in ruins, its people demoralised, millions were dead and the economy ruined. It was divided right down the middle by the “iron curtain”. It was given a fatal wound. People

said it would never rise from the ashes. Yet within a few decades it was fully restored. The recovery of Europe and subsequent European Union is considered the great “*miracle*” of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Actually WW11 was just a continuation of WW1 and out of them came the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the *true miracle* of Israel.

We are told that a final eighth head will arise after the seven. (Rev 17:11) It belongs to the seven and had the same spirit and power. It will persecute God’s people just as the previous heads did. It will arise from within the old Roman Empire and will be the final antichrist. It is called the False Prophet and forms a satanic trinity; the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet. (Rev 19:20) This is linked to the Goat of Rev 13:11 which is the Goat of Daniel (Dan 8:9) which foretold the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes the terrible antichrist who attacked the Jews and who is the prophetic fore runner of the final end time antichrist. It is linked to the region of Euphrates and the historical Hellenic Seleucid Empire, Syria and Assyria. (Rev 16:12,13)

John, the writer of Revelation, warned about an end time antichrist. There have been many antichrists, every generation has had them. (1 John 2:22 4:3) The antichrist is especially defined by his denial of the relationship of the Fatherhood of God and Jesus the Son. However, the spirit of antichrist is not just to do with a point of doctrine but is largely to do with the nature of antichrist. Antichrist is not just a pseudo Christ but the antithesis of Christ. John wrote about God’s love especially demonstrated in the relationship of the Father and Son. It is Divine Love. God is Love and those who are born of God love others. John’s message is that if we abide in the Father and the Son then we walk in light and love with one another. The spirit of antichrist is the exact opposite. If we deny that relationship between Father and Son we are unable to express the true love of God. Divine Love comes from a relationship with God just as the Father and Son have. Regrettably, because many Christians have not had such a relationship with the Father and Son the spirit of antichrist crept in. It has been in the “*church*” all through the age and caused great suffering. Instead of the gentle, humble, obedient, sacrificial spirit of Christ there has at times been one of arrogance, superiority and hatred. Far from being loving examples of Christ Christians often hated and killed others, even other Christians. A great part of the church through history was unable to express God’s love despite their claim to have it. The spirit of antichrist is expressed today in the prevailing secular humanistic worldview that comes out of Greek/Roman philosophy that rejects God and His love, of which Antiochus was forerunner. It is linked to false religion that denies the love of God revealed in Father and Son. Babylon the Great is not a single denomination; it is the *spirit* of antichrist working in the institutions of Religion and State to persecute all who love the Lord regardless of their affiliation. All who are *not* written in the Book of Life will worship the “beast”. (Rev 13:8,17:8) Clearly, this is *not* all humanity, only those who have given themselves to Satan. Like the “giants” of old they are perpetually opposed to God the Father of Light and His Son Jesus. (James 1:17, 2 John 3)

There is a book that God has written. (Mal 3:16) The Book is the Word of God, Jesus is both the author and the Word. All those who receive him and live by the principles of that book are written in His book. Those who resist, hate and fight against Him are not. In the OT we read of various people who opposed God and His laws. They lived reprobate lives, worshipped false gods with reprehensible rituals (sacrifice of babies and sexual immorality) and cultivated societies in which there was no mercy or justice. Not only did they reject the statutes of God but they deliberately attempted on every occasion possible to destroy God's people. Among them were the Amalekites, Rephaim, Anakim and others who have become the "perpetual enemies of God". It was these corrupt people, unable to change or be rehabilitated that Joshua was instructed to totally destroy. History is littered with individuals and communities who thought they could get away with the most ungodly atrocities and never be accountable. It does not work that way, whatever is sown is reaped if not immediately then later.

John wrote about a time when the "accuser of the brethren" will be cast down. (Rev 12:9-12) John described this conflict taking place through the age and culminating in the final three and a half years. He said that the devil will be cast out and "*come down having great wrath because he knows he has but a short time*". This scripture is linked to 2 Thess 2:1- where Paul said something similar; there will be "*the falling away and the man of sin revealed, the son of perdition*" who will exalt himself but the Lord will destroy him "*at his coming*". They both refer to the same period, the final end time. The falling away is not so much from a particular theological belief than from sound morality and Godliness. "Sound Doctrine" is love, faith, patience, and such like against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22,23 2 Tim 4:3 Tit 2:1)

Satan the great dragon will be cast onto earth. Having been ejected from his heavenly foothold and having lost his war in those realms he now concentrates his attention on earth. He then gathers together his earthly resources to stand against the King of Heaven. Rising out of the sea of nations is his earthly counterpart the "beast"; the final 8<sup>th</sup> head of the "beast" with ten horns. This is not a literal animal and we have already considered the Biblical symbolism of the heads and horns. To understand them we have to fit together all the Biblical visions of Daniel. In chapter 2 is the dream of a great statue or image, made of different elements representing different empires through history. Daniel 3 tells of the construction of that image and the enforced worship of it. Daniel 7 is the vision that described four of the major empires that played a major role since the time of Daniel. Daniel 8 through to 11 described the rise of a terrible ruler out of the Seleucid Empire, the "*King of the North*". These must be fitted together rather like a jigsaw. The diagrams in this book will help the reader to visualize what is meant.

## **THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST**

The First Beast is a world system upon which rides a woman representing luxurious wealthy Babylonian economic institutions linked with apostate religion. It is a powerful

autocratic control dictating financial terms. This developed over many centuries and sought control over men. This system has already been in existence for a long time and manifested in history in different forms. Sometimes it was through control of kings and dictators, or the ruling party, or false religion or other forms. As discussed in a previous chapter we have followed the development of international finance and banking through the ages and seen the manipulations and control it seeks to have. Chapter 13 of Revelation describes this system. It is called the mark of the beast and it will try to enforce Trade Control upon all nations. Not only has this system manipulated trade and finance but it seeks to impose legislation and pass laws to control the lives and movements of every individual. It is symbolised by the number 666. This number occurs in only one other place and is to do with the system of universal taxes imposed by Solomon. (1 Kings 14:10 2 Chr 9:13) This gives us the clue; it is financial control and heavy taxation. Banking originally developed in Babylon. Gold (or silver) has always been the foundation on which wealth has been built. However, gold was not easy to trade, the more that is accumulated the heavier it gets. When that happens it is easier to leave it under guard in a central stronghold or bank. Instead of trading in the gold receipts were exchanged; the beginning of money. Over the years the custodians of gold realised that because it was left for long periods they could lend it out again and again to more than one merchant. In this way the concept of loans developed. It was calculated that in order to sustain multiple loans they only needed to actually hold a fraction of the whole. In other words they loaned the gold not once but many times over. In this way they were able to expand the wealth far beyond what was originally held. So the banks used other peoples' money to get rich. This is a simplistic explanation but is the basis of banking. It is interesting that for a long time banks only needed to hold 15% of the actual value of their total combined loans. This enabled banks to expand their book keeping wealth 666% of their actual wealth. Today banking is conducted not so much with gold but with bonds and shares but the same methods are used. As we have seen in recent years the systems of modern banking are open to manipulation. The trend is for individuals, companies and nations to live more and more in debt and accumulate huge debts which also have to be serviced because of heavy interest charges. The only way out is to increase taxes, devalue the currency or to print more currency. It expands the economy far beyond the true growth of productivity. The system is not sustainable for it creates short term wealth but long term poverty. For years the world has lived beyond its means. It will eventually catch up with itself.

John directs the reader of Revelation to a particular number; six hundred, sixty and six. (Rev 13:18) To be exact, the number is not 666 but 600, 60 and 6. Does this make any difference? It is actually three numbers written as one and John tells the reader to think about it. What did John really mean by it? John was a Jew and he referred to Jewish concepts that often our Gentile minds just have no knowledge of. This number had a great symbolic significance for every Jew. Once more it goes back to the prophecies of Daniel and to the statue of the *image* of the dream that Daniel interpreted in Daniel chapter 2. As we have seen this "image" prophetically represented the course of Gentile

nations through history from the days of Babylon to the very end of the age when the stone from heaven will smash the entire Babylonian systems. It was made of gold and was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide and everyone had to worship it. That was a massive image! This number stood forever in the Jewish psyche as one representing slavery and abomination. John gives us a clue when he wrote this number and told us to ponder on it. It is in multitudes of ten and expanded 100 fold. What does John mean by this? I believe it is deliberately done to draw attention first to the events of Babylonian slavery and secondly to indicate it will be much worse, the culmination of such oppression.

This Babylonian system already controls and manipulates world trade. Nations are in such debt that they owe trillions of dollars. There are international banking systems and banks that direct world monetary activities. As already mentioned the international stock markets have a powerful influence on world economy and are hard to control. Investors and speculators can use the internet to buy and sell shares and make or lose huge amounts of money. Organisations and institutions can thereby make vast amounts of money and expand the world economy to disproportional amounts but at the end of the day much of it is book keeping figures in bank accounts and not a true reflection of productivity. Usury is forbidden in the Bible.

For many people productivity and the ability to do an honest day's work and support themselves has been robbed from them all through greed and tremendous imbalance in society where the rich can become very rich and the poor are marginalised and sometimes abandoned. Integrity and dignity are denied for many. In a righteous community all should be able to support themselves. Babylon has made many financial and spiritual slaves.

## **APOSTATE RELIGION**

Apostate religious values of Christendom often deny even the Bible itself and are called in apocalyptic terms "*Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots*" a mother who has given birth to abominations. The apostle Paul declared that a falling away from the true faith will take place and that falsehood will come into the "temple of God" itself. The "Son of Perdition" will sit in the temple and promote a lie. In its context Paul is referring to the body of Christ and not a rebuilt Jewish temple. The temple is a term Paul used to describe individual and corporate believers in Jesus. He predicted a time when there will be a falling away from the faith and another will take the position of worship in the church. Through history there have been many that have sought their own glory and used the church as the means to do so. Many have sought to use scripture to control others and still do. These people exalt themselves, receive worship and even try to deceive the elect. Any such manipulation is like a harlot spirit that draws the "Bride" away from reliance upon and obedience to the heavenly "Bridegroom". Jesus described this intimate relationship as an example of the relationship between the individual

believer and their Lord. There is no room for a third party! Anyone or anything that gets between the Lord and the believer is like a prostitute. When church leaders seek allegiance for themselves and their movements, rather than to Christ, they become false shepherds and fulfil Paul's prophecy. Sadly a great deal of manipulation can take place from the pulpit. Through history state churches tried to control kings, rulers and entire nations. "Liberation Theology" which is so popular today is just another attempt to harness the church for political ends and many cultish leaders continue to exalt themselves. Note that Babylon has her name written on her forehead, the "mark". In recent times we have seen a frightening development which surely must be the fulfilment of Paul's forecast in 2 Thessalonians 2. Today we have many Bishops and Leaders who no longer believe the Bible and have persuasive arguments why not. Many church leaders now deny basic Biblical beliefs such as the virgin birth, uniqueness and deity of Christ, the resurrection, judgement of sin, the return of Jesus, the inspiration of the scriptures, the sanctity of marriage and more. They ignore clear admonition of scripture concerning both theological foundational doctrines and moral standards and say it is now outdated and culture has changed. They change the very words of Jesus, the Word of God, as if he has no authority or was mistaken and needs updating. What is left? - a church that is devoid of power to change lives or influence nations and is unable or unwilling to speak out against the very things that destroy society. The "Abomination of Desolation" is actually within the "church" itself. Ezek 8:6-18, 9:6.

### **THE SECOND BEAST, THE GOAT THAT TALKS LIKE A DRAGON – THE FALSE PROPHET - Revelation 13:11**

Another beast follows, a beast that looks like a goat but roars like a dragon.

As we have already considered, this Second Beast is a religious system with great wealth, influence and military might. This is the beast John described as a goat that speaks like a dragon. The imagery for this teaching comes from Daniel's visions of chapter 8 and 11. It portrays a powerful end time coalition of nations that follow a leader called the "False Prophet". Read Daniel chapter 8 to understand the character of this beast. The vision is depicted in a series of Goats. The first goat with two horns represented the Medes and Persians. 8:20. The second goat was very powerful with one notable horn and came from the west and broke the two horns and overthrew the goat. This was the King of Greece, Alexander the Great, who over whelmed the Medes and Persian Kingdom. These prophecies were fulfilled by Alexander when he established a Hellenic empire right across the Middle East. Then this powerful horn was itself broken and four others took its place. When Alexander died his four generals took control of four divisions of his kingdom. Dan 8:8, 21, 22. Out of one of them came a little horn which became very strong even taking over and defiling the sanctuary. Dan 8:9-12, 23-25. This was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes who came from Syria. Daniel 11:1-35 gives more details about this It was fulfilled by the wars between the two Hellenic empires of the north and south, Syria under the Seleucia Royal family in the north and

Egypt under the Ptolemy Royal family in the south. There is much to grasp here and you may wish to refer to good commentaries to learn more. Notice however, that it has an end time fulfilment and from verse 36 onwards the account expands and refers to a period that extends right to Daniel 12 and the last three and a half years. Notice the characteristics of this final king; great military power as he honours the “god of forces” (war), tremendous wealth, political intrigue and blackmail, women devalued and the way he marches into the “Promised Land to impose his will and enforce all to worship his god. It perfectly describes Islam which from the beginning used force to win converts. People were given only two options; convert or be killed. Sometimes there was a third; to become totally subservient and pay heavy taxes. Daniel foretold the rise of Antiochus Ephanes who claimed to be the “Illustrious Deity” and who attacked Israel and partially fulfilled these prophecies in 168 BC, yet this alludes to another who, in the end days, will cause great tribulation upon Israel. He is a great “Goat” who will set up another “Abomination of Desolation”. He is called the “*King of the North*”.

When Paul the apostle taught about concepts such as the “man of sin” and the “son of perdition” and when John talked about the spirit of “antichrist” and Jesus taught about the “Abomination of Desolation” they were not introducing new ideas. Every Jew understood the origins of this teaching. They came directly from the OT and were already in the minds of many Jewish believers. There have been many antichrists but there will be another during the last three and a half years. This is the second Beast of Revelation 13. He comes from the ME and works together with and is supported by the first Beast. Anyone who knows history will know that for many years the oil rich countries of the Middle East have been supported and aided by the Western World. It is the West that has built them with western aid and expertise in order to benefit from their oil. To understand these things therefore we must go back to the OT prophecies. (See my book “Covenant of Glory”.) Daniel 11:45 foretold this man will “plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain”. There is no mistaking the description “the glorious holy mountain” is none other than Mount Moriah at Jerusalem between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. Antiochus partially fulfilled this vision but back in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD invading armies of emerging Islam set up their “tabernacles” on the Holy Mountain and they are still there. To see the fulfilment of this one only has to look at a photo of Jerusalem. The Crusaders called it the Abomination of Desolation. There is no need for a rebuilt temple or further fulfilment. The stage is set, everything is in place. We wait for the raising of the curtain to reveal the last act. Jerusalem will become centre stage. The powers that oppose the Kingdom of the Lord will be lured into place like pawns on a chess board. The final moves will take place and “checkmate” will be declared by the King of Kings.

## **NEW AGE**

The New Age Movement has crept into the pulpit disguised in Christian clothes. It’s not new but the lie from the beginning of time; man moulds his own god. At the core of

ancient pagan religion were two concepts: the “Mother” figure and the idea that men were gods in the making. Through secret mysteries reserved for the initiated these concepts were promoted. This system of religious deception is portrayed in scripture under the banner “Mystery Babylon the Mother of Harlots”. How apt this title is when one considers how much of modern religion was birthed from the Babylonians and has been handed down through secret sects in the form of mystery, occult and superstition. Indeed much of ancient religion was attended by temple harlots and immoral rituals. This title is given to apostate religion at the end of the present age, Babylon the Harlot.

This New Age philosophy has ancient roots and is a mixture of many concepts. It embraces Eastern religions and teaches reincarnation. It accepts occult teaching and astrology as valid expressions and promotes the practice of them. It has roots in ancient Gnosticism the essence of which was a lifelong journey into self. It emphasises mystical, subjective spiritual experience as more important and more valid than Bible truth. It is a type of Gnosticism with a tendency towards Eastern concepts, spiritualism and special formulas of secret knowledge. It nullifies the Bible as the Word of God and replaces it with teachings of gurus, prophets, and other mystics. It accepts all religions as one.

At the core of New Age philosophy is the idea that within each person there is a divine spark, which through a process of development can become god. The Greeks pursued this thinking in the worship of their gods in an attempt to blend humanity into divinity and make men into gods. The Romans perpetuated Greek thinking and Emperors demanded to be worshipped as god.

This practice has crept into the “Spirit filled” churches by prevailing misuse of the gifts of prophecy. It seems everybody wants to prophesy in the name of God - even speaking in the first tense for Almighty God as if they were somehow speaking *directly* for God! This is not a scriptural practice. In the New Testament such prophetic statements were *always* in the third person. Not only do many now speak directly for God but also such statements are then printed and circulated - all in the first person, like dictation and supposedly coming from the Lord Himself. I don’t doubt that there are prophets in the church but this error continually violates the canon of scripture and brings disrepute upon the Lord as statements contradict themselves. This practice encourages the concept that the Bible does not have all the truth and that extra Biblical revelation, visions, special words of knowledge and such like are necessary to know God. Such a concept is rooted in Gnosticism. It arises out of a wrong understanding of the operation of these gifts and a flippant attitude towards the command not to add or take away from the Word of God. Although sincere people continue to do this it is a deviation from original New Testament practice and opens the way for all manner of error to creep in. In the days of Elijah many claimed to speak for God but only Elijah had the truth. The prophets had schools but they did not have the Word of the Lord. In case anyone is unsure, the canon of scripture was sealed centuries ago. What this means is that the

Bible is recognized as complete and needs no further additions written or verbal. But this is where the cults and New Age comes along!

