

WHEN MESSIAH COMES

“He will Confirm the Covenant with many for seven years.”

“Yeshua, the secret Messiah kept hidden throughout all ages.”

This book is an examination of scriptures about Messiah and how he will return with consideration about the Rapture teaching and if there is a seven year “Tribulation” period as some teach and is this based on valid Biblical exegesis and if not what does the Bible really teach? What will happen in the “week” of Daniel 9? These are vital questions for believers in Messiah, both Jew and Gentile, in order to understand Biblical prophecy now rapidly unfolding as we approach the final great conflict that will end this present age.

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THE MESSIAH

Who is He and when will He come?

There is an old Yiddish saying – “The Messiah you are expecting will not come, the Messiah you are not expecting will.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

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Introduction

From the outset of this study certain things need to be stated about methods of Biblical exegesis. Scripture must be understood in the context of the historical time and period of writing as well as the immediate narrative and the greater context of all other scriptures on the subject. No scripture should be taken out of context or stand alone in violation of the greater body of truth.

Before I was ordained as a minister I was required to do a Bible Course which included the subjects of Exegesis and Hermeneutics. Certain principles of interpretation were impressed upon me especially that one must at all times maintain strict rules of discipline and exercise clear restrictions to correctly understand the meaning of the Bible. One can make the Bible and in fact any language, whether Hebrew, Greek or English mean anything if one does not do so. Within the Bible there are some statements of ambiguity and unless we handle them in this manner we may misinterpret them. The main rule is to keep the context. The context means the subject matter as well as the historical setting. There are also grammatical rules to interpret the meaning of words; for example if there are two subjects in an account, one will be the major subject, the other will be the minor subject. To correctly understand the intent of the writer one must keep focused on the major subject not the minor. Any secondary subject which is not clearly defined *must* revert back to the major subject. This is the rule for any ambiguous construction of language. Usually the meaning can be defined by the content.

A trap we may fall into is to look for complex solutions to our hardest questions. I have found the profoundest mysteries are hidden in the simplest truths. I do not believe that we have to have university degrees to understand the Bible. There is enough information *within* the Bible to understand it. However, one thing we must constantly keep in mind is that the Bible was written by Jews, with a Jewish culture and mindset, with Jewish concepts and Jewish history. It is written in code, the code is Jewish. To understand it therefore one *must* always

approach it with a Jewish mentality. Gentile thinking (Greek/Roman) with which the Church universal has formulated much of its Theology is not a sound medium to truly understand some of the more difficult statements of the Bible. There are hidden things in the Bible which will never be seen unless they are considered from a Jewish perspective. When I first became a believer in Messiah I had no knowledge of Jewish customs, way of life or idioms and I had an analytical rational mindset typical of Gentiles. This mindset can interpret things in exact *reversal* of the actual meaning. We have formed doctrines that seem logical but not Biblical. It took the Holy Spirit many years to gradually change me to a Hebrew world view more in tune with the Bible. To understand things in this book you must be prepared to think on Hebrew customs and beliefs. I have found that we can be misled by teachings that appear true to our Gentile mindset but not based on the true Hebrew context. Several scriptures that apparently mean one thing actually mean the *exact* opposite once we consider them from a Hebrew Biblical view. Have we built Gentile concepts into our theology that have no Hebrew foundation? There are crucial Biblical truths that need to be examined from a Hebrew scriptural view point. In this study we will look at the following: is there a seven year tribulation period; will the church be taken away in Rapture; can we know what to expect when Messiah comes? We will look at the meaning of Hebrew words and scriptures about the coming of Messiah and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. We will try to remain in the context of the scriptures. We sometimes have concepts so set in our minds that we cannot receive any further revelation on them but if we do this it may be surprising what the Bible actually says.

I spent most of my life in church and mission work in Africa. I studied and taught on Biblical prophecy for over 4 decades and have put in thousands of hours of study and prayer to understand it. I foretold the reunification of Germany, the demise of the Soviet Union and the significance of Syria and Iraq in the end time. I taught on the rise of the "false prophet" and the future financial collapse. Beloved, seek the Lord for now "our salvation is nearer than when we first believed."

CHAPTER – 1

WHO IS MESSIAH?

Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there; and now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me. Isaiah 48:16

Messiah means “anointed one”. The Old Testament (Tanakh) records the custom of anointing kings and priests. When David was just a lad he was anointed by Samuel as a sign of God’s selection of him as future King in Israel. The Priests of Israel were also anointed as a sign of their office as priests. This anointing was done with oil. Over the years there grew an expectation within the nation that one day there would come a person who would be both Priest and King; the “Anointed One” with a special anointing to deliver them from their enemies. This was declared by numerous prophets who collectively gave very clear and precise details about Messiah; where he would come from, what he would do and even when he would come. These predictions were so precise that it is impossible for any one person to be able to fulfil them except by divine appointment. They therefore exclude all possibility of there being a counterfeit person or any misunderstanding of who Messiah will be. In fact they make it impossible for anyone else to fulfil them except for one man in history; Yeshua of Nazareth.

The Messiah is closely identified with the name and person of the LORD, YHWH, pronounced “Yahweh” in Hebrew, not Jehovah which is a Greek corruption. It is so sacred that Jewish people do not even say it. It is linked with the title, “I AM.” In the Bible a name is of great importance. When God gave someone a name or changed a person’s name it was for a very good reason. It is the name that fully depicts a person and carries the full weight of their authority, status, office and even the presence of the person. The *name* is in fact the *person*.

The name of Messiah therefore carries great significance and authority.

There are several Psalms that are Messianic in their description of Messiah. One is Psalm 45 which describes both his royalty and divinity. Verses 6 and 7 are quoted in the New Testament (B'rit Hadashah) and apply specifically to Yeshua. (Hebrews 1:8,9) Psalm 45:17 also says that his name will be remembered to *all* generations. This theme is repeated in Malachi 1:11 "My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name, for My name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts." Another Messianic Psalm is Psalm 2 in which God's Anointed is described as King in Zion who will rule over the nations and break them in pieces. Psalm 2:2,6-9. These scriptures in the New Testament are ascribed to none other than Yeshua who is likened to Melchizedek, a pre-incarnate name for Messiah, who was both King and Priest. Genesis 14:18, Psalm 110:1-4 and Hebrews 1:5, 5:5,6. This is endorsed in yet another Messianic psalm in which God's Anointed is (like King David) higher than the kings of the earth and called God's firstborn with whom God will establish an unbreakable Covenant and yet will be rejected by the people. Psalm 89:20-29, 34, 38, 51.

Jeremiah also wrote about Messiah. Jer. 23:5,6. He is the Branch of David, the King who will reign in righteousness and execute judgment in the earth, and who will save Judah and bring safety to Israel, and his name is called "the LORD our Righteousness." Moses foretold this person and called him the Messenger (Angel) of the Lord who made Covenant with Abraham and later with Moses himself. Genesis 16:7 22:11,15. This is none other than the LORD who appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Exodus 3:6,13-15. The LORD said of this Messenger that "My name is in Him." Ex 23:20-23. When challenged by the religious rulers Yeshua said that he had appeared to Abraham as "I AM". John 8:56-58.

When "Jesus" was born, Joseph was given instructions about his name; Yeshua. Matthew 1:21. The New Testament writer of Matthew equated this with the Old Testament (Tanakh) prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, "and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated God with us." This name is the same as "Joshua" and comes from the Hebrew which

means “the LORD saves.” In Hebrew it is “Yeshua” not “Jesus” which is a Greek corruption.

When this young baby was brought to the temple an old devout man called Simeon said of him that he would be “light to the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel.” When the wise men from the east came to worship the young infant they said that he was none other than the “King of the Jews”.

Yeshua said that he was “one with the Father” and he came *in* his Father’s name and the Father was *in* him and one with him. He declared that name to the disciples and kept them through its power. He said that he “manifested” the Father’s name (to render apparent - Strong’s 5319) and that prayer should be offered *in* that name. Why did he say this? As already noted, in Jewish Biblical thinking a name is more than just a tag. It carries the full weight of a person’s power, authority and character and when uttered or called upon evokes the very presence of that person. John 5:43, 14:11, 10:38, 14:13,14, 15:16, 16:23-26, 17:6, 11, 12, 26. Over the years the Christian Church forgot the Jewishness of Yeshua and went to great lengths to eradicate all Jewish references, customs and meanings from the church which became mostly controlled by Gentiles (non-Jews) who even blamed Jews for killing Jesus. However, only a few Jews were responsible and vast numbers received him. The church even changed the name of Yeshua to Jesus. One thing that helped them do this was that the New Testament was translated into Greek the common language of the time. However, it is likely that the original gospels and some of the New Testament was written originally in Hebrew and there is no doubt that the name by which Jesus was known during his life and ministry and for a long time afterwards was Yeshua. On whose authority then have we changed it?