Not content to be sons and daughters of God New Age wants us to become gods ourselves. They take the ancient Greek concept of divine gods and apply it to the individual. They accept all religions as valid and seek to amalgamate them into one grand world order. The term "New World Order" is their favourite phrase for they envisage a New World of peace controlled by a central government and religion, which will unit mankind in one big brotherhood. They see figures such as Buddha [India], Hermes [Egypt], Zoroaster [Persia], Orpheus [Greece], Confucius [China] and many others, as authentic spokespersons for God and believe in the appearance of a final prophet who will bring peace to earth. This is not Christ of the Bible. They do not believe in a historical Jesus but in a cosmic spirit. They see men as evolving, putting on divinity and godhood, and taking dominion over the earth. New Age has taken hold in the West because of humanism, the idea that man is his own saviour and through his own knowledge and technology can solve all the problems of the human race. It has discarded faith and replaced it with self. It exalts man until eventually men stand up to speak for God and even claim infallibility.

When the Reformation took place people broke away from the narrow restricted precepts and authority of the entrenched ecclesiastical order and were encouraged to think for themselves. This opened the Bible to the common man and great revivals took place. It also opened the way for scientific advancement. This in turn led to the abandonment of the Word of God as the source for truth and instead reliance upon the frail whims of mans' intellect and limited knowledge as the new basis of truth. The increase of knowledge and the discarding of personal faith led to the exaltation of man. Man no longer was under the authority of God but a law unto himself. The cult of the individual revived. It was not new but an ancient error from the Garden of Eden. The very first pitfall man fell into was to turn from the Creator to the Tree of Knowledge. The sales talk at that time was that it would give him power to become like god. Mankind believed the lie. However, knowledge causes pride and brings no answers but more and more imponderable questions. It can never replace faith. Mankind chose knowledge. He exalted himself and the cult of man-worship developed in history. The Babylonian rulers demanded worship on pain of death and so did the Egyptian Pharaohs, the Persian Kings, the Greek Royals and the Roman Caesars. It is not a new phenomenon. Hitler became the icon of the Nazi regime and demanded total allegiance.

Each individual person is unique and has great potential. To develop one's character and talents, to obtain knowledge and wisdom, to achieve worthwhile goals - these are all important. But when the individual becomes self-centred, when people live only for themselves - then the world is in danger! This is not a true Christian concept but has in fact been taught in various guises within a large section of the church and Christians have not even realized what has happened. The direction of the Gospel has been

reversed. Instead of the message being God based and God directed it has become man based and man centred. Some people go to church only for what they get out of it, not what they put into it and the pulpit message is often used to exalt the individual, the exact opposite of the message of the cross. The message of a sovereign, supreme, all loving God who is worthy of love, obedience and service has been changed to one of self seeking satisfaction, fulfilment, personal success and prosperity. Self is the seat of all selfishness and surely the root for all sin. Christ's way is to deny oneself and even die to oneself and to live wholly for others. The true work of the cross in our lives is to humble and break our self-life, the seat of sin, selfishness, greed and everything that is unholy. Some churches have lost the way and now give a hollow, empty, self seeking message. The wonder of God and His awesome nature of holiness and love are not fully understood or seen.

Jesus commented on this deceptive reversal of motives when he turned one day to the huge crowd that followed him and stated that they did not really follow him for who he was but rather for what they could get out of him - the loaves, the healings and so on. John 6:26-36. The preoccupation with miracles and other signs can be a deceptive tendency. That God still does miracles can surely be testified by many who have experienced them but Jesus warned that there would be many false prophets who would do great signs. Miracles in themselves do not prove that the source of the power originates with God and miracles will not win the world to Jesus. Only when people are touched by sacrificial love will they know the truth. That's what the early church had plenty of and is often lacking in the impersonal society of today. Boggled down in self centred doctrines and liturgy, rituals or entertainment, exalted traditions of men and not the precepts of God, believers can be caught in a mire of despond and apathy. The misled Christian finds himself in John Bunyan's proverbial Valley of Deception having lost direction.

## **EVOLUTION**

The religion of science, for that's what it is, perpetuated the concept of man's godhood with new ingenuity. Charles Darwin [1809-1882] was a sincere man gifted with acute powers of observation. He noted the diverse forms in nature and came up with a theory on natural selection and the survival of the fittest. He wrote "The Origin of the Species" and other publications that caused controversy. Much of what Darwin originally proposed is valid; there is great diversity and variation in nature which is living not static. Darwin was a man of faith and never intended his thesis to be used against religious belief but some scientists took his observations to teach the hypothesis of Evolution in a way that became increasingly incompatible with creation as understood by many Christians. Presented as fact it is now proposed that over aeons of time, billions of years, life developed through an evolutionary process of mutations from a simple form into many diverse forms of today. However the real problem is the way it has been used in a non scientific way but a religious way to try and "disprove" the existence of

God. The church tried to use the Bible to disprove science and agnostics and atheists use science to try and disprove or discount God. Racists and dictators have used both to teach their own brand of superiority; the Nazi regime and others like them. Even if the earth has been around for a long time and even though there are many fossils this in itself does not disprove God. Evolution proposes that over vast periods of time life forms are evolving and becoming more perfect. Through a process of survival of the fittest the weak are weeded out and the strong become dominant thus ensuring the survival of the species. It also claims that man himself evolved through a series of stages to his present state. Evolution now goes further and proposes that life started spontaneously but is unable to adequately explain the mechanism. In fact it is unable to substantiate many of its claims with real evidence. The dating techniques are open to question with different scientists coming to different conclusions.

On the other hand much evidence to question some of its conclusions is not considered and even suppressed. The Bible is not written as a scientific thesis and does not tell us how old the world is. It could be billions of years old. Time itself is not static or stable but is variable. It changes in relation to the speed of light and may be different in different places of the universe and no doubt there are other factors. Just as there are numerous dimensions so too there are different time zones depending on which dimension one is in. The creation account is written in the custom of ancient writing using parables and allegory to convey truth. This is not to discount the obvious; within nature there is a great deal of variation, adaptation, change and development. Creation is not dead or static but living and vibrant. There are many possibilities within it for all sorts of amazing processes. The more one learns about it the more one is overawed by the marvels of creation.

Some scientists dispute the conclusions of evolution; the great lengths of time needed to make it sound plausible, how mutations can ever be beneficial and other difficulties. Some scientists today think there are flaws in the theory of evolution but have no alternative with which to replace it. The theory is actually unscientific in its principles. The first two laws of Thermodynamics declare that firstly all matter [energy] exists and cannot be added to or taken away and secondly that all energy is dissipating. In other words the entire universe is running down - not getting better! The Bible is closer to the truth when it says that in the beginning God created all things and that since then things have degenerated. There are also plausible scientific explanations for the formation of fossils, the age of the continents, seas and even the universe that are held by some creation scientists and not generally published or promoted by the main body of evolutionists. The Bible allows for all kinds of possibilities: it says that Adam (meaning both a man and mankind) started out as living a simple life in harmony with nature, was naked, attained knowledge, took to wearing skins, developed into families and communities, established principles in relationship, developed skills, began to build cities, made war. Is this not the history of mankind?

What Evolution has achieved, however, is quite amazing. It has provided a means whereby people can justify atheism and thereby cancel any responsibility to a higher authority with an integral code of conduct. With the eradication of God the individual becomes his own god answerable only to himself. He sets his own standards - or lack of them. Any idea of judgement is laughed at. It's like someone cancelling a contract by refusing to acknowledge the other partner exists. The ultimate conclusion of such humanistic thinking is to be seen in the rise of the coming New Order where man is exalted but where morals collapse and lawlessness prevails. If authority is taken away anarchy prevails until another authority fills the gap. If it is not God will it be a counterfeit? The choice is ours.

The Bible declares each person is subject directly to his Creator. Nations alone cannot legislate right and wrong. Individual conscience is personal but it functions or malfunctions on the values established within the individual and culture and there is a corporate conscience in people or a nation. Laws of parliaments cannot create morality. At best they can only serve to recognize the inner law planted within the collective soul of mankind. This universal code was pre-programmed into mankind but also written by the "finger" of God onto stone tablets and given to Moses. The Ten Commandments only exist because they are already in our hearts; hearts that for many have now become harder than stone.

But a frightening development has come from discarding the Law of God. Modern thinking teaches the doctrine of relativism - that there is no such thing as absolute truth; different people can define truth in conflicting ways and still be correct – it's all relative. Nothing is certain and there are no moral absolutes to contend with...no God who abhors and punishes sin...we are not accountable to Him! The sad thing is that so much of Christendom has fallen for this lie. In a recent survey conducted in America over 75 percent of "Christians" accepted this idea. The words of Paul the apostle have come to pass when he wrote about the end condition of society, *"having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof."* This godless philosophy of moral relativism is taught in most western universities. Our education systems no longer honour God or teach Biblical standards but encourage atheism. No wonder the younger generations are in such confusion. If man does not of his own free will serve God he will serve another. Do away with God and what is left but a superman or super-state.

There are many examples in history of men who have promised liberty yet claimed absolute blind allegiance, one of the most recent being Hitler. He believed in the supremacy of the master race over all others. A fierce nationalism promoted the concept of the super-state where the individual's allegiance was first and foremost to the leader and to the State and the State in turn controlled the individual. Because there are no moral absolutes all manner of normally unthinkable deeds can be committed if it is for the right cause. This autocratic system was not confined to Nazism but is seen in many dictatorships and bureaucratic systems. It was seen in the historical churches of the Holy

Roman Empire where the popes were considered infallible. Even democracy without discipline is the prelude to tyranny. In a time when democracy purports to bring freedom, the world is on the brink of the greatest autocratic control ever known in history. It offers peace but it's the peace of slavery. The ultimate world control will be financial dictatorship and spiritual deception. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem there was a universal taxation and allegiance to Caesar census conducted on all people. Present worldwide systems of heavy taxation bring us full circle. As nations seek to control their citizens, more and more taxes, red tape and restrictions are imposed upon them.

Evolution robs the individual of any sense of urgency by claiming that things on earth have been evolving for a long time and will continue to do so. The result is that as world crises loom larger and larger and real disaster is imminent mankind is paralysed and unable to find the only real solution - not man but God the Creator. Humanity has been robbed of the source of salvation. The truth of God as the Sovereign all-powerful Creator who is absolutely Loving, Merciful and Just, has been cast away. Instead they look to the weak arm of flesh. These are the ingredients for the end-time weather forecast. A storm is coming; it has been building up for a long time, indeed from the beginning of recorded time. In the past it has unleashed its power. Given certain conditions these storms broke with predictable ferocity. Those same conditions now prevail worldwide.

During the life of Daniel a king named Belshazzar held a great party. Suddenly a hand appeared and wrote on the wall "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin". Daniel was called to interpret the writing. It meant "God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. You have been weighed in the scales and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." That very night it fell. Surely that hand is about to write again on the pages of history. Just as nations and communities in the past have fallen or been overthrown so present world powers face the same judgments. Nations such as USA have held a leading position in the world but may lose their place and slide into oblivion depending on their stance towards Biblical standards of righteousness, justice and compassion. The whole infra structure of some nations could collapse as adverse weather pounds the earth, produce fails and the ravages of war leave a wake of destruction as the infrastructure is shattered and welfare resources flounder as society crashes because of no true spiritual foundations.

## **WORLD CRISES**

The world has already taken a great battering. Population growth causes widespread pollution and destruction of the environment. Limited natural resources are destroyed daily. As people come under stress crime and violence increase dramatically. Mans' hand is lifted against his fellow man in unspeakable deeds. His callous inhumanity against others knows no bounds. Neither does nature escape but faces the same brutal

cruelty. Many species of animal life plunge into extinction every day. Trees are cut down at a catastrophic rate. Deserts spread with alarming speed. Changing weather patterns cause droughts and flooding. Fresh water that is already depleted is becoming more and more polluted. Disastrous accidents such as Chernobyl and Japan and wars such as the Gulf War have devastated the environment. The Bible specifically refers to the River Euphrates, Syria and Iraq, becoming a disaster zone. Nuclear power plants are faulty and out-dated and pose severe threats to the environment. Starvation kills millions. The ozone layer has suffered and the oceans are dying. Pollution fills the skies. Planet earth is under siege. We face a cataclysmic future. Revelation predicted that trees will die, sea life will perish and the skies darken – and it has!

These things have already largely been fulfilled. Society suffers as crime and corruption, despair and confusion sweep nations. Disease and famine stalk the earth. Marriage and family life are torn apart. There is no longer any sanctity in sex and sacred relationships are not honoured, commitments broken. AIDS is still at epidemic level. Many people do not realize how serious this virus is and how it has decimated the population of third world nations. The full extent of this epidemic has been played down. It is a frightening picture. It is surely an end-time plague and a reflection of the disintegration of the very fibre that holds society together. In Biblical terms it is judgement upon a decadent society. The talk now of “safe sex” instead of the need of a changed lifestyle simply encourages promiscuity. The true issue at stake is not a medical problem but a moral problem. Those who are sick need to be shown great love and concern but many innocent victims of Aids suffer because of the lifestyle of others. Millions of children suffer terribly. People are still hoping for a scientific breakthrough to find a cure for Aids but the likelihood of that is remote and even if it did happen, to try and produce it cheaply and administer it to the large numbers involved will be well nigh impossible. Then there is the aspect of new strains of the virus developing. Some nations have large portions of their populations HIV positive and consequences are ominous. It has wiped out millions of people and there are millions of displaced children. It will only be contained when people who sleep around have either died from it or changed their actions, in other words had a change of mind and life style - repented.

## **THE BREAKDOWN OF SOCIETY**

For any Society to be healthy it must be built on strong foundations; these are things such as justice, honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, compassion, tolerance, care, productivity, commitment. In some countries people now look to the State to provide these things. But it is the community itself that provides them and they come from spiritual values established over many years.

One of the most appalling reflections of the spiritual condition of society in the 21st century is the holocaust of unborn children. This statement is not to blame individuals but the society that allows this. The collapse of the institution of marriage and the

promotion of loose sex standards has birthed a culture of indifference to the reality of broken families and destroyed lives. Abortion is the direct result of the collapse of the Godly institution of marriage. Jesus gave the *definitive* meaning of marriage and it still stands. (Matt 19:4-6) God has not rewritten the Bible nor changed the 10 commandments. Marriage is a holy sacrament and union between two people of different genders in which they become “one flesh” for the purpose of procreation. Marriage vows create the environment in which love can flourish and give young, vulnerable and defenceless children the security that is absolutely vital for them to grow and develop into stable, well balanced human beings. Because sex, our most miraculous, rewarding and creative power, is now no longer protected within the boundaries of marriage women have unwanted pregnancies without the support of a husband or family. They are often young, have no backup or finance and no prospects of supporting a child. They are trapped into abortion. The result is that abortions are two a penny. That modern “civilised” people have come to this is a horror too awful to contemplate. To take the life of another is a terrible thing and yet to do it to weak defenceless, unborn children is unthinkable. They are taken helpless from the protection and security of their mother’s womb. Life-giving mothers become life-takers. Fathers who should have been protectors are indifferent even callous. The intimate act of love and creation between two people is cheapened into a moment of sensual pleasure that ends in destruction not creation. Millions of abortions take place every year. Is this God’s plan? When does murder cease to be murder? A greater than Molech seems to be here! Only God’s love and mercy can cleanse us from sin and restore our hardened hearts if we return to obedience and discipline in our sexual appetites. The argument that women have the right over their own bodies is true but it includes responsibility to have safe sex if children are not wanted. That is why rape is the worst violation of a woman and in the Bible is a capital offence. The Biblical role is that men should be fathers and protectors, women life givers and carers. This is safe guarded within God ordained marriage that needs certain clear Biblical boundaries to succeed. These are no longer honoured; respect, honesty, equality, self sacrifice, love, loyalty, commitment. Instead the world has pushed Babylonian values of self indulgence, fornication, adultery, pornography and other carnal lusts. The Biblical values are now discarded and we reap the results; hurt, pain, shame, disease, broken society.

One of the results of the collapse of marriage and broken homes is the lack of clear role models of fathers and mothers for children. This has significant affect on the next generation who need security, love and certain perimeters of discipline without which they are unable to develop correctly. Some psychologists believe that the break down of marriage, the family, male and female role models, lack of genuine discipline and lack of honest rules have contributed towards psychological mental problems that plague individuals and destroy society. There is now a huge gap between generations and families are fragmented. This can only be restored through a return to the Biblical standards of Moses and Elijah. Moses laid down the Biblical foundations of marriage. Elijah exposed the falsehood of Baal and his followers who promoted and indulged in

loose immoral sexual practices. Only if true family is restored will the hearts of the fathers be restored to the children and children to the fathers. Malachi 4:4-6. Euthanasia has been practiced unofficially in some countries. The frightening thing is that it is known that thousands of old, weak and defenceless people have died through neglect. When the young and weak and the old and weak are not protected then society is decadent. It is like going back to the Roman Empire where homicide was legalized. The cult of self first has come to its supreme conclusion. Nothing is sacred. The right to life must surely be the first of all natural rights. What has happened to our "civilisation" that we have sunk so low? The universal cry goes up for his or her rights; women's rights, men's rights, workers' rights, minority rights, religious rights etc - as if nothing else mattered but the wants and desires of the individual. It seems *self* is the only thing that is important. In "western society" there has developed an attitude of blame, the "Blame culture" - someone else is to blame for everything that goes wrong. Few are prepared to take responsibility for their own mistakes or wrong doing. Adam's fallen condition has produced a harvest of woe. "Self" has led the world into a nightmare of madness and anarchy. When we live for self we self destruct. The laws of the universe do not support self. This is a far cry from the way Jesus walked. It seems science and knowledge does not change the hearts of men.

The old saying goes "*He who serves himself serves a slave - he who rules himself rules a king.*" Freedom must start in the hearts of individuals - freedom from self, not as the gurus teach in a state of nirvana, but as Jesus taught, by a life of self discipline and service to others in the love of God. This is not the absence of morality or discipline but the freedom and discipline to live within them. Jesus truly was King no matter what one may think - his life and death declare it and his Kingdom comes to us when we submit ourselves to him. Moral confusion, devaluation, unemployment, oppressive tax and financial collapse threaten the nations. Wars and conflicts civil wars, coups, rebellions, destruction of natural resources, starvation, plagues, disease, ethnic violence and genocide sweep millions to death. Judgement is coming. History declares it, it has already begun. Nothing will stop it. The only door left open is Repentance. If only the nations knew how! If only we could return to the original message of scripture and set the example. But by discarding Israel much of the church has also discarded the message of the Old Testament prophets. Replacement Theology lulls many into false security and teaches that man will take dominion over all the earth without the King's return. In the past whenever the church has uplifted itself pride and error entered. Replacement Theology is a modern phase of Augustine's City of God concept. It exalts the church and leads into New Age thinking, the exaltation of man.

Past revivals were marked with seasons of prayer and deep heart rending repentance turning away from self exaltation and self dependence to obedience and reliance in God. Such great awakenings profoundly influenced the nations and history. They could do so again. By returning to Biblical standards of behaviour and by humbling ourselves we become less self-centred. But to turn from oneself is an unnatural process. It is

impossible without God's help. Repentance only comes when we are faced with the reality of judgement. If we could see the results of our actions before we did them then we might not do them. However an attitude of repentance helps us to do just that. It might humble us a bit to confess our need of God's help to get us out of this mess. At his crucifixion Jesus made a statement in history that stands forever as a declaration of humility and simple faith. In the face of religious bigotry, corrupt leadership, false friends, rejection, bribery, threats, torture and death he did not respond with anger, bitterness, self justification or intolerance. He stood firm and put the world on trial. Sadly so often people only turn to God as a last resort when all else has failed. Often it is through tragedy and hurt that we come to God. Thank God He is there. The crucifixion of Christ must have been the most awful thing to have experienced. It stands at the centre of history to stop us in our tracks and make us think. If it does not move us in some way then nothing will and our hearts are too hard. God was at the cross. He turned it into good. Jesus' death became pardon and blessing for those who receive him as Lord. The evidence of coming judgement is all around us if people would open their eyes. The world is sick, God alone can heal it. But any idea that God is a God of judgement is viewed with ridicule. People will not contemplate it. Twentieth century man has lost respect for God. Even the Church does not like the idea and seldom speaks of the consequences of sin. All fear of God is gone. Why is that? Is it because a God who will judge puts our life style in jeopardy?

Christendom and its nations have moved towards one world religion, cancellation of Biblical standards and amalgamation of all religions that deny salvation through Jesus Christ the Son of God. There is a prophecy about the end time antichrist that says he will speak against the Most High, persecute the saints of the Most High and intend to change times and laws. Daniel 7:25. This has happened; the laws and precepts of God have been watered down, changed and even cancelled.

Some Islamic nations are against the West and see it as the "great satan". One reason for this is the prevailing immorality that seems to be openly flouted in the West under the guise of freedom. On the one hand some in the "Christian" West have abused the Grace of God and commit great whoredom and on the other hand some in the "Islamic" East have enforced harsh laws in punishment of immorality. Neither works. Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ.

## **CHAPTER 6 – ACT 6**

### **THE NATIONS FACE JUDGEMENT – THE GATHERING STORM**

History testifies to the certainty of collective responsibility and judgement. Nations that turn aside from truth and justice invariably cease to exist. There are no exceptions. Even Israel, God's especially chosen nation, experienced the same fate. Israel is the visual example through history in which God chose to demonstrate these principles to the rest of the world. As the God of history His acts of redemption are displayed in Israel. Any nation that practices evil does so at its peril. When Israel turned from God's standards they were chastened and judged. Their society fell apart, their cities were destroyed, their people swept away in judgement. But when they turned back to God they were healed and restored. The pattern is the same for every nation. Those who deny this do not understand God's judgement just as the false prophets of old who spoke "Peace" in a time of imminent disaster. Unfortunately if warnings are not heeded then judgement follows.

When nations heeded the warnings they were spared. Many historians credit Wesley and his converts with keeping England from experiencing the bloody revolutions that occurred on the Continent. Devout Christians changed society. The last letter Wesley wrote was to encourage Wilberforce in his campaign against slavery in England. Wilberforce and his reformers brought an end to the slave trade long before other nations ceased the abominable practice. In America the preaching of Charles Finney won disciples who were greatly instrumental in the abolishing of slavery. In the six months after the Welsh revival of 1905, illegitimacy dropped by 50 percent. Repentance does change nations. "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

The world struggle is not political or military but is moral and spiritual. There is a civil war in the human race. It is a civil war of values. Once again, as in the days of Cain and Abel, the whole of mankind is being sifted into two types. Multitudes are in the "valley of decision". The real issue involves the understanding of right and wrong as defined in scripture. Isaiah's warning reverberates across 2,700 years of time "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." Isaiah 5:20. When the prophets of old warned the people and wept for them and again and again pleaded with them they were often scorned and even killed. When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, forecast the destruction of the temple and judgement upon Israel he was stoned to death. The leaders refused to repent even when Stephen recounted the Hebrew history of worship of Molech, the star of Rompha [Remphan – Saturn], astrology and other idols. When Sir Winston Churchill tried to warn the British people of coming conflict he was scorned until almost too late. The pattern is the same. Judgement will come.

There is only one course of action to take – prayer, repentance and intercession.

Archaeologists digging up ancient “civilizations” verify this principle. The sophisticated civilizations of Central and South America lie ruined with no apparent explanation. Yet evidence shows how they practised human sacrifice and crude sexual rites. All that remains of the ancient kingdom of Egypt are the pyramids and other ruins. Yet the Bible tells how the Pharaohs hardened their hearts and mistreated their slaves and rejected the truth of Moses. Babylon, once the splendour of the Euphrates, is now a mound of rubble. And so too are the impressive civilizations of Greece, Rome, China, Africa and others. In AD79 ash and lava engulfed Pompeii when Vesuvius erupted. Pompeii was a centre for trade and commerce and the people were generally wealthy and skilled. There is clear evidence of debauchery and acts of immorality. When the end came the perpetrators could not escape. The storm hit with particular vengeance. Some people may not like to hear it but wicked societies will be destroyed. Matt 21:41.

Another ancient city may have escaped such destruction at least for a season. When Jonah warned Nineveh of impending danger the entire community repented including the king. Other examples verify this principle. When almost the entire British army was trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk the British nation prayed with urgency not known before. They faced imminent defeat. Mothers and wives, King and Queen humbly sought the help of Almighty God. Disaster was unquestionably averted because of divine providence. Is God acknowledged for His answered prayer when the entire nation prayed or have they forgotten? When the slave trade flourished and rich, unscrupulous merchants traded souls for money the suffering peoples cried to God and eventually deliverance came. And in like manner any people that are unfairly treated will be delivered if they call upon God. If any nation repents and turns to God it will be saved.

God illustrates this in the history of the world and records it in the Bible. Jesus did not miss the lessons of history for He recalled the events that took place at the time of Noah and other times when God judged the world and the nations. For Jesus these were significant milestones in history. The Jewish faith believes in a God who displays His power and purposes in history. He is the God of history. He controls and speaks through historical events. Unfortunately most people are unable to “read” history correctly. We no longer teach history in our schools and have forgotten its lessons so are doomed to repeat them. We don’t pray anymore, have banned prayers in schools and public offices and have removed God from our school curriculum. We are actually taught there is no God. Yet when something bad happens people still ask “Where was God?” But we have pushed Him away. There is only one way to avert national disaster and that is by turning back to the laws of God, from Kings to peasants – none are exempt.

Jesus taught about consequences that face all nations especially in their attitude and deeds towards the Jews, God’s ancient people and to all dispossessed downtrodden and persecuted people. Through their wanderings the Jews suffered rejection and hatred.

Almost every nation in history turned against them at some time and showed them great injustice. Racialism is a display of pride and arrogance. Anti-Semitism expresses the appalling hatred of the human heart. Christians have forgotten that Jesus was Jewish. Jesus was a true Jew from the tribe of Judah, yet he respected and honoured men and women of all races. Christians who maintain a racial hatred know nothing about the true spirit of Jesus. He died for all peoples to deliver all from the sin of prejudice, racialism, inferiority, and oppression.

## **THE FESTIVALS OF GOD**

There are seven festivals of the Bible and they have great significance. They are divided into two groups, the first group relate to Passover and the second to Atonement. These Feasts have special importance to all believers not just Jews. They teach us about God's plan for the spiritual well being of the individual and the whole world. They all point to Jesus. The church only keeps some of them. What happened to the others?

### **THE FEAST OF PASSOVER**

This was instituted when Israel came out of Egypt. Each family selected a lamb and after a few days it was killed and eaten. It was a very personal feast as families gathered in homes. They took some of the blood of the lamb and sprinkled it upon the lintels of the home. The shed blood acted as a substitute that protected the firstborn from the "angel of death" that went through the land that night. Year after year the nation of Israel kept this feast as a memorial of how they had been delivered from Egypt. It also looked forward to the death of Jesus, God's lamb who fulfilled it when he died on the Day of Passover.

In this respect Passover depicts the Gospel going to all the families of the earth. Anyone, no matter what race or nation can by faith in Christ receive pardon. The blood of Christ covers them from judgement and they become children of God. It is a very personal experience; *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"*.

Closely linked to Passover were several other festivals: the feast of **Unleavened Bread**, the **Wave Offering** of the harvest, and the **First Fruits of Pentecost**. These served to illustrate spiritual truths and prophetic events which were all perfectly fulfilled at Christ's death; Jesus rose on the day of Wave Offering thereby representing the resurrection, his life represents the way of holiness, and the Holy Spirit came on the day of First Fruits Harvest, Pentecost.

### **THE DAY OF ATONEMENT**

The remaining three feasts were not wholly fulfilled by Christ at his first coming but

are events to be fulfilled in the future. They are to do with National atonement and World redemption. **The Feast of Tabernacles, Sukkot**, was the most glorious time of rejoicing and depicts the time of happiness and joy at the coming of the Messiah. But before that time the people had to keep the **Day of Trumpets** and the **Day of Atonement**. On the Day of Atonement the High Priest took blood from the sacrifice and entered the Temple there to represent and intercede for the entire nation. This was the most holy day of the year and all the people prepared for it by confessing their sins. Tradition says that at this time three books are opened – the first contained the names of those who have already repented, the second those who are about to repent and the third those who will not repent. The names of the righteous were *sealed* in the Book of Life. Jesus is the Atonement. Immediately after this there is **Sukkot** and the final great day of rejoicing when the **Shekinah Presence of God** comes to His people. The Ark is opened in the Synagogue and the Torah taken out. This is the **Simchat Torah** when the Lord will reveal Himself. Rev 11:19. The Day of Atonement is preceded by the **Day of Trumpets**. The Trumpets were a call for everyone to get ready. For ten days the nation prepared for the Day of Atonement so they might receive forgiveness when the High Priest entered the Holy Place. The nation was silent, all work stopped and everyone was in prayer until the High priest came out. The New Testament says Jesus is the High Priest who made atonement for sin through his blood. He entered the heavenly realms to intercede for his people but will return to bring redemption. When he comes he will judge all nations. The Trumpets, in the form of universal catastrophes, are calls to prayer and repentance. The problem is that so many people are deaf! What will it take to wake them up? The signs of world judgement are on every hand. The destruction of the environment, the collapse of society, the disintegration of nations, the collapse of finances, the HIV epidemic, the continued state of war and uncertainty, the massive famines, devastating droughts, floods, increase in earthquakes and other events are like trumpets blasting out warning. The nations are filled with greed, corruption, violence, and unhappiness. Millions of people suffer from diseases, alcoholism, and madness. The list is endless. In ancient Israel we read that such conditions were indications that the nation was under God's judgement. The prophet Amos warned, *"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel"*. The "Abominations of Desolation" are now seen worldwide.

## **JUDGEMENT IS INEVITABLE**

In history whenever certain conditions have prevailed destruction has always followed. Those conditions now fill the earth. Unfortunately most people cannot see history in this context. They miss the display of God's righteous acts and redemptive purposes. The predictions of the entire Bible refer primarily to this time in history and predict the Day of the Lord as a day of universal judgement upon all nations. A sound of warning is sweeping across the world. Sadly, scripture tells us that many refuse to repent! Despite unmistakable signs they harden their hearts like Pharaoh of old. *"The rest of mankind still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or talk.*

*Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.” [Rev.9:20]*

It also foretells, however, that a time will come upon the earth when no unrighteous acts of any kind will continue. All nations are called to prepare and those who do not will reap what they planted. Scripture predicts that the *remnant of Israel*, Jewish survivors, will return to the land and there meet Messiah. They will be the next nation to experience spiritual revival and offered cleansing at the Day of Atonement. All through history God’s Kingdom has come to different nations with seasons of repentance and revival. God moved in His Spirit at specific times in different nations. One example was the Welsh Revival in the early 1900s. This was a specific visitation by God to Wales. In the 1920s and 30s there was a significant outpouring of God’s Spirit in the Congo. Reading about church history we see that almost every nation has had a season when God came. Modern Israel must also come into a season of repentance to receive full healing. Because of all that they have been through and the hatred and persecution shown them they will cry out to God. They will repent, confess and call upon the mercy of God. There will be no other help available in this end time of great trouble.

Scripture indicates that their conversion will shake the world. Because of the supernatural nature of their deliverance from what will be certain destruction all the nations on earth will be silenced and have no alternative but to acknowledge that the God of Israel is the true God. Israel will, I believe, have a visitation from God, a real visitation of the Messiah. Israel will experience a restoration not in a political way but in a spiritual way. They will be restored to the Messiah and the great rift that happened at the crucifixion will be healed. Then Jesus will be King over the entire world, not a political or national king but a Heavenly all powerful spiritual King. According to the apostle Paul it is the conversion of Israel that gives hope to the world and brings about the resurrection. (Rom 11:15) Past sufferings of thousands of years have prepared both Gentile and Jewish believers, the “Israel of God”, for this. When God intervenes there will be resurrection life for His children both Jew and Gentile, those who belong to Him through the Blood Covenant of Christ. The power of the resurrection will be displayed at Christ’s coming. There are now Jews in Israel who are in fact Messianic believers – in other words, Jews who believe in Jesus as Messiah. Many are looking for and praying for the coming of Messiah. Scripture predicts that there will come a time when they will receive Him as Lord. However, Jesus is not coming just for Jews but for believers of every nation. When this happens the true church will become complete, Jews and Gentiles. (Eph 2:15) The trumpets declare the approach of that day.

The Bible describes that time in apocalyptic terms – when the sun turns dark and the moon red, when the mountains will tremble and cities fall, when pillars of cloud will stand upon the face of the earth. Such events could be caused by the devastating power that many nations now have in the form of Nuclear weapons. How did the ancient prophets predict such catastrophic scenes with such accuracy? There are people who still

do not think that mankind will use these weapons but they underestimate the wickedness in men's hearts, forgetting that they have been used already! Man has the ability to destroy all life on this planet. Nations that have this potential are not always friendly towards each other. In the past when man first used tools he turned them against his fellowman. When the bow and arrow were invented he used them, and spears and axes then gunpowder and guns and cannons, bombs and gas, when will it stop? Today a Trident missile has many more times the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb. History is a sorry story of woe and war. The madness of man marches on. The god of war, whether called Zeus, Jupiter, Mars or any other modern pseudonyms still manipulate the nations. His real name is Satan. However, The Lord will not allow Satan to destroy mankind but will intervene for our salvation. There will be a time of cataclysmic purging but the result will destroy Satan. Like Haman he will hang himself on his own rope. (Esther 7:9) More about Esther later.

The coming purging will sweep across the world and destroy the filth and dirt. In this way it will indeed be redemptive. The only door left open will be repentance. To survive coming events nations and individuals must repent. There is no other alternative but to rethink values, standards of behaviour and conduct, goals and the very meaning of life. Our selfish madness is driving the planet to destruction. Every last man, woman and child are involved. All who are able are called to a personal reappraisal and a new way of living in obedience to Jesus Christ and the laws of the God of the universe.