The name of “Jesus” has become sacred to many Christians. However, it is of vital importance in these days that we at least acknowledge the proper Biblical name of Messiah. It is the Holy name of the LORD and there are several injunctions in scripture to not abuse, misuse or take

His name lightly. It is the highest name in heaven and earth and invested with all power and authority.

In this book I often use Yeshua as the name to refer to him. Our Saviour was and still is Jewish. As foretold by the prophets He came from the tribe of Judah, was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, learnt the Jewish customs, worshipped in the Jewish temple and synagogues, came at the exact time foretold, perfectly fulfilled the prophecies of his life and death, rose on the third day, ascended and sat down on the throne of God and will return in power to deliver his people. There is no one else in history able to fulfil these requirements as foretold in the Tanakh and there is no one now or in the future who can fulfil them except Yeshua Messiah.

Many **Jewish** people do not believe Messiah has already come. However, through history to even recent times the coming of Messiah has remained a major expectation for Jews. At times this expectation has grown to fever pitch with multitudes following Messianic type leaders. One such man was Simon Bar Kochba in AD134 when there was a great uprising against the Romans which ended in the death of many hundreds of thousands of Jewish people. Various other leaders have been considered Messianic figures but all have fallen short.

Through the last 2000 years notable Rabbinical teachers have accepted the Tanakh scriptures of Messiah but have difficulty in understanding the seeming conflict of both a triumphant Messiah who overcomes his enemies and a suffering Messiah who is in some way poor, meek and defeated. This has given rise to a view of there being two Messiahs. However, more Jewish people are coming to faith in Yeshua and his first coming to suffer as a necessary prelude to his second coming in Glory. This is exactly how Yeshua explained it to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-32. There have always been Jewish believers in Yeshua but most of the Jewish people have in some manner been spiritually blinded to Yeshua and certainly not helped by the worldly church that embraced many pagan concepts and even at times actively persecuted the Jews. However, the New Testament makes plain that

the day will come when both Jews and Gentiles will become fully one in their mutual relationship and faith in Messiah. (Romans 9-11) A careful reading of these passages gives us the understanding Paul the apostle had about God's plan for the Jews in three different periods; the past, the present and the future when the *remnant* will be saved. Romans 9:4,5, 11:5, 11:26.

Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah and they worship in his name albeit in its Greek form. Sadly, many Christians have little knowledge of their Jewish roots and that they are spiritually grafted into Israel. This fact that the Lord is still the God of Israel is dismissed by many yet this title is mentioned over 200 times in the Bible. Christians believe Jesus will return but there is much confusion and even disagreement as to how and when this will happen.

Muslims do not see Jesus as Lord and Saviour but do give credence to his return. They believe conflicting traditions about him that follow a general pattern about his virgin birth, performing miracles and works of compassion and also see an eschatological role of power and authority for him and his return. He is generally considered as a prophet.

All three groups, Jews, Christians and Muslims must come to terms with their beliefs.

Jewish people have suffered dreadfully through history and even now face dangers that seem insurmountable, even another holocaust greater than Hitler's Nazi. This could threaten their very existence. After nearly 2000 years of wanderings dispossessed of their homeland and after the most horrific holocaust ever recorded they limped back to their historic land in the hope of building a future. Now, that hope is being dashed as hosts of enemies surround them with the intention of annihilating them once and for all. There is nowhere else for them to go except to their God; they must come to terms with their Covenant with God through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David and the promise of redemption through **Messiah**. Millions of Jews have been killed for no other reason than being Jews in Covenant with the God of Israel.

Ever since the days of Yeshua they have had no temple and no sacrifice yet Hebrew religion is founded upon blood atonement. Their blood has been shed but they do not yet understand the significance of Messiah's blood. A small number of Jews look for a rebuilt temple but that will not fulfil the Covenant God made with them. It is not possible for God's Covenant to be fulfilled by sacrificing animals or even the death of millions of people. It requires a Messiah who will make loving atonement and as High Priest provide his own blood. They have to explain scriptures such as Isaiah 42:1-6, 49:8, 16 and 52:13-53:12 in the light of the known facts about the sufferings of Yeshua. The Jewish people have somehow been "blinded" to the prophecies of Yeshua but they must face their past and like Jacob, come face to face with Messiah. Gen 32:24-30. Will they be ready to meet him in the day of His appearing? In Zechariah the Lord foretells a great awakening when they will *"look upon Me whom they pierced and the whole land will mourn."* The full realization of who He is will then impact them so deeply they will never again be the same. Zechariah 12:10-14.