As individuals we are called back to Passover. There is no finer example to follow than that of Christ. He displayed the nature of God in selfless love. By receiving him as "Passover Lamb" the destroying angel passes over us and we receive faith to become God's child. Believers are spared judgement and have refuge under his shed blood. As nations we are warned to prepare for the Day of Atonement when all wrongs will be corrected. Retribution is coming. Individuals and nations are called to repent. All nations are called to confession, from kings and leaders down to the lowliest of citizens. Those that don't will suffer the coming events. There is no escape and nowhere to hide. The choice is repentance or judgement. Judgement is redemptive or destructive. The choice is ours. Salvation comes only through Christ. He is the only one to have overcome death. He has the power to forgive. Only Jesus can bring peace to the world – He is called the "Prince of Peace." World leaders are called to obey and serve Jesus the Son of God. He will judge and rule the nations. (Ps 2)

## **THE FALL OF THE CHURCH**

The apostle Paul forecast that the "church" would become corrupt, fall away from the truth of the Bible and become ineffective and even antichristian. He said that it would turn apostate. The sickness of Christendom is evident everywhere. Much of the church of today is a far cry from the first followers of Jesus and is permeated with humanism and rationalism instead of faith and obedience, weakened through the god of materialism

and controlled by the thinking and fashions of the world. It has strayed from the simplicity of Jesus' life and is bogged down in ritual. Historically it is a mixture of paganism and tradition. The ancient world had a multitude of gods and goddesses which represented the power of the sun and moon, the seasons, fertility rites, war, love, sex, war etc. And who from time to time communicated and interacted with men on earth. The pagan nations made statues to represent these gods and, idolatry, characterized by superstition and magic was widespread. These gods were spiritual beings – deceptive angels and demons and were incorporated into the church!

## **ANCIENT RELIGION AND “BABYLON THE GREAT”**

It was in the days of Gen 4:26 that men began to call upon the name of the Lord. So it was long ago that people knew about God, who He is and what He expected. Long ago God showed that the way to Him was through love and trust and that He would Himself provide the necessary sacrifice because of His great love. (Gen 3:15, 1 Pet 1:18-20, Rev 13:8) However, mankind turned from believing in God's provision and began to think that they needed nothing from God. No longer could they perceive God as a loving Creator Father who loved them but as someone who had to be placated. Deceived by sin and Satan they turned from the truth to all manner of religions and “gods”.

The foundations of ancient pagan religion came from the area of Babylon and were built upon the cult of the “mother goddess”. Primitive people considered the sun was a god and earth, the mother of crops as feminine, “Mother Earth”. Together with the moon they controlled the cycles of nature and the power of the priests and society was based upon a religion the roots of which lay in the cult of fertility which personified the life of nature as seen in the yearly seasons and harvests. The Babylonians worshipped this mother goddess and her son was represented as an infant or child in his mother's arms. Nimrod the builder of Babel took the title of this god. From Babylon this worship extended to Egypt where the mother and child were worshipped as Isis and Osiris, in India as Isi and Iswara, in Rome as Cybele and Jupiter, in Greece as Ceres with her babe at breast. The early inhabitants of Mesopotamia had a polytheism of gods and goddesses who controlled different provinces of nature. Underlying all this was the religion of the goddess of fertility and birth, and her consort the earth god. In her original form she was a bisexual serpent. Her consort took on the aspect of the dying god of vegetation and became identified with the god Tammuz the centre of whose cult was in the “holy city” of the mother goddess Ishtar. This mother goddess had two aspects; firstly she was considered the goddess of agriculture, the mother of harvest and of civilization and secondly she had a wilder side and depicted the wild virgin huntress and mistress of wild beasts. The religion that developed embodied the great cosmic mystery of the annual death and resurrection of nature, the cycle of winter and spring. It had two great moments; in the festival of the divine marriage [the annual wedding of the gods] and the yearly lamentation for the dying god Tammuz. Many pagan temples had temple prostitutes male and female and an emphasis upon sexual deviation and abomination.

The Egyptian mother goddess and her consort, Isis and Osiris, were carry-overs from Mesopotamia. The foundations of Syrian religion rest on the cult of mother goddess and her son or consort. This cult has profoundly affected religion throughout the world – India, Asia, Europe and elsewhere. The gods of the Greeks and Romans had their origins in the cult. The gods of Europe and ancient Britain were influenced by them. In the Bible we read about these gods and goddesses under different names and are warned not to be involved with them. Ashtoreth and Baal were both aspects of this false religion. The prophet Ezekiel described how God's displeasure came upon the city of Jerusalem because the people fell into the trap of worshipping Tammuz. In fact they even set up an image to this false god within the Temple! Judgement fell upon the nation because of this and other demon worship. Has not the church of today fallen for the same ancient lie and compromised its pure worship of the God of the Bible?

The worship of the sun as a deity goes back to very ancient times. In Egypt his name was Ra and in Canaan he was called Baal. Astrology identified the gods with the planets and saw in the constellations a system to determine human affairs. As Mesopotamian religion developed each god had his own star and the worship of the stars became popular, developing into Astrology which spread across the entire ancient world. The culmination of these tendencies was a belief in the sun as a great god and the emperor as the corresponding supreme power on earth. Mithras was the Assyrian god of light [also known to the Indians] and Mithraism reached Rome in the second century B.C. From very early times Romans had a weekly holiday dedicated to the sun. A glorious temple was built to him. Central to the mysteries of Mithras was the slaying of a bull [a practice still seen in modern entertainment]. Constantine passed an edict [A.D.321] that this day was a day of rest, hence Sunday, the day of the sun god. The Christians met on the first day of the week but for other reasons than to adore the sun. [By the way Satan is identified as the counterfeit light bearer.]

Many so-called Christian practices and festivals have no scriptural support whatsoever! The veneer of Christian imagery has superficially disguised these ancient rituals. Christmas is often no more than a commercialised festival. It can be a wonderful time if it is Christ centred and celebrates family and the truth about love and sacrifice, but many use it as an excuse for immoral celebrations. Santa has replaced Christ. Myth is mixed with Christian truth in a way that leaves many confused. Christmas has no Biblical foundation but originates in ancient Babylonian and Roman paganism. December the 25<sup>th</sup> is not the birthday of Jesus but the day of the Roman sun god. Christmas was not observed by the early Christians but was first celebrated in the 4<sup>th</sup> century after Constantine had incorporated many false festivals into the church. It was originally closely associated with the winter solstice. Christmas gifts stem from the Roman custom of giving “good luck” gifts to one another during the Saturnalia festival that occurred in December. [It does not come from the wise men who, by the way, gave their gifts to Jesus and not one another.] This festival honoured Saturnus the god of agriculture. The Christmas tree is a survival of pagan worship from Rome and Egypt. The festival of

Osiris [Egyptian god and king of the nether world] commemorates how his dead body floated ashore at Byblos and was revived by the mother goddess Isis as a green tree. The tree became the symbol of this revival and gave rise to the annual feast at which a fallen tree was erected and was elaborately decorated. The use of evergreens to decorate homes during pagan feasts and at the festival of Saturnalia has an unmistakable pre-Christian origin. At this feast the Romans elected a servant as a puppet king to rule over the festivities and dressed him in a purple robe. This is why the Roman soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and mocked him. The Babylonian “Drunken festival” of Bacchus was celebrated in this way. Later in the dark ages a Lord of Misrule was elected and the feast was the Feast of Fools. Many Christmas customs come from this time. Mistletoe and Holly were believed to be endowed with magical powers. I can hear some people say “Surely these things are not so important – they are just harmless fun”; harmless enough to kill and deceptive enough to stop people from ever coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus. The spirit world has always sought to mislead mankind. But you say Christmas and all these things are so important for the children. How many families sit down and teach the children the real truth about Jesus at this time? Yes, it is an opportunity for us to be happy but let’s not fool ourselves that God is glorified in all the tinsel, booze, broken bodies, hangovers, riotous parties, debts and worldly paraphernalia. That belongs to the worship of paganism. It is almost as if Jesus is adorned in a purple robe and mocked all over again. Sin is glorified even within the church. The European myth of Father Christmas has many facets one of which is his high-flying sleigh. This stems from the practice of the reindeer shepherds who ate poisonous mushrooms to induce hallucinations. Many other myths abound.

Easter is so called from Ishtar the Babylonian mother goddess the “Queen of Heaven” and of war and erotic love who also symbolized mother earth in the natural cycles of fertility. [The name is also derived from Oestre or Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and the god of fertility who died each year in winter but was reborn in spring.] Easter was observed long before Christ. It was this worship that was such an abomination to God. (1 Sam 7:3, 1 kings 11:5,33, 2 Kings 23:13, Jer 7:18,44:18) Easter eggs were common in heathen nations and represented the egg from which Ishtar the goddess of Easter was born. Closely associated with Ishtar was Tammuz a young god who was both divine and mortal. In Babylonian mythology Tammuz died annually and was reborn year after year representing the yearly cycle of seasons.

The festival of Megalensia, held in spring, mourned the death of Attis the counterpart of Tammuz. In the second century AD the idea of the resurrection was introduced into the festival. Ishtar was also linked to other goddesses of fertility and love. Ishtar was the goddess of physical love and she was the patron of the temple prostitutes and was worshipped in Babylon. Her name in Sumerian means “Queen of heaven”. She was also considered the mother who intercedes with the gods on behalf of her worshippers. Anat was a Canaanite goddess of war, love and fertility who was mistress of Baal the Canaanite sun god. Ashtoreth was the Syrian, Phoenician goddess of the moon, sensual

love, sex, and fertility. Cybele, the “great mother” from Asia Minor became popular and was a goddess whose worship revolved around a black meteorite stone. The ancient goddess of beauty and love, Aphrodite, undoubtedly came from Ishtar and then became the Roman goddess Venus. She assumed the characteristics of the Greek goddess of love and was regarded as the mother of the Roman people. Artemis was considered a virgin although she represented the pre-Greek goddess of childbearing, Astarte and Ishtar. She was associated with Diana the Roman goddess. One needs little imagination to see how these pagan deities [demons] stamped their ideas upon the church and the spiritual powers behind the world’s obsession with sex and the female body.

When Alexander conquered Asia there was an exchange of gods between the Greek and Asian cultures which later were absorbed into the Roman Pantheon of gods. Many temples were built in Rome to honour them. These gods and goddesses originated in ancient Egypt and Babylon and were adopted by the Greeks then by the Romans and their festivals and concepts incorporated into the church many centuries ago. There were other gods of the nations. Zeus was the universal chief of all gods and was also called Jupiter [Jove] by the Romans. He was the god of war, thunder and lightning and was known under different names. Later when the Germanic tribes collided with Christianity they brought their own gods with them and another great clash of cultures and of gods took place. The gods of the North West European peoples, the Germanic tribes, the Vikings and others show striking parallels with those of the Greeks and Romans. [Thor, the god of war, thunder and lightning met Zeus – but they were one and the same]. Pagan customs of worship were received into the church and continue to be practiced with Christian names. Like Solomon of old the church married heathen wives and accommodated pagan deities. In the days of Joshua a “Babylonian garment, silver and gold” was brought into the camp and caused defeat so today hidden within Christendom are many pagan customs. (Joshua 7:21) Scripture says; “I will punish those who...introduce pagan prayers and practices and...who import pagan superstitions and turn holy places into hellholes.” (Zephaniah 1:9 The Message)

The veneration through history of Mary “Queen of Heaven” arises from these Babylonian and pagan origins. The extent of Marian icons, shrines, appearances and worship is staggering. Millions of people, not just Catholics but Protestants, Muslims Hindus New Agers and many others visit her shrines every year and pray to her. Her influence has grown extensively and the “Marian Movement” that has developed aims to unite all religions under her “motherly” care. Her appearances rival true appearances of Jesus Christ and the messages from her apparitions are contrary to the true Gospel and are entirely deceptive. Their aim is to unite all religions into one united end time religion under the “Queen of Heaven.” Anyone who researches this will discover how real it is.

### **WHEN MEN BECOME “gods”**

The early Stoic teachings embraced all manner of popular religions and astrological

notions. The Stoics believed that man himself, and especially his mind, was divine. They advocated the worship of their own indwelling spirit. The Gnostics also taught that sparks of divinity encapsulated in the bodies of individuals could be awakened by receiving certain secret knowledge. Ancient Gnostics taught the concept of men becoming divine. Astrology was brought from the Near East to Greece after the conquest of Alexander. The Zodiac horoscopes were known in Babylon from at least 500 BC. The signs of the Zodiac show unequivocally that the Greeks derived their arrangement of the Zodiac, and consequently the mythology that was intertwined with it, from the Babylonians. Astrology grew from the study of astronomy and a belief that the heavens illustrate conditions below. The stars were used to predict weather conditions and favourable seasons. The Greeks developed it from the realm of national conditions to the affairs of the individual. It became an astral religion used to determine in advance the wishes of the gods. Astrology was further developed by the Arabs and during the Renaissance period. Seers such as Nostradamus and others claimed occult knowledge. Astrology is not remotely Christian and has no support from the scriptures. It is steeped in superstition and a belief in the “gods”, unseen forces and powers. It was considered by Biblical prophets as false. Modern astrology focuses us away from God and manipulates people into false security evading the question of sin. The prophet Isaiah rebuked the Israelites for their superstition and apostasy and said that sorcerers and astrologers would not be able to save them in real trouble. Some Babylonian concepts are still found in Judaism and many within Christendom and in the “church.”

The cult of Theosophy further promoted the idea of the inner divine spark, the evolution of divine men being made perfect, as do many eastern philosophies. Hinduism believes in an evolution of the soul through many incarnations until it attains perfection. Buddhism teaches the goal of nirvana. Astrology and the cult of self-deification are today widely accepted. Adolf Hitler was an avid follower of occult astrology and so are many modern people. Millions of books, magazines, papers and radio/TV programmes spread it. I am not saying all who do so are bad, just misled.

## **NEW AGE TEACHING**

New Age promotes astrological concepts as well as developing the inner “divine” being. This sounds a lot like so-called Christian teaching which is taught in many churches under the guise of scripture. Much of the church has been infiltrated with a modern Gnosticism veiled behind scriptures. The emphasis has moved away from the foundation of God’s word the Bible and is put on visions, prophecies and subjective experiences especially extra-Biblical knowledge. Scripture is no longer considered authoritative and is no longer the final authority but words of prophecy and visions are considered of more importance. Emphasis upon the teaching of some modern “prophets” leads church-goers further and further away from the Bible and Jesus as the all sufficient source for faith. Faith is no longer understood as trusting the Almighty Sovereign God through His Son Jesus Christ but as a formula for success and wealth. The cross is used to exalt the

individual instead of to bring humility, convict of sin and deal a deathblow to the self-nature. Current teaching even claims that “believers” can become like gods. Is this not the same ancient lie disguised in “Christian” garments? This was the original lie in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:5) and is the forerunner for a union of all religions. The cry of New Age for a New World Order and one religion is a grand repeat of Babel. Nimrod, a powerful leader, built this city and by uniting the people built a tower that stretched into heaven. (Genesis 11:1-9) The world of today is mostly peoples and languages governed by powerful dictators, autocratic regimes and values of humanism. “Civilization” has built a huge tower that reaches into the heavens; man has walked on the moon but cannot live in harmony on earth. Astrology believes in different ages and that the Age of Aquarius will usher in a New Age of peace. But if this is without Jesus as Lord then it will be the peace of deception, the “mystery of iniquity”. Surely, the prediction of the apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 that people will believe a lie has come to pass! The “Abomination of Desolation” is now in the “church.”

## **THE OCCULT**

Some churches have embraced traditional worship of ancestral spirits and superstitions that are not Christian. New Churches as well as existing churches often include traditional spirit worship and pagan values. The veneration and worship of saints, icons, relics, and the practice of spiritualism all promote non-Biblical principles that are forbidden in Scripture. The teaching of Gnostic values and New Age thinking undermines Biblical truth.

The rise in occult practices has increased dramatically. Witches and wizards, dragons and dungeons, satanic covens, astrology and spiritualism, weird children’s toys, books on the occult, DVDs, devilish music, drugs of all kinds, all now are quite common. They are promoted on TV and children sit for hours watching the world of deception. It seems parents are afraid to discipline. Whole generations of children have grown up with no discipline whatsoever. Adult entertainment is no better. Hollywood has violent entertainment, soap operas, sex orgies and parties that rival anything the old Romans had! Pornography and violence abound. Violence and sex are the biggest crowd drawers. Consequently child molesting, domestic violence, rape and numerous obscene practices plague society

Unnatural practices are condoned and excused. And still the church continues her prostitution. At a recent world wide assembly of Christian institutions invocations to the spirits were openly conducted as well as honour given to ancestral spirits and to Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and a host of other religions. The assembly issued a statement calling for visible unity amongst all religions. Is this not a present day Babylonian tower? It is impossible to make all religions the same. If Elijah had to return would he not challenge the church to serve God and get rid of Baal and the many false gods that now exist? Would he not call us back to the true faith of the patriarchs? How long will we halt

between two opinions? If Jesus were to return and walk among us would his teachings be too radical for many churches to let him in? Would Jesus not repeat his words of long ago “You serve the traditions of men and do not keep the commandments of God”. Yes, traditions can be good as long as they do not violate God’s laws. Nations certainly need to remember their past and hold to that which is good. But crowds flock to cults and gurus, to astrology and New Age but ignore the one Star that outshines them all, the Star of Bethlehem. Wise men still follow Him!

At one time Jesus took the disciples to a very pagan place, Caesarea Philippi, in northern Galilee well out of their normal route. This place had been the centre for Baal and was at that time a shrine to the Greek god Pan. It was there that Jesus asked them “Who do people say I am?” Some thought he was Jeremiah or Elijah or perhaps one of the prophets but when he asked, “Who do you say I am?” the answer from the disciples was clear “You are the Christ the Son of the living God. Only you have the words of eternal life.” This is still the question we all need to answer – who is he? Is he just another teacher or prophet – or is He the Son of God? The answer decides our eternal status.

### **THE BRIDE OF CHRIST – Revelation 21:2**

The *third* woman in Revelation is symbolic of the “Bride of Christ” the true church, not a denomination but comprised of every person who has received Jesus as Lord. Throughout the centuries there have always been sincere believers in all denominations. Among Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox and Reformed, there have always been true followers of Christ. Sometimes they have been overwhelmed but nevertheless they have faithfully followed his teachings despite the Babylonian system. They have kept themselves pure as “virgins”. The command of scripture is to, “Come out of Babylon my people.” When the institutionalised church became dead, breakaway groups revived the simple commandments of Christ and returned to the original way he taught. Like a tree that constantly puts forth new life as old branches wither and die so is the true church. At the end of two thousand years of growth there is indeed much dead wood but evidence of life can be seen. There are still countless numbers of people who believe in Christ and serve Him despite their own weakness and the failures of world systems. But much of the church is asleep. “Ichabod” is written across Christendom – the glory has departed. The Gentile nations like dead branches have withered and fallen away from the faith and God is about to graft the Jews back in. The true Bride, believers in Jesus from every nation, is called away from the Babylonian harlot and the old Roman-Greek mindset back to Biblical roots. Renewal is to be found in the Hebrew Covenant. Revival will not come without turning back to Bible standards.

### **THE CHURCH HOLDS THE KEY TO THE NATIONS**

Repentance must start in the church; it holds the keys to the Kingdom. Matthew 16:19. God calls His people to lead the way. In the book of Revelation there are seven churches

and to five comes the clear warning to repent. Jesus says that He will spew the lukewarm church out of His mouth. It is not so much that He is coming for the church but rather to judge and cleanse the church. When Jesus came the first time the religious order of the day faced judgement. Surely it does so again. In his parables Jesus said that first the tares will be burnt up before the wheat is gathered. He said that at his coming there will be a purging and then there will come a great renewal, restoration and worldwide harvest. The “Abomination of Desolation” is actually within the “church.”

Scripture predicts the complete destruction of all that is Babylonian. Judgement starts in the house of God. It is the “beast” systems of the world that will destroy apostate Christendom. (Rev 17:16) If the people who profess faith in Christ are not committed how can unbelievers change? What hope is there for the nations if the churches that represent them do not pray for them? Repentance is not legalism. Sadly too often groups form and claim to be the remnant and say they alone keep the standards of holiness and have the truth. They see all others who do not belong to their group, think their way or uphold the standards they impose as lost. This is the deception of being religious without compassion and mercy. Surely God looks on the hearts of all people and knows the true motives of all despite their outward denominational affiliation or lack of it. Legalism was the sin of the Pharisees and is not true repentance. There are many people who have never heard of Jesus or understood his life and death. They were born under religions and customs that disregard the Bible message. Yet they try hard to do the right thing and live uprightly. When things really disentangle many will seek God’s salvation.

True believers must intercede for others in prayer. Yet little prayer takes place. In some churches singing seems to have replaced prayer. Children are no longer taught scripture. There is very little instruction in sanctification. Instead of Bible teaching from the pulpit there is much subjective speculation and humanistic philosophy. Spurgeon is called the “Prince of Preachers” because his sermons were so Biblically based. But often today congregations are fed on rote, gimmicks, entertainment, words of prophecy, visions, secular psychology and humanism instead of the Bible! Does the church really speak out on moral issues, on corruption, pornography, extra-marital sex, work ethics and dishonesty? Are the youth warned of the danger of the “broad way” that leads to destruction? Does the church warn on sin and accountability? Or does it not believe in them anymore? The first apostles certainly did! Do we warn against spiritism, occult, astrology and other heresy or turn a blind eye and even condone them? We hear a lot from some pulpits about being blessed, prosperous, healed and fulfilled which is all well and good in the appropriate season but do we hear about confession of sin, intercession for the nations, sacrificing for the poor, justice for the abused, mercy on the lost and holy living? What would we do if God judged the church right now? What if people fell down dead because of sin? (Acts 5:1) Not everyone who falls down under the “anointing” fall because of favour. People can fall because of demonic strongholds in their lives. People attend church and get “blessed” but do lives change? Are we ready for a real move of God? Some churches seem to concentrate on teaching positive thinking,

escapism and feel well techniques. Much of the church seems stuck in ancient liturgy and tradition and the dogmas and rituals of men. Other churches do not believe in Christ's deity or his coming and have strayed from clear moral statements of scripture? Someone once said that if the Holy Spirit withdrew from many churches there would be no visible change. If we truly believed that Christ is coming and world judgement imminent then we may not act or think as we do.

## **DANIEL'S PRAYER**

All these revelations of future events were not given to Daniel and John to make them clever but to prepare them for the great task of intercession. As a young lad Daniel stood firm in the midst of testing. He refused to be influenced by the values or fashions of the heathen. He was not caught up in their customs and refused to compromise even in the face of death. Yet when in need the kings and rulers turned to him for advice. Daniel always responded by giving them the truth from God. Daniel had a humble, servant attitude and was deeply concerned, not just for his own people, but also for the people whom he served. He wanted to see them blessed and gave them the right counsel. He was a respected leader and profoundly influenced many people of his time to serve God. When Daniel understood what was about to happen he prayed in a way that made a difference. He prayed in earnest and confessed his own and his nation's sins. (Daniel 9:1)

True intercession is confession. It is not rebuking or binding or loosing or "possessing the land." Spiritual warfare involves confession. This is not condemning everyone else but rather taking the conditions of the people upon one's own heart in personal identity. We approach a time when the Beast is stamping his Mark upon the minds of men and women. By accepting the values of the world, especially those that violate God's laws, one takes the Mark of the Beast. God offers His seal to all those who resist the prevailing philosophies of worldly corruption and ungodly values and sigh and groan in prayer for the abominations that are committed upon the earth. Ezekiel 9:4. Those who commit themselves to keep the statutes and laws of a loving God of truth and justice, who uphold the way of self sacrifice and love, and reject ungodliness, lust, sin, dishonesty, sexual depravity, lying, drunkenness, swearing, stealing, abuse of others and such like and who sanctify themselves to the Lord will be sealed and saved.

Scripture teaches that there are spiritual rulers over nations and in the world. Mankind has always been linked with the supernatural. The coming upheaval will involve the spirit world. Daniel confessed his sin and his people's sin and when he did something began to happen among the spiritual forces that manipulated the nations. Invisible thrones began to fall. Spiritual power that held sway over the nation for many years was broken. The "gods" began to topple. When we pray Angels respond. Our prayers, if prayed in the Spirit of our Lord, will break through invisible strongholds and empower Angels to be victorious and release nations from demonic bondage.

## THE FEAST OF PURIM

This Biblical Feast is understood by few Christians. Few people realise that the Feast of Purim is as prophetic in outworking as all other Biblical Feasts. It is found in the book of Esther and is one of the most moving accounts in the whole Bible. At a time when the entire Jewish population was scattered in 120 provinces of Persia faced annihilation one woman made the difference. This was Queen Esther who understood the plight of the Jewish people and risked her own life by entering the presence of the King to plead for them. She had an attitude of total self sacrifice and said, "If I perish I perish." With the help of Mordecai a faithful Jew she had the courage and wisdom to intercede for them and disaster was averted. Haman, the arch enemy of God's people, was exposed and brought to judgement and all those who planned the destruction of God's people were themselves eliminated. We face a similar scenario in the world right now. The Jewish people are faced with the very real possibility of disaster if overwhelmed by nations that have vowed many times to annihilate them. The next "World War" will be fought over their destruction or preservation. If they are destroyed then the whole world and every other nation will be in jeopardy. The future for us all is at stake. Already there are more than enough nations with nuclear weapons to cause total world destruction. If more nations with radical, fundamentalist religious mentality get nuclear capabilities then we are in dire danger. We all will perish.

Esther is symbolic of the true Church of King Jesus. Living believers in Jesus hold the future, not politicians, military leaders or anyone else. It is only believers who have access into the "Holy Place" to meet with the King in intercession. But there are only a few like Esther who have the wisdom, courage, commitment and faith to understand the present reality and to do anything. We need to take her mantle of prayer and "If we perish we perish". May the Lord give Christians the ability to grasp the significance of what is happening and to pray for His Kingdom. A day will come when the enemies of God will be destroyed. In that day the terror of judgement will fall upon all who do evil both Jew and Gentile. It is the "Day of the Lord".

The Lord will come in "clouds of heaven" and "flaming fire" with the armies of God clothed in white linen and mounted on white "horses" and will destroy the wicked. Notice how this age-long conflict develops through different stages. First it is against God's people in earthly Jerusalem and on earth, secondly it is against the Lord Himself, and thirdly in the very final conflict it is against the "camp" of the saints, the "beloved city". (Zech 14:1, Joel 3:11; Rev 19:19; 20:9) This camp depicts an encampment in battle-array, the "Israel of God" both Jew and Gentile believers. Notice it is the Lord himself who destroys the wicked, not His people. His people will simply stand and see what He will do. At that time the ungodly are destroyed. The Lord made clear that the tares will first be burnt up, only then will the wheat be gathered. There is an order; the wicked are removed and then those who remain will be gathered into the Kingdom. Matthew 13:24-39.

## CHAPTER 7 - ACT 7: THE FINAL ACT

The world at this time is poised for the final act. The stage is set, the props are in place and all that remains is for the curtain to lift and the final actors to step forward into the lime light for all to see. The nation of Israel has been restored after 2000 years, the ME is in turmoil as regimes fall, Europe is facing economic collapse and social crisis, Russia is looking for opportunities to rebuild its economy and influence in the world and especially Middle Eastern countries, USA is trying to do the same, Turkey and NATO are drawn in, China with a huge industrial growth is not willing to lose its position and the United Nations is powerless to stop the carnage. Added to this we have growing world population, not enough food and ever increasing poverty, famine and sickness with people living in burgeoning slums devoid of adequate facilities or proper administration and law. Every nation on earth is contending with rebellion, inflation, crime, disputes, conflicts and unrest. And if that was not bad enough we have massive weather disasters; droughts, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic disruptions. Huge spiritual forces are whipping up a storm. The world is like a gigantic chess board with nations moved like pawns but behind them are the unseen spiritual forces. The human race has always been involved with the invisible realm of the supernatural. Strange, inexplicable phenomena have occurred throughout history. Belief in gods and spirits has controlled individuals, nations and history. From the days of Babylonian and Greek mythology to present times the supernatural has always held people. Mans' search for meaning, in life and after life, has led him to pursue the spirits, to appease the spirits and to obey the spirits. And there have been those who have tried to control others through the spirits.

So grew the many religions of the world. Pantheism and tribal spirits became powerful forces. Shrines were built and secret rites practiced by the initiated. These secret groups preserved "secret knowledge" and whole nations submitted themselves to invisible forces and to the priests who dominated them. Union with and communion with spirits is the basis for many religions. Trances, possession, hallucinations, sacrifices, secret incantations all seek to call up the spirits. In this so-called enlightened age most people have had some contact with the inexplicable unseen world. Science cannot give adequate answers for many strange phenomena. Nations are caught in the power of the spirit world and many individuals experience spirits controlling them in some way.

The Bible calls these unseen forces "demons". It also talks about angels who are rulers and princes over nations. It tells of both evil and good angels who are engaged in battle and explains that the spirit world misled mankind to turn away from the true God of love and righteousness to serve a lie. Fallen angels and religions have misrepresented the true character and divine nature of God. None of the religions except Christianity credit God as being a true Father who is capable of personal love; a God of justice and truth who took responsibility for sin upon Himself in Jesus so that Mankind may be pardoned. We need to be restored to Him through Jesus His Son.

When the Lord hung on the cross the sun was darkened for three hours and a deathly gloom settled upon the planet. As Jesus died not only was he surrounded by hateful malicious sinners but also the full forces of demonic armies. For the first three hours he suffered the malicious taunting and mocking of his fellow countrymen and rulers. For the last three hours He withstood all the dark spiritual powers of the universe. If the people could have had their spiritual eyes opened they would have seen the skies full of dark spiritual powers. All the heavenly rebels surrounded him and every dissident in creation came against him. (Psalm 22:12,13; 118) This was their hour and Jesus was lashed with everything they could muster. He was tested to the full measure yet no darkness was found in him. (Jn 14:30) Wave upon wave of malicious fallen angelic rulers smashed him as he hung defenceless to their merciless, ruthless pounding. Yet the “Everlasting Rock” stood firm. When the last wave foamed out its shame and filth he was triumphant. (John 19:30) Nailed to the cross he took on the entire power of Satan and was victorious. As he yielded his spirit and sank to the realms of the nether world the earth quaked and the rocks rent. On the third day when he arose another quake shook the earth as the Eternal Son of God broke the chains of death. (Matt 27:51, 28:2)

### **THE SUN TURNS DARK – Joel 2:31**

One of the prophetic signs of the end of the age is that the sun will turn dark. What does this mean and how will it happen? We have seen that as Jesus suffered on the cross the sun turned dark. This was not a sand storm or an eclipse; it actually turned dark, like sack cloth. Something happened in Jesus that turned the sun dark; the sun that has been worshipped for millennia and holds the solar system together and gives life to every living thing, turned dark.

Scientists today know what makes the sun turn dark. Huge magnetic storms cause flares that shoot out radiation into the solar system. These storms can be seen when viewed through a very dark glass, they are called sun spots. The bigger the disturbance the bigger the sun spots, huge dark areas of the sun turn dark. Revelation predicts that a third of the sun will turn dark and a time when it will all turn dark. This does not mean it will cease to function or not be visible but that there will be massive cosmic storms. Scientists who study these things already observe great disturbances and irregular patterns in the sun which are increasing in intensity. They are linked to the weather cycles of earth. The weather turmoil we are experiencing is caused primarily by spiritual disruption to the normal harmonious working of the planet and solar system, even the sun, and are signs and omens foretold in the Bible. At the time of the flood the world was filled with violence and the *thoughts* of men were constantly wicked. (Genesis 6:5) Our thoughts directly affect us physically. It is now known that if we harbour bitterness, resentment, lying, lack of forgiveness, anxiety, fear, hate and similar negative sinful thoughts and passions we can suffer serious physical consequences such as sickness and disease. I am not saying that everyone who is sick is bad or sinful. But scientists know without doubt that some illness is the result of our thought patterns. They disrupt our

inner harmonious energy fields. That is why there is so much emphasis now on counselling. However, counselling cannot solve our problems. Sin is only solved through confession to God through Jesus our Saviour who took our sins upon himself.

In the days of Noah there was so much negative energy that it brought worldwide turmoil onto the earth and I believe caused the flood. It is not so much that God sends judgment than we bring it upon ourselves. Our thoughts generate large amounts of energy. Every person has an energy field or aura. Every organ in our body including our brains has an electro/magnetic energy field. The brain functions through electrical impulses. Some researchers believe that thoughts can be transmitted and that the brain is like a receiver and transmitter. All around us there are thousands of invisible wave lengths that we are unable to consciously discern. There are light and radio waves, TV waves, satellite waves, x-rays and numerous others. They bombard the earth and some go right through the earth. They can cause great damage by disrupting our inner energy. They are invisible yet they are there. How often do you suddenly get a thought as if from nowhere, straight out of the air? We can often receive impulses and impressions from people and from spirits. There are numerous examples of when loved ones receive messages from each other even from a distance, or when one is thinking about someone and then unexpectedly meet them or when one just knows that someone needs help or something is going to happen. Our thoughts create a “climate” around us in which we function within ourselves and with others, how much more when multitudes of people are producing them. There is a blanket over every nation and community made up of the thoughts, attitudes and values of the people. It is like a collective reservoir of energy. This is the spirit realm and our thoughts interact in that realm. That energy impacts the electro magnetic fields of the earth, the solar system and even the sun itself. It can block out God’s light. It disrupts earth’s harmony, the weather and even the minds and actions of people. Creation is holistic and everything is connected. Man is connected in the spirit realm to millions of others and to the whole cosmos. Individually we are either connected to God or Satan.

Sun storms create vast amounts of invisible harmful rays that bombard the earth. The ozone layer helps deflect these rays away preventing them from penetrating the atmosphere. However, the ozone layer has been severely damaged and large holes have appeared over both the Arctic and Antarctic areas. If these storms are severe enough they could disrupt all satellite communications, computers, in fact almost all modern technology will be rendered useless for the duration of the storm. They could be dangerous to people. Our brains are affected by outside stimuli. Flashes of light can cause migraines and epilepsy. Scriptures indicate that on the “Day of the Lord” a “fire” will burn which will harm only the wicked. The Lord Jesus will come in “flaming fire” which will be selective. It will only destroy people of a certain disposition and will engulf the entire world, there will be no where to hide. Revelation says that those people who have the “mark of the beast”, in other words the inner disposition of evil and thought pattern, will be destroyed. Those people who have the “seal of the Lord” are

protected. This is why it is important to have the “mind of Christ”. When we are obedient to Him our thought patterns are governed by the Holy Spirit and we are shielded from harmful thoughts and spiritual powers of darkness.