Christians too must review their past, the ungodly persecution of one another, the burning of so called heretics at the stake which can only be described as diabolically demonic, and the slaughter of both Jews and Muslims during the Crusades as well as the role the "church" played in persecuting Jews through the ages in pogroms, expulsions and holocaust. Even now the "Christian Church" worldwide is confused and divided by many issues, mostly things that have infiltrated the simple commands of Jesus. Ungodliness has blotted the church record. Instead of sanctity there has been licentiousness, instead of humility there has been pride and arrogance, instead of caring for widows and orphans there has been abuse of children and often the church has basked in wealth instead of caring for the poor. In many churches the true teaching of the cross, self-sacrifice, repentance, humility and love for others is not heard. There is little counting the cost of taking up the cross to follow Jesus. Yet millions of Christians have had their blood shed because of their commitment to Yeshua. In the light of the Christian doctrine of the return of the Lord the "Church" must prepare

to meet a radical, Holy and Just God who was manifest in Yeshua Messiah and who laid down his life in loving sacrifice for all mankind. Are we ready for such an event or do we need to repent of our past?

Many **Muslims** have through the ages shed their blood for their religion. They have been triumphant in conflict and fanatical in death. They too must face their inner demons of hurt and rejection, of being sidelined and at times taken advantage of and made to feel of no worth by the hatred of conflicting factions even within themselves. They must face their own inconsistencies of behaviour and those of militant and fanatical violent leaders amongst them who are driving their people to their own destruction and the destruction of others. There is plenty of blood in Islam but it seems right now to be the blood of violence and hate and not too much self-sacrifice for others. Islam has many martyrs but no Messiah who will lay down his life in humility and meekness. There are among them many who wish to live in peace but the present focus by radical groups is a call for bloodletting of “infidels”: western nations, Christians and Jews in particular and even Muslims of other factions; the Shia and Sunni Muslims fell out shortly after the start of Islam and have been warring ever since. Some Muslim leaders have spoken out against those who have hijacked their beliefs but they seem to be a people increasingly frustrated and driven by hatred and entrapped in a religion of blame. For many their salvation is based on martyrdom and revenge. Many Islamic groups call for the destruction of Israel. One thing alone seems to be of great importance to these people and that is their mutual hatred of Israel and the West.

Judaism laid the foundations of law for society through the great commandments of Moses such as not to steal, not to covet, to honour marriage and give respect to the elderly, to give sanctity of life to others and not to murder or harm. These are basic laws on which we build a stable and just society. The heart of Judaism is the Torah Law and the command to live in truth and righteousness. It is about a righteous God who will judge the world. Sadly the truth of the matter is that no one has succeeded to live up to these commands or live a life of total righteousness.

Yeshua/Jesus added the crucial element of forgiveness, love and grace; he taught these principles and lived by them. When he was so cruelly and wrongly crucified he prayed for his enemies and forgave them. The heart of Christianity is the truth about a Father God of love and forgiveness. Some of the most important words in the entire New Testament are the words of Yeshua about forgiveness. If we do not forgive others we cannot receive forgiveness ourselves. Matthew 6:9-15.

Radical Islam replaces all this by another factor; submission to Shariah law through force of arms. At its heart is a god of war who must be obeyed at all cost and without question. These Muslims look for a final Imam who will be a kind of messianic figure who they call the “Mahdi.” He will unite Muslims and lead them to victory. In the light of history and their present agenda one wonders what kind of person he will be. Their religion is devoid of grace, forgiveness and sacrificial love.

All these people look to Abraham as Father of their faith and there are reports in these times of people from all three faiths having encounters with Yeshua. There are accounts of him appearing to people who seek for truth, love, and forgiveness and to those who are poor and abused. Reports from around the world indicate an astounding number of people turning to him in recent years especially due to the upheavals in certain nations: in Egypt 2 ½ million converts in the last few years; the same numbers in Pakistan; millions more in Sudan; many tens of thousands every year in Muslim nations such as Algeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia; in Africa 6 million a year; in China the numbers are estimated to be vast. In the last 30 years more Muslims have come to Yeshua than in 1400 years, this despite aggressive persecution by their own people. There are also more Jewish believers in Yeshua than at any time since the first century. He will continue to appear to people for he is coming. When he comes people will actually see him. For Jewish people it will be their second encounter with him and this time their eyes will be opened to recognize him as Messiah. For true Christians it will be the culmination of the hope and joy of the ages for which they have prayed

and longed. For Muslims it will bring release from bondage and reconciliation to the true God of Abraham.