Such a “fire” is not new to the Bible but has been recorded before. Back in the days of Moses there was a “holy fire”; the burning bush was not consumed by it but those people who broke God’s laws were consumed. The fire of the Lord was selective. Our actions always come back upon ourselves. Sin hurts us more than anyone else. Fire is a figure for judgment or refinement. For believers it is a symbol of purging and purifying; for the wicked it speaks of judgment and destruction. Elijah also called fire down from heaven and Elisha did the same. There is a mysterious phenomenon known as “spontaneous combustion”. It is discredited by many scientists yet there is no real explanation for it. There are many mysteries in this world that are not easily explained but are nevertheless recorded. Despite all our knowledge we do not know everything. The apostle James wrote about the fire that will consume people from their tongues. This fire will inwardly eat the flesh of those who worship money and idols and speak and think evil. (James 3:5,6 5:1-3.) The prophet Zechariah predicted the same thing. (Zech 14:12) Yet the fire that fell at Pentecost did not harm the disciples. (Acts 2:1)

I believe a time will come when all modern technology including computers, weapons and communications will be knocked out by cosmic disruption. It will also affect people who live in depravity and sin; it will purge the world of wickedness. “*Jesus will come in flaming fire taking vengeance*” upon the wicked “*whom he will destroy with the brightness of His coming.*” (2 Thess 1:8 2:8) Light itself is powerful; lasers are concentrated light that can burn anything. The scripture says that “God is light and in Him there is no darkness.” I believe the electro/magnetic fields of the earth will be disrupted and this will usher in a transition which will purge the earth and bring in new conditions. These magnetic tremors are already being seen in the sun and solar system. I believe they will eventually neutralise our modern technology that has been developed to function in present conditions but will be unable to function once those conditions are interrupted. The modern world has been built on such discoveries as electricity and computers. There are now vast electrical grids built around cities and nations. When one flies over a city at night and looks down one can see just how vast these networks are. All our modern technology depends upon them but they only exist and function because of the present laws of electro/magnetism which are dependent upon the sun. If the earth’s cycle is disturbed sufficiently then all of this will change. It will be a repeat of what happened at Babel when God disrupted their technology and the people were unable to function. The World Wide Web internet only functions because of certain “laws”. For all the good it has brought it is in many ways like a huge city of Babel with people of many languages sharing knowledge both good and bad like a gigantic brain. The day will come when it will totally collapse and not function. When this event happens then not only will our technology be useless but the minds of many people will also be scrambled unless they have spiritual protection. This present world is “reserved

unto judgment by fire.” (2 Peter 3:7) Those who have the mind or “mark of the beast” will be destroyed. “Spontaneous combustion” is a preview of what could happen.

Earthquakes are a sign of the turmoil of this age as creation groans in travail wanting to give birth to the new heavens and earth. (Rom 8:22) Revelation tells how spiritual powers are released upon the earth from a realm called the Abyss. (Rev 9:1) There are dark forces fighting in the spiritual realms around the planet and in the hearts and lives of multitudes of people and nations.

## **SECRET SOCIETIES**

Scripture warns repeatedly not to have dealings with the occult: magic, astrology, familiar spirits, spiritualism and other heathen practices. The Bible explains that there has been a rebellion among these invisible powers and that large numbers have turned away from God. Contact is possible between the unseen world and earth and this rebellion has affected mankind. The whole human race has been led astray and deceived by cunning, malignant, evil beings that seek ultimate control over the planet. Every nation has been led into some form of deception and rebellion. Over the centuries nations have given themselves increasingly to spiritual deception, superstition and falsehood leading them further and further into spiritual darkness. The result has been an increase in all manner of bondage, wicked practices, drunkenness and alcoholism, sexual deviation, incest, pornography, dishonesty and lack of scruples, sadism, slavery, violence, crime and all manner of sin and unrighteous acts.

Through history certain secret societies and religions have claimed to be the guardians of the secrets of life and the mysteries of antiquity. These societies claim to guard occult secrets based on knowledge and ritual magic. Their origins go back to the secret societies of ancient Egyptian and Babylonian priests. An essential part of many secret societies are the Egyptian gods Isis and Osiris, the mother goddess and god of the underworld and prince of the dead. The “Eye of Osiris” is a symbol still used today. Other Egyptian hieroglyphic symbols are used. The sun is an important symbol and signifies those who are “illuminated”. Illumination or the reception of light comes through trances, occult rituals, hallucinating drugs and meditation. Their emphasis is upon subjective experiences that open the individual to other realms. The religion underlying secret societies is Gnosticism. This thinking embraces most false religions and teaches that men can become gods. They say that through steps of spiritual evolution man can reach the state of godhood. Isis and Osiris mutated into new identities as they passed to different nations. As already discussed, in Greece and Rome Isis became Diana, Venus, Aphrodite and Athena. Osiris became Zeus and Mercury.

Gnosticism placed much emphasis upon secret knowledge. According to Gnosticism a person does not receive salvation through faith but through possession of Gnosis. Someone who receives Gnosis evolves into god! The Gnostics set themselves up as a

special group who had become enlightened gods through special knowledge. They enticed others to follow them through the promise of secret knowledge and special formulas. What are the aims of these societies? So secret are the true motives that they are kept from all but the highest initiated members.

Investigators believe that there are links between certain societies and international manipulations, revolutions, wars, banking and financial manipulations to control the nations and the world. Further comment is beyond the scope of this book except to draw the reader's attention to the prophecies of Revelation where it is predicted that at the end of this present era a Satanic World Order will attempt to control all nations and seek to destroy believers both Jews and Christians. The signs of such a spiritual take over are evident. Not only are the conditions ripe on every hand but such doctrines are openly promoted. The original rebellion mentioned in the Bible, the most ancient of books, was the sin of rebellion against God by the exaltation of "self" through the gaining of special knowledge. This attempt by Satan was to deceive mankind and control the world. Surely we must be seeing the climax as we approach the end of the present era and indeed 6000 years of recorded human history?

History testifies to accumulated wrongs through the centuries resulting in wars, oppression, depredation, and awful suffering. People seem powerless as they are driven to shipwreck before these cruel winds. When will it end? In the past this tide of evil was stemmed only as communities turned from sin and received the gospel. Confession breaks the yoke. This is true for the individual as well as the nation. Centuries of unconfessed sin now hold sway over the nations. They overshadow them and demand judgment. Bitter past atrocities, injustices, and crimes await retribution because of no forgiveness. There is no forgiveness because there is no confession. As in the days of Noah so now the world is filled with violence and the imaginations of men's hearts are constantly wicked. We are witnessing the sins of past generations heaped up upon the earth. Already we are seeing the results of judgment as nations dissolve in civil wars. Everyone's hand is against his brother. The earth is ripe for harvest and the true angels are God's messengers to bring about justice. Elijah's end time message is one of reconciliation. Malachi 4:5,6. Godly judgement will bring reconciliation to the world. Jesus spoke about judgement on nations. His parables were a call to national repentance. It is a call that goes out to all nations on earth; the United States of America, Russia, Britain and the European nations, Canada, India, Australia, China, the Far East, the Middle East nations, Africa, South America, the Islands of the sea - all are faced with the reality of judgement, none are exempt. The world is not going to be destroyed but it will experience the "Day of the Lord" when all nations will face judgment. The Bible says, *"at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* No sin will survive. There will be no new age until the old is wiped clean. The whole world will be called to repentance.

## **STRANGE OMENS AND SIGNS**

This “heavenly war” is being fought right now. Angels are mentioned in almost every book and age of the Bible and are active all through Revelation. It is angels that rally God’s people and protect them. They fly in the midst of heaven and intervene on earth and as the trumpets sound rank upon rank of angels enter into combat. Two mighty armies clash; Michael and his angels fight Satan and his angels. On earth an army of physical men possessed and backed by supernatural fallen angels will plunge the nations into war.

One of the most curious and widespread phenomena of recent times has been the world-wide sighting of UFOs and the belief in “aliens.” However these are not confined to the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> centuries but strange signs in the sky have been recorded throughout history even from ancient Egyptian times. UFOs have manifested themselves in different ways. There seems no scientific explanation for some of these strange appearances and there are countless theories about them and other strange things. So many have been seen that it is pointless to continue to deny them, something exists - the question is what? Has there been a cover up to hide the true nature of these beings? A popular notion is that they are extraterrestrials from another planet or realm. Some New Age teachers claim that these aliens are going to help the earth by establishing a universal government that will bring peace. At last the so-called “gods” seem to be showing themselves.

These strange phenomena are not new to the Bible in which there is ample evidence of angels and an explanation of fallen beings that are aliens opposing the Kingdom of God. The scriptures declare there are spirit beings that manifest themselves and become visible from time to time. Elisha saw an entire army of angels. 2 Kings 6:17. They have vehicles, wear clothes, carry weapons and are involved in a war. They have rulers and princes over them. Michael the Prince represents God’s people. The leader of the other side is Satan, the supreme counterfeit god of war and rebellion. Under him are hosts of devils or demons.

The Bible predicts that in the “end times” demonic beings will come upon the earth. This has already happened; war, corruption, immorality, binge drinking are all evidence of their activity, and UFOs and other spiritual activity.

Soon after the end of WW11 people began to see strange things. Air Force and civilian pilots, astronauts, astronomers and people from all walks of life have seen unexplained things. There are now thousands of accounts of contacts with “aliens”. However, this is not new, through history many visitations and sightings have been recorded. Roman historians recorded “fire balls” and phantom ships that streaked across the sky. The Jewish historian Josephus records in “Wars of the Jews”, book VI chapter V section 3 strange phenomena in the sky around Jerusalem: “besides these, a few days after the feast...a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account

of it would seem to be a fable were it not related by those who saw it and were not the events that followed it of such considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for before sun setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds and surrounding of cities". See also 2 Maccabees 5:1-4. The ancient Chinese, Indians, Greeks and many others record similar things. During the middle ages there were reports of luminous humanoids. Grotesque, perverse and deceptive fallen beings are now called ETs and made light of as if harmless. Yet there are those who have come in close contact with them in bizarre circumstances often in dreams or hallucinations. Some people claim to have been sexually violated or involved in strange rituals and have had physical abnormalities, skin infections, welts, radiation and worse. I have seen both angels and demons and more and more people will do so.

The Bible predicts that near the end these wicked spiritual beings will be forced out of their realm and onto the planet where they will be involved in a struggle to deceive the nations and destroy the world. They will galvanise the nations to war.

### **THE THIRD "WORLD WAR"**

The First and Second World Wars impacted the whole world, changed the course of history and involved many different nations. Since then there has not been a single year without war. It seems that almost every nation on earth has at some time been involved in conflict. At this very time there are hundreds of conflicts all around the world. The world is moving towards another major conflict that will draw many people into war with one another. This war will centre on Israel and those nations that are not directly at war with Israel will be at war with one another. The whole earth will be filled with violence as "*nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom*". (Matt 24:7) The First World War released Jerusalem from centuries of oblivion and bondage and Jewish people from the Diaspora were able to return. The Second World War brought about the birth of Israel as an independent nation for the first time for 2500 years. Since then there have been numerous conflicts. What will happen in a Third World War? Will there be world deliverance and will it usher in the start of the Kingdom of God? Israel is surrounded by nations that have vowed to destroy it. It is cornered. To survive Israel must turn to Messiah and go through a spiritual transformation and become the New Israel that Paul foretold in Romans 10 -12. This will bring new hope and life to the world.

The Middle East has the largest reserves of energy anywhere in the world. This is why it is a tinder box ready to ignite. The so called "Arab Spring" has thrown the region into instability. Far from bringing democracy the very opposite will result and it is the preliminary for a resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism as more nations will go that way. The social conditions in Europe with economic collapse, unemployment and bankruptcy are a prelude for tremendous upheaval. Europe is dependent upon Arab oil. OPEC countries have "blackmailed" Europe in the past with rising oil prices. It is

interesting that current world energy both oil and nuclear are linked with Judgement. Oil is actually the result of accumulated deposits of animal life trapped within the sedimentary layers of rock. It comes from previous catastrophic judgement through the flood. Nuclear power is linked to the release of energy held within atoms by their destruction and is linked to coming judgement. The scriptures predict this in 2 Peter 3:5-10 where it says the *elements* will melt with fervent heat. Russia has links with Syria and Iran and other nations, and NATO and USA have tried to maintain links with Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other nations. The current chaos in Syria is a prelude for the coming events. The turmoil in the Middle East and the nations of the River Euphrates will open the way for the “kings of the east” to become involved. (Rev16:12) In the book of Daniel Egypt is called the “king of the south” and Syria is called the “king of the north”. Turkey, which is part of NATO and the Euphrates, is called Togarmah. Gog, Magog and Gomer may refer to European and Russian forces. USA will I think become more and more marginalised. The Far East is facing huge disruption. In history Israel was always caught between the “superpowers”, Egypt in the south and Assyria in the north. It is still caught between the superpowers which are being dragged into the Middle East as if by invisible hooks. Israel is fighting a war it cannot win on its own. The world is plunging into violence and every nation is in conflict of some kind. Prophetic scriptures predict cosmic upheavals that will affect the whole earth. It will be awful. Only God can stop it. Israel will come to a time of great adversity and repentance and the tide of destruction will stop. The conflict in Israel is described in Zech 13:8 as leaving only a third whether Jew or Palestinian in the land. (See my book “The Coming Conflict.”) In the past God helped Israel by creating favourable conditions to survive. It will happen again.

## **DANIEL’S CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF REPENTANCE**

Repentance has become an old fashioned and obsolete word even in church. Self examination has become a lost art and replaced by the “culture of blame”. Everyone wants their own rights and blame others for their circumstances even to blaming God for every disaster. It is strange how floods, earthquakes, and other disasters are labelled as “Acts of God”. What if we ourselves have contributed to our own conditions? There are fields of energy around the earth and throughout the solar system. What if our own life styles of sin attract negativity and create bad things? Many individuals live in disharmony to the laws of the universe and their own inner hearts constantly break God’s laws. Mankind has a collective conscious. When more and more people live in total disregard for spiritual principles of humility, love, kindness and self sacrifice but live for self gratification, greed and carnal lust then that spills into the dimensions that control the natural world causing disharmony. In the OT we see that it was the angels that were the Avengers of God. (Genesis 19:1, Daniel 4:17) They still are; they are the messengers who bring the consequences of how we live. Instead of calling these things “Acts of God” perhaps we should call them “Acts of Rebellion.” Not every misfortune is a direct result of our own sin, however, disharmony impacts the world and we are all impacted by it.

We have considered that when Jesus hung on the cross, falsely accused and murdered in what must have been the most obscene, disgraceful, cruel and unjust act of history the very sun itself turned dark. This event on earth, with its evil and negative energy affected the very sun itself. Creation is holistic; everything affects everything else either in harmony or disharmony. The secret of creation is not evolution but harmony and disharmony. The whole of creation groans under the weight of mankind's sin and travails in birth. (Rom 8:22) There is a new creation coming soon and it will not include the wicked.

At Noah's flood the world was filled with violence and the *thoughts* of mankind were constantly evil. They generated their own destruction. At Sodom and Gomorrah, one of the most immoral places of the day, we see that it was angels or "messengers" who brought their destruction. There is a spiritual hierarchy that presides over the world and its nations. There still is a heavenly council in which they meet and make decisions. (Ps 82, Dan 4:17) We create our own energy to which the heavenly powers respond. Negative, lawless energy empowers the angels of darkness; Godly, loving thoughts empower the angels of light. The Lord Jesus has ultimate power over these rulers and princes. (Eph 1:20,21) When nations forsake heavenly authority and replace the laws of God with legislation that violates the clear precepts of God then their lawless deeds bring upon them the wrath of God. They reap the consequences. When nations repent and turn back and live in a way that pleases the God of Love and Justice then they are blessed. It is so simple yet most people just will not believe it, in fact many people do not even believe there is a higher authority known as God.

When Daniel prayed the prayer of *confession* a great upheaval took place in the heavenly realms where spiritual beings hold dominion. His prayer threw them into turmoil and brought about the defeat of their dark forces. It released the power of Michael the Archangel, and a great spiritual awakening took place. Spiritual bondage over the nation was broken. The prayer of one man who understood the plan of God and believed was so powerful that it brought spiritual forces tumbling down. Note how he prayed. He confessed his sin, and his nation's sin and the sin of his forefathers before him. No amount of deception and bondage can resist that. Daniel was a righteous man yet because he identified with the sin of his people and his ancestors and was honest in confession and repentance, years of accumulated wrong was forgiven and broken. Daniel did not pray from a place of superiority, condemning the people but as one of them, and as much responsible for the condition of the nation as any of them.

Daniel interceded for his nation. He understood God's timetable and prayed according to it. Prayer is the means God gives us not to try and change Him or persuade Him to do things but rather as a way for us to change and get into step with His purposes. True prayer is to pray the heart of God into existence. The church is called to intercessory prayer in this same way. Believers hold the trump card but the big question is whether we will use it. Imagine what power genuine honest combined prayer can do against the

prevailing blanket of darkness in the spirit realm over a nation. Godly prayer generates great spiritual power. Prayer, however, seems the furthest thing from peoples' minds right now. Confession of personal and national sin is even further! Where are the gatherings for repentance? Where is our confession of sin and a humble turning to God for forgiveness and help? It is the responsibility of God's people to pray for their nation. [ 2 Chronicles 7:13-14] We are called as priests. [Rev 1:6, 5:10, 20:6 1Pet2:9] Most people are sceptics even though they know there is more to this world than meets the eye. Few are willing to change their lifestyles. Even the church is apathetic. Like Lot people sit in the gates of Sodom not willing to get all the way out and to walk on the hills where Abraham walked. Many Christians do not believe that judgement is imminent and therefore are unable to pray with any conviction or sense of urgency. Many people do not believe that Christ will come again.

### **WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?**

The early Christians had an unshakable conviction that not only did Christ rise from the dead but that He will come again and judge the world. To believe in the return of Christ is not an optional extra but a fundamental part of Jesus' teaching. True believers through the ages have always lived as though He could come in their lifetime. This is not fanaticism but the only truly Biblical stance possible. Why should this be so incredible for God? We are living in a supernatural world. There are miracles all around us. In our generation we have witnessed things others would have said were impossible. If Jesus is not the Holy Son of God and does not return what are the alternatives?

1/ Evolution. If everything is evolving in the way evolution is presented then that means there is no God, no plan and no meaning. The whole thing is subject to chance and destined to ultimate extinction. Man will destroy himself and all life.

2/ Humanistic New Age. Does man hold his own salvation? Will a super-state arise controlled by a "superman" and a "super religion"? If so heaven help us for it will plunge the world into a new Dark Age of slavery the like of which has never been seen before. Unless man first has a radical change of heart a new age of bliss is not possible. There can be no age of peace without repentance and God. The concept of peace on earth is a Jewish concept made possible through the coming of the Messiah.

3/ Extraterrestrials will take over the world? Are "Aliens" coming and will mankind evolve into "gods"? If so then we have no hope of future freedom but will be plunged into wars and conflicts no longer limited to the planet but engulfing other solar systems and the whole universe. If extraterrestrials take over we will be lost forever; they are demons under Satan.

4/ There is no life after physical death. If so then there is no purpose to our lives, no meaning in our achievements, no reason to exist.

The only logical conclusion that gives meaning to life is that life on earth is a preparation for future existence and that there is a loving Creator who made us for a reason. That reason is to love us that we might know Him and be His children. God calls to us in love. “*Adam where are you?*” The unique message of Jesus was to show the world two things. That God will not accept sin and that He is totally committed to us in Love. The depths of His love are seen in Jesus dying the most heart-rending death ever imaginable, on the cross. Hear His cry as testimony of God’s love “*Father forgive them*”. Can such love be found in the religions of men? Search the pages of history and you will not find a greater love. Even in the darkest moments of His life Jesus displayed God’s love. There are no easy answers for all the tragedy and hurt we may experience in life but the assurance comes from heaven that there is a place for us if we want to be there. This is the surprise awaiting us - God loves us.

These words were found etched on the wall of a prison cell on death row:

*“The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can tell,  
It reaches to the farthest star and to the lowest hell.”*

Hear the cry of Jesus – “*Father forgive them*”. You are included in this prayer and can receive pardon. “*Repent for the Kingdom of God is near at hand.*” If you have not received Jesus as your Saviour and King then you need to. God is offering you His Kingdom. When Jesus came the first time many rejected the invitation and refused to enter. The message has not changed. To enter the Kingdom there is only one way, to repent - to be honest with ourselves and with God. God’s kingdom will not tolerate sin. The Lord will allow mankind to go on killing each other until we get tired of it and turn to Him. When we have become tired of the sin, carnage, tragedy and sorrow and turn to Him He will be there for us. Many people worldwide desperately want to live in peace and bring up their children in a better world. When the time is right the Lord will intervene and destroy the wicked. The truth about God’s love will go through the entire world and millions will respond. (Revelation 14:6, 14-16- 20) We must pray for Jews, Muslims and all the nations we dwell in.

## **THE EYE OF THE STORM**

The war that has raged so fiercely for so long actually rages around you and me. You are at the eye of the storm. There is a war raging over your soul. Clouds of deception seek to draw you away from the love God has for you and the provision He has made for you. There is safety only at the cross, for there the storm has already raged itself out. It is burnt ground. In its shadow is refuge. People of all religions can come to Jesus.

What is God’s purpose for this present generation on earth? Is it the time of His intervention and reconciliation? What kind of world do we want for our children and their children after them to grow up in? Do we want the same conditions we have today?

Only Jesus Christ has the solution for mankind and only by turning back to Him in obedience to the loving laws of God will that happen. When He comes He will change the world so that it will never be the same again.

## **WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

God is the God of history. The Bible records how in the past He dealt with people and nations calling them to turn from sin and patiently waiting for them to do so. When they consistently refused, judgement always fell suddenly. Long ago Peter, the fisherman, spoke to a large crowd that had gathered in Jerusalem and warned them of coming judgement. Their response was to ask, *“What shall we do?”*

His reply was – *“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped out, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. And likewise all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.”* [Acts 2:37,38; 3:19-21,24.]

The message of the prophets still has not changed and is especially applicable to our days. On his visit to Athens, ancient centre of pagan religion the apostle Paul exhorted the people with these words *“God, who made the world and everything in it, seeing He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us ... And these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all, in that He raised Him from the dead.”* [Acts 17:30,31]

We must live our lives in the light of God’s coming Kingdom. God controls all things. Nothing is out of control. He rules over the world and the nations. Everything that can be shaken is being shaken so that those things that cannot be shaken remain and allow His Kingdom to take over in power. We are to trust in God and not be afraid. He is our provider and protector. He is our source, not the passing fortunes of the world. We are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world and its defilement and live wholly unto Him.

1] Scripture foretold the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It came about many centuries later just as the prophets had declared.

2] Scripture foretold the scattering of the Jewish people and the destruction of the temple. It also foretold their re-gathering as a people back into their ancient land. It has happened just as predicted.

3] Scripture foretold that the gospel would go into the entire world and that the church would withstand great persecution but eventually fall away. It has happened just as predicted.

4] Scripture foretells an end-time conflict that would centre on the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. The signs of this are evident.

5] Jesus Christ said he will return to judge the kingdoms of this world, destroy the wicked, save humanity from destruction and establish an eternal kingdom that will last forever.

True Christianity is based on historical events - the life and teaching of Jesus - through whom God's redemptive acts are fulfilled. And because God is the God of history we have hope for the future, He will bring it about as foretold by the Biblical prophets. On the last night of his earthly life Jesus prayed earnestly in the Garden of Gethsemane. It seems that He took the weight of sin for the entire world upon himself and interceded for all mankind. His heart was at breaking point as he pleaded for the suffering human race. He became the "*Man of sorrows*" who took upon himself the pain and suffering of every person. As He prayed He wept with drops of blood. This must have been the most desperate night of his life. Yet His disciples slept. They could not feel the heart of God. When He needed their support they were not there. The world is still blind and the church asleep. How does He feel when He looks upon a suffering, broken world so plagued with pain and sorrow? How He must yearn to come and put it right. Yet much of the world sleeps in this dark hour. We have little concept of the broken heart of God and therefore cannot pray from our hearts.

There is urgent need for prayers of repentance and confession, individually and corporately. Churches need to repent of anti-Semitism and their indifference to God's ancient people who have suffered so much at the hands of Christians and from traditions that push out the Word of God. The Bridegroom will come to Jerusalem, not Rome, London, New York or anywhere else. The Bride is called New Jerusalem not New Babylon or New London. Jesus bears the wounds of the King of the Jews. Days of repentance should be set aside for confession of wrong doing and of prevalent sins in the nations. The Bride that Jesus comes for will be a spotless virgin. We need to come back to the cross in humility. Congregations should be encouraged;

*"Let the priests, the Lord's ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, "Spare thy people, O Lord." "Yet even now declares the Lord, Return to me*

*with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; rend your heart and not your garments.” (Joel 2:,13,17 ]*

Intercessory confession breaks the power of sin and releases the nations into God’s forgiveness and restoration. Prayer creates spiritual energy that disrupts the power of sin and the negative energy fields of wicked minds and thoughts. Every significant move of God through the ages has been preceded by times of intense prayer. Only then will people be set free and large numbers come to receive God’s salvation. Only earnest, heart-rending prayers can break the powers of destruction poised over the nations and bring in truth and justice. By the way, it is not the length of a prayer that matters but the contents. Hours and hours in prayer are not necessarily of much value. The heathen think they will be heard through their much repetition. God is not much impressed by the time we spend in prayer but rather the attitude in the prayer. [Read Luke 18:11-14] Neither is God too impressed with tears for the sake of tears. Repentance is not remorse only. It can involve tears but does not always need to be emotional. God looks for repentance - old fashioned honesty, confession of sin, the acknowledgment of responsibility for our actions and faith in His word. We are called to pray at such a time of impending judgment. We need leaders who will show the way. There are many who say *“peace, peace”*. Others speak about prosperity when judgment is near. The scripture says *“Awake sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”* [Eph.5:14]

If ever there was a time for us to return to the cross it is now. To unbelievers the cross appears foolish and weak, yet it is the power of God for salvation. When the cross is presented in truth it has a humbling, cleansing effect. No sin can abide in its presence. Perhaps that is why it is not a popular message and even in the church so many other themes have replaced it. Sadly one can attend church for months and never hear the cross presented in a manner that portrays the true depth of God’s love and the extent of sacrifice Jesus paid because of mans’ sin. Because of this there is no deep conviction and repentance from sin. Judgement is not understood and there is no fear or reverence for God.

Now is the time for believers to pray for the intervention of Christ. He has promised to return, to come again and save the world. Why is the Church not praying for Him to come? He is no cheap King. Why should He come if we do not want Him to come? For many years God’s ancient people prayed *“next year Jerusalem”*. Is it not time to pray *“this year come Lord Jesus”*? Only the church can pray that prayer. Why should the King come back if His own people are apathetic and not ready for him to come?

### **“EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS”**

Can we pray this prayer? To pray in such a manner will surely get our priorities in order. There is coming a joyful union with Jesus for those who have received Him as Lord. His

Kingdom is coming upon the earth and all who call upon Him in repentance and faith will be included in it.

We need to prepare the way of the Lord in our own lives. This is the time to make the most important decision in our lives; will we live wholly and totally for Jesus Christ? There will be multitudes in the “valley of decision.” (Joel 3:14) His heavenly sickle is about to reap the harvest of the earth. (Rev 14:15) Many will turn to God and put their trust in Jesus. Let us confess our sins that He might cleanse us. Give Him those deep tragedies in life, the mistakes and the doubts, the unanswered questions we all have and our fears for the future. Yield to Him our lives and through His Holy Spirit let Him prepare us for His return. We can trust Him. He is closer than a brother; He is the friend of sinners. There is a future awaiting us. Are we the generation to see the unveiling of Jesus Christ? We are called to witness the mighty acts of God in these end times. To witness God we must first have an understanding of God’s purposes. God will bring the messy history of sin to a dramatic finale. The stage is set. We are about to see God act.

God has a Kingdom, its laws and power will fully come upon earth. We can belong to that Kingdom if we want to. May we live for Him and have the strength to identify with Him, to stand for Him and not to be ashamed of His Holy name and His Holy Son Jesus Christ.

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us in to temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.” It is time to be an Esther.*

## **THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH**

Chapters 21-22 of Revelation describe the ultimate victory of the Kingdom of God over all sin and darkness. John described the coming down to earth of the beautiful “City of God, New Jerusalem”. This city is eternal and glorious, it will abide forever and there will be no more pain or suffering, no more war or injustice. Righteousness, peace and love will be the governing principles and it will be filled with the Glory of God. Its gates are never closed so that the nations can enter and walk in the light of this City.

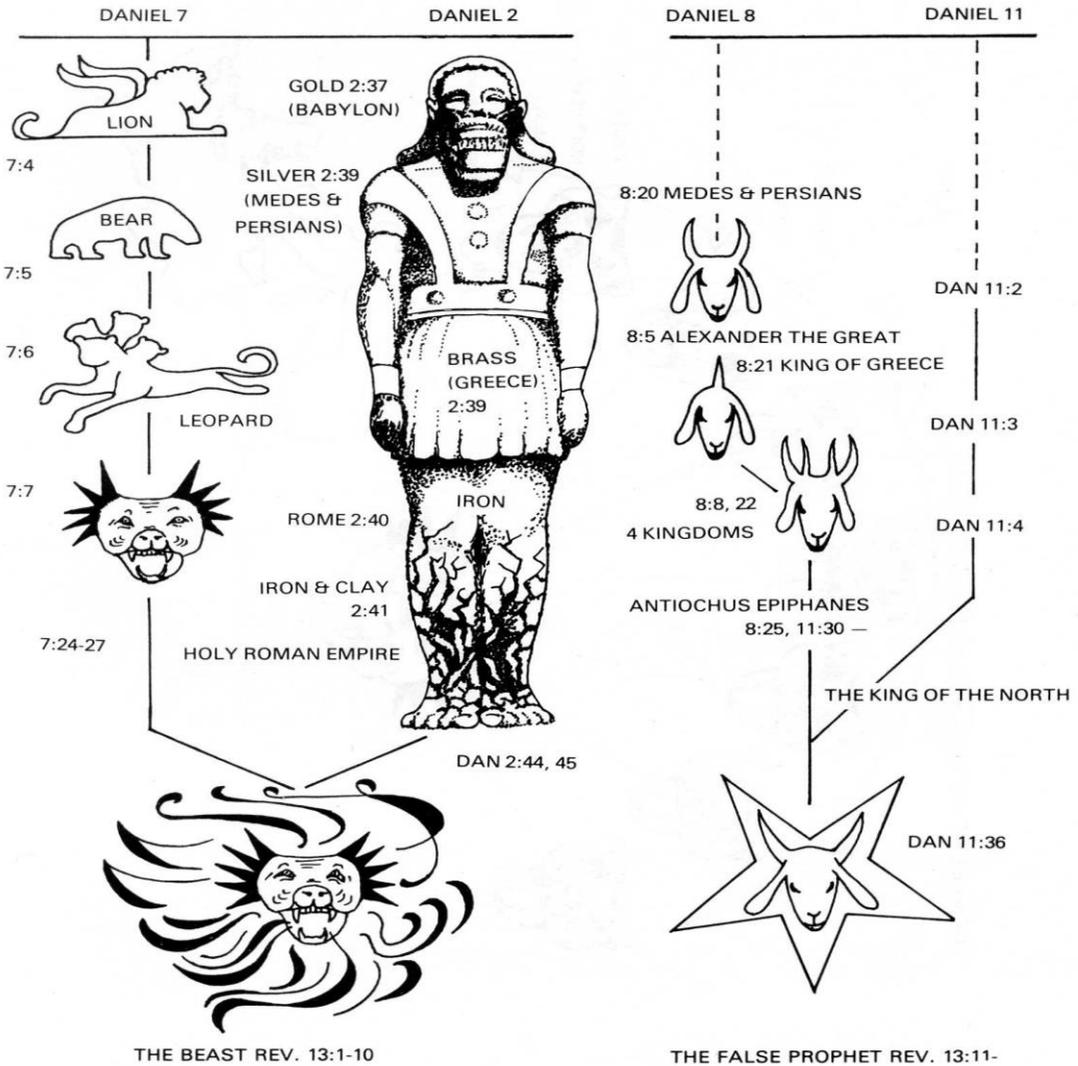
How will this heavenly rule come about? It is not explained in scripture but nothing is impossible for God. We know that everything is held together on vibrations or frequencies. This is how dimensions exist. If one is able to change the frequency then one can change the dimension. What makes something “solid” is its frequency rate. Every atom has invisible “glue,” a vibration that holds it together. Recently scientists

claim to have discovered what they have called the “God Particle”. Despite not believing in God they now claim to have found Him!

Scientists know that most of the universe is intangible; it cannot be seen or measured but it is there in another dimension as it were. One day there will be a massive shift of dimensions. The earth and all that is in it that is not in harmony with God, the sin, darkness, pain and even death itself will be wiped out. All that is godly and wholesome will endure. How will this separation happen? For God this is a simple thing; all He need do is change the frequencies that hold things together. It will be like a huge quake in the universe and when it is over nothing wicked or ungodly will remain. The whole of creation is held together by God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Col 1:17) The Bible says the time will come when the whole of creation will be “folded up like a garment and be changed and the existing heavens and earth will perish but God will remain forever.” (Heb 1:10-12) The kingdoms of the earth will pass away but God’s Kingdom will last forever.

There will be a New Heavens and Earth where God’s people will dwell forever. No one can imagine how beautiful this new creation will be, it is beyond anything we have known or seen on earth.

## THE 2 BEASTS REV.13



The symbolic “Beasts” of Revelation are drawn from the “Beasts” of Daniel. There are four important visions and dreams that the Prophet Daniel gave concerning the course of history and the nation of Israel. The Dragon with seven heads and ten horns comes from Daniel chapter 7. This vision is supported by the dream of Nebuchadnezzar which also depicts nations through history. The Goat with two horns and which speaks like a dragon comes from Daniel chapter 8. This vision is continued into chapter 11 and ends in Daniel 12. When they are all fitted together we begin to understand what the apostle John was describing in Revelation chapter 13. It was a continuation of Daniel’s prophecies.



## The Last Three and a Half Years

Jesus appears  
in  
Glory

1260 Days ministry of two prophets  
Rev 11 - Jesus Confirms Covenant

1290 Days of Dan 12 cut short for the elect - Rev 12

30  
DAYS

### Appendix 1 -THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS

The Bible predicts an end time conflict, which will last three and a half years and will involve Israel. Some Bible teachers believe this period is seven years and will be preceded by a “Peace Treaty” initiated by the “antichrist” who will break it half way through. The scriptures, however, do not mention seven years as the end period but refer to *only* three and a half years or forty two months or in Revelation 1260 days. Two possible interpretations arise from Daniel 9:24-27 where Daniel predicted this last period. Two conclusions are possible depending on which interpretation one follows. There is some conflict as to the meaning of the “he” in verse 27. Let me draw the reader’s attention to Haley’s Bible Handbook from which I quote.

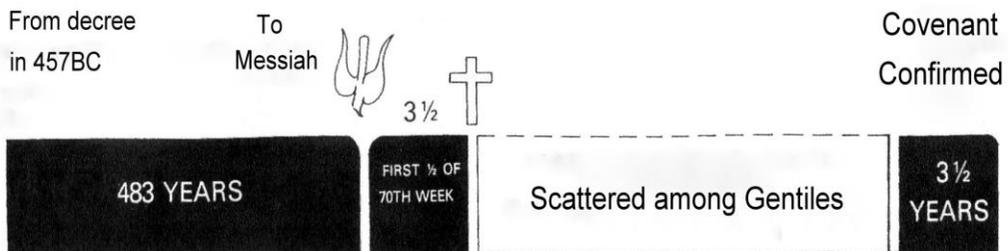
*“He shall confirm the covenant [27]; better translated he shall cause the covenant to prevail. The Hebrew words are unusual. They are sometimes interpreted as though they mean simply to make a covenant. Such an interpretation, however, is incorrect, for it does not do justice to the original which can only mean to cause a covenant to prevail, or to make a covenant firm. The implication is that the covenant is already in existence and that its terms and conditions are now to be made effective. Who is the one who causes the covenant to prevail? Many find the subject in the prince that shall come of verse 26, and refer this, either to Antiochus, or to the Roman ruler of a future, revived Roman Empire. However, the word prince is there in a subordinate position, and it is unlikely that this word should be the subject in verse 27. It is better to regard the subject as the Messiah, who by his life and death obtains salvation for his people. The seventieth week thus has reference to the time of our Lord’s earthly life. In the midst of the seven the Messiah, by means of His death, causes the Jewish sacrifice to cease [Heb.8:13]”*

Thus the “he” of verse 27 cannot refer to the minor subject but must refer to the major subject, the Prince Messiah. After all, the purpose of the vision was not to tell Daniel about the antichrist

but about the Christ. In fact this fits perfectly with both scripture and historical facts. It was 69 weeks [or  $69 \times 7 = 483$  years] from the decree mentioned in Ezra as God's decree, issued in 458 BC [Ezra 6:14] to the anointing of the Messiah in approximately AD27-29. This anointing took place at the baptism of Jesus when the Holy Spirit anointed him. He then began to teach, do miracles, call people back to God and confirm the covenant God made with Israel. After three and a half years Jesus was cut off but not before he established the covenant by fulfilling the old and instituting the new. This was the three and a half years or first half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week and now there remains only the last half. In Daniel this is clearly defined as 1290 days [Dan.12:11]. But in the book of Revelation this same period is given as 1260 days. There is a discrepancy of 30 days. This is exactly what Jesus said in Matthew 24:22; to save the "elect" this end time will be cut short. It is during the last 30 days that the judgment of God will be poured upon the earth. The elect escape the wrath of God but this lasts a matter of days not years. The world could not endure much more than a few days of God's wrath. During the period of three and a half years a time of trouble will occur as well as a time of divine miracles. In fact it is the time of the greatest "acts" of God in all history. Those who call upon the name of Jesus Christ will be saved. Jesus came the first time and "confirmed the covenant" and he will do so again. For three and a half years he taught, healed, cast out demons and did miracles. There was a concerted effort by the powers of darkness to resist him in every way and much opposition yet he triumphed. He will do so again during this last three and a half years. God will perform amazing miracles throughout the world and in the midst of much opposition there will be a world wide move of the Spirit of God. Just as there was a three and a half year period to prepare for the Gospel Age so there will be an end time period of three and a half years to prepare for the Kingdom Age.

See my book "**Covenant of Glory**" for more details about this.

## 70 Weeks of Daniel - 9:24-27



## Appendix 2 - ISRAEL IN PROPHECY

Christianity has drifted so far from its Hebrew origins that most people cannot link the two at all. This can only be understood in the historical context of the “church” first turning away from its Jewish roots and then secondly becoming increasingly anti-Semitic. Wrong attitudes to Israel and the Jews stem from ignorance and misunderstanding of God’s purposes for them. We owe our salvation to them. The gospel was first spread entirely by Jews. Not only did they witness to their own people but gave their lives to win the Gentiles. Central to Jewish faith was a concern for the salvation of all nations. As the Jews were scattered Gentile believers became more numerous in the church. The church increasingly spiritualised scripture instead of following a more literal interpretation which had been consistent till then. It claimed all the promises of Israel to be theirs and believed the Jews to be a people rejected by God. Jesus was Christianised! The Protestants proved no different. Luther became anti-Semitic when he found he could not convert the Jews to his particular brand of Christianity. Persecution grew, resulting eventually in the holocaust, and continues even now by many nations. The church is mostly indifferent and often anti-Semitic. Replacement Theology is taught in most of the church today. The church exalts itself as Israel. This in turn leads into New Age thinking! Origins of New Age come from Babylonian-Greek-Roman ideas. True believers are identified with Israel in a spiritual way but they do not replace Israel.

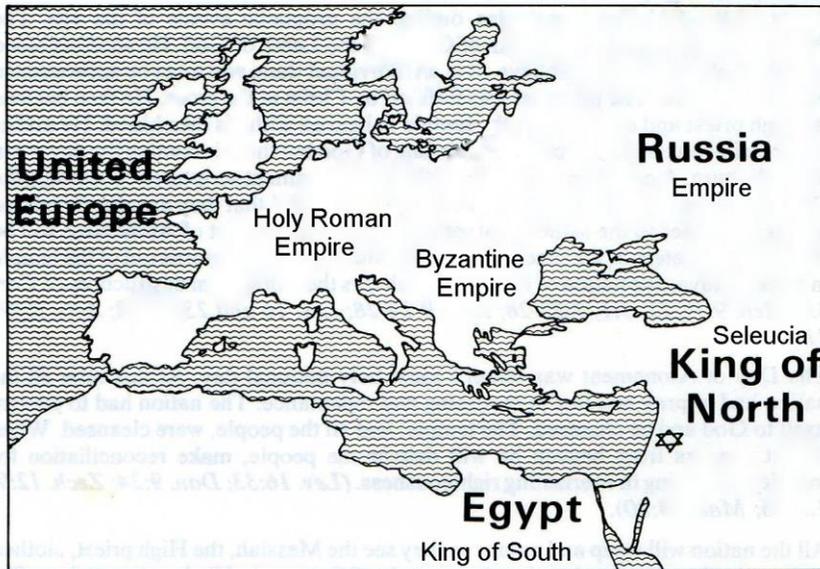
1/ **ROMANS 9-11** Paul’s concern is that the Gentiles should not be ignorant or arrogant concerning the mystery of Israel. Paul is clearly referring to Israel “after the flesh”; the contrast he makes is Jews and Gentiles. The nation of *Jacob* is the nation called by God [9:11]. His sovereign election cannot be disputed [11:1,29]. The overall theme is that God has never discarded them but a temporary and partial blindness has occurred only “until” a certain time is fulfilled. Although not all among them are believers in Jesus they have never ceased from being Israel. A *remnant* still exists in Israel, which is the promise of future redemption. Paul indicates a time when the Gentiles may be cut off because of unbelief and the Jews grafted back in. Paul predicts eventual restoration of “all Israel”, as do all the prophets. In the context this term refers to Israel, God’s ancient people. They need to be shown MERCY [31]. Our destiny is directly linked to their repentance and restoration! [11:15]. When they come into faith in Messiah then the Church will be complete and enter resurrection.

2/ **OT PROPHETS** - Because the Church has discarded Israel they have also discarded the message of the Prophets who predicted world judgement and eventual restoration of Israel; after a time of scattering they will return to their land and to their Lord. The two are interrelated. [Jer.16:14,15, 30:10,11, 32:37-39, 31:35-37, 33:23-26, Ezk.36:23-28, 37:11-25, Amos 9:15, Zech.10:10, Isa.49:19,20, 11:10-12.

3/ **ABRAHAM'S COVENANT** - Gen.12:1-3, 13:14-16, 15:5-21, 17:7, 22:16-18, Ex. 6:4-8,23:31,32:13, Deut.9:27, Ps.105:8-11. This covenant promised that through the seed of Abraham all families of the earth will be blessed, and that his descendants would be numerous. It also included the land. His descendants would inherit the land as an everlasting covenant. Deut.30:1-6 The Abraham covenant gave ownership of the land to Israel but obedience ensured the privilege of living in the land. Disobedience meant the loss of domicile. God promised that despite dispersal they would come back to the land. It is this very covenant to which we look for our own spiritual security. We are partakers in the “commonwealth” of Israel [Eph.2:12]. [We may ask, “Has the church fulfilled the promise of possessing the land?” Clearly not. To the

believer the promise is extended further than just the land but eventually to the whole earth. Rom. 4:13.] Because God honours His past covenants we know we are secure in our salvation. He promised Israel a permanent existence as a nation. [Isa.60:1-3, 2:1-4, Jer. 3:17, Mal.3:17, Zech14;16, 8:3,22,23, 4:4.] Peter predicted this in Acts 3:18-21.

4 / **Modern ISRAEL** - The return of many Jews to their land and the existence of Israel in today's community of nations indicate God is about to deal with them again. It is a sign that the "Times of the Gentiles" are coming to an end. In the midst of tribulation Israel is the "sign" that the Messiah is about to return. Micah 5:2-5. We owe the Jews a debt of eternal proportions [Rom.15:27]. The roots support the branches and indeed the world has received the Messiah from them. There are many scriptures that exhort us to pray for them. Rom.10:1, Ps.102:12,13, 122:6,7, Isa.62:6,7. The church needs to repent of its anti-Semitic stance and the considerable harm done to the Jews through the centuries. Our spiritual renewal is closely linked with our Biblical stance of love towards God's ancient people. Matthew 25:31, Acts 3:19-21. Through the centuries and today most men and women involved in intercession for world redemption have an understanding of God's plan for Israel.



### Appendix 3 – MICHAEL

Michael and Melchizedek are shrouded in mystery and theology has difficulty defining them. Michael is the Archangel but what does that mean? For Jews he represents Messiah and acts on his behalf and speaks His Word. Both Daniel and John describe the Lord with almost identical details. Dan 10:5,6 + Rev 1:13-15. They are one and the same. Daniel saw the Lord and totally collapsed. Afterwards the angel Gabriel revived him and talked to him. Gabriel told him of the warfare over the nations and about Michael the "**one chief Prince first in rank over all** others." He is the same person as the "Angel of the Lord" who is Jesus. However, whether Michael is the Lord or His representative may not be entirely clear but in the historical and Biblical context he fully *represents* the Lord. Since His ascension Jesus has been directing this spiritual war.

## **SOME SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

These scripture references are given to encourage you to read the Bible.

### **Chapter 1**

Genesis 1 and 2 - The creation account  
Genesis 4 - Cain and Abel  
Genesis 7 and 8 - The flood  
Genesis 11 - The Tower of Babel  
Genesis 19 - Sodom and Gomorrah - 2 Peter 2:6-9  
Genesis 22 - Isaac offered to the Lord  
Genesis 15 - Abraham's covenant  
1 Kings 11 - Solomon serves pagan gods  
1 Kings 18 - Elijah and the false prophets  
John 10 - Jesus came to give his life

### **Chapter 2**

Daniel 8:20 - Foretells the Kings of Persia and Greece  
Daniel 9:26 - Foretells the Romans  
Daniel 2 - Explains the rise of Gentile nations in history  
Daniel 7 - Tells about four beast kingdoms  
Revelation 13 and 17 - Explains the fulfilment of Daniel's visions

### **Chapter 3**

Revelation 17 - Describes apostate Christendom  
Revelation 12 - Tells of the dragon and Israel  
Revelation 13 - Describes the economic control of trade  
2 Thessalonians 2 - "Son of Perdition"

### **Chapter 4**

Revelation 12 - Tells of the persecution of Israel  
Isaiah 11 - The return of the Jews - Ezekiel 36 - Return to the land.  
Daniel 8-11 - Describes the "King of the North"  
Revelation 13, 16:13, - the "False Prophet"  
Ezekiel 38 and 39 - The nations attack Israel  
Matthew 25:31 - Judgment of the nations - Jeremiah 25:11-14  
Genesis 37 - Joseph sold into slavery.

\*"Generation" – The Greek word generation, *genea*, has the following meanings;  
it can mean "Race, stock, kind, family".

However, it cannot be confined only to the above but is used of a generation of mankind, Matt 22:16, 23:36, Hebrews 3:10; a step in a genealogy, Matt 1:17; an interval of time, an age, Luke 16:8, Acts 13:36.

### **Chapter 5**

Revelation 13 - The two beasts  
2 Thessalonians 2 - The church deceived from the truth  
2 Timothy 3 & 4 - Conditions at the end time  
Genesis 3 - The first lie

Daniel 5:25 - The writing on the wall  
Revelation 9 and 16 - The Euphrates area in prophecy  
Psalm 19:9, 111:10, Prov.1:7,9:10 - The "Fear of the Lord"

### **Chapter 6**

Acts 7:43 – Stephen’s defence  
Jonah 3 - Nineveh repents  
Matthew 25 - Judgment on nations. Isaiah 2:4. Isaiah 34:1-4.  
Psalm 9:17 - Nations that do not serve God. Isaiah 60:12, Exodus 12 - Passover  
Leviticus 16 - Day of Atonement  
Hebrews 9 - Jesus is the High Priest  
Revelation 8 - The Seven Trumpets  
Revelation 9:20, 16:9,11 - Those who refuse to repent  
Amos 4 - Prepare to meet with God  
Zechariah 8:22,23 - All nations will look to Israel  
Zechariah 14:16 - All nations will serve Israel  
Zechariah 12:10 - All Israel will repent  
Isaiah 24, Joel 2 - The Day of the Lord  
Psalm 2 - The Lord will rule the nations  
Ezekiel 8:14 - Tammuz worshipped in the temple  
Joshua 7:21 - The Babylonian garment  
Deuteronomy 18:9 - God is against pagan practices  
Jeremiah 10:2,3-10, Isaiah 47:8-15 - Astrology Acts 7:43 and Amos 5:26  
Isaiah 8:19 - Spiritism  
Malachi 4:5 – Elijah’s return  
Matthew 15 - The Traditions of men  
Matthew 16 - Caesarea Philippi  
Romans 11 - The Olive Tree of God  
Revelation 2 and 3 - Judgment on the churches  
Daniel 9 - Daniel's prayer of confession [see Ezra 9 and Nehemiah 1:1 -]  
Ezekiel 9 - Those who sigh for the sins of the land

### **Chapter 7**

Ephesians 6 - Spiritual powers and rulers  
Daniel 9 and 10 - Prince Angels good and bad  
1 Timothy 4:1 - Influence of demons  
Philippians 2:10,11 - Every knee shall bow  
Revelation 12 - The conflict between angelic armies on earth  
Matthew 26 - Gethsemane  
Isaiah 53 - Jesus the Man of Sorrows  
Isaiah 32:1 - The King shall rule in righteousness

### **Chapter 8**

Matthew 26:36 - Gethsemane  
Revelation 19:9 - Invitation to the Marriage Feast

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## **Significant Dates**

These dates are not given to indicate when Jesus may return but only concerning the times and seasons in which we live and future Acts of God for redemption in the world and the Church.

1895/7/8 - Hertzl started the movement for a homeland for Jews. First Congress held.

1914-1918 - WW1

|  
20 years

1917 - Jerusalem captured after centuries of Ottoman rule.

1939-1945 – WW11- Holocaust of 6 million Jews.

- 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary from when Hertzl promoted a Jewish homeland.

1948 – Israel became an independent nation.

- 50<sup>th</sup> year after First Congress.

1967 – Six Day War captured the Old City of Jerusalem.

- 50<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee year from 1917.

- 70<sup>th</sup> year from Hertzl.

## **Are these dates significant?**

- 70<sup>th</sup> year anniversary from Holocaust – 2013 - 2015

- 50<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee anniversary from Six Day War 1967 - 2017

- 100 years anniversary of Jerusalem from 1917 - 2017

- 70<sup>th</sup> year from Independence - 2018