Most people have been influenced by these religions and we now face a scenario in which many nations are in turmoil as they clash over past unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness and religious animosity spilling into a final great conflict. Fanatical religious fighters, political power seekers and greedy men and women who deny God the Creator and live self-centred lives are fighting one another. Only Messiah has the authority and power to save us from ourselves. How will He do this? He will use the people he always has used through history – Israel. This little nation of a few million people, who have been hounded through history, who could have been exterminated on numerous occasions and for which there is now great clamor for their extinction, face dire danger of being yet again wiped out. Powerful forces are gathering to attack them and they will be brought to the brink of destruction. The spiritual forces that motivate this will not stop at their destruction but seek the destruction of all decent, freedom loving people everywhere and will attempt to bring total slavery on the world. They will be driven by such fanatical deception they will not heed sound reason. They will have considerable international influence and such devastating power in their hands that no nation will want to resist them. All Christians and people of faith and freedom will be in jeopardy. Israel is the first line of our defense but they will stand alone with none to help. There will be such manifestation of evil that it will paralyze much of mankind. The power behind this evil is what the Bible calls the “Beast”. It will grow to become a monster that will dictate its cruel deception to the furthest parts of the world and will hold entire communities and nations in its grip. It will feed off the fear of the people and will hold them with a demonic propaganda that feeds them lies against which few will stand. Revelation 13:2-6. Like a giant it will come to dominate much of the world but it will face its day of reckoning. Israel, alone and without support from any other quarter except divine, will stand against this evil monster of inhumanity. This is developing so fast it could be sooner than people think.

Ever since a young lad took on a giant called Goliath this is the day and the hour that God has prepared Israel for. When the armies of Israel were paralyzed and held at bay and faced certain defeat this youth stepped forward with a sling and a stone. As a shepherd he had already faced adversity and killed a lion and a bear with his hands alone. Although he was only a lad he knew the God of the Bible. There was one weak spot in the armour of Goliath and that is where David aimed. The stone flew as straight as an arrow and felled the giant and David still had another four stones left just in case! 1 Samuel 17.

This was a preview of what will happen. Those who long for righteousness and freedom will stand in awe and cry “Who can fight against the Beast” the great giant of iniquity described in Revelation 13:5. Nations will be powerless and only able to protest. Ezekiel 38:13. (Tarshish represents a western nation that trades wide and far.) There is only one person who can defeat this Beast and the satanic power that drives it. He is the “Root of David” from the tribe of Judah, the Coming King, “Son of David”; Messiah.”

This is what God has prepared for Israel; through all their wanderings and expulsions, the loss of their land when banished to Babylon, their purging from idols and helplessness as they went as lambs to slaughter in the Holocaust; all they have been through has prepared them for what they now will face. Their entire history is a journey to bring them face to face with Messiah. Right at the start of this journey they saw the most awesome deliverance by God when Moses led them out of Egypt. There were miracles, ten in all followed by Passover, that impacted them forever. This was their founding moment as a people when God made a Covenant with them at Sinai and Moses saw the Lord “face to face.”

Moses foretold that God would raise up a future Prophet from their midst and that he “will speak My words in My name.” Deuteronomy 18:15-19. This Prophet will be a Hebrew and will have the authority and name of The Lord God of Abraham, the God of the Covenant. This is awesome; he will have God’s words and God’s name. He is Messiah.

For forty years they sojourned in the wilderness where they learnt to depend upon the God of Israel and where they were purged and weaned from the ways of Egypt. This was their training ground in order to possess the Promised Land. They had to be strong and overcome giants and wage war against the most ungodly of people. There were many lessons to learn and the Lord provided Judges and then Kings. The nation split in two with internal discord, prejudice and corruption. They fell into idol worship and were led astray by false prophets. Eventually both the House of Israel and the House of Judah went into captivity. In Babylon they were purged from idol worship and united as a people. Numbers of them returned to the land and they rebuilt the city and the temple. Once again they came into sever testing when pagan religion was forced upon them by Antiochus the Greek with his Hellenic culture and gods; the Torah was burnt, the temple defiled and the Covenant of Moses violated. A number of brave devout men rose and gathered others and eventually overcame this terrible threat. Then the Romans came and enforced their Empire upon them. The Romans were harsh and cruel and it was only a matter of time before another rebellion took place this time resulting in another disaster and the final Diaspora. For nearly 2000 years they wandered without a homeland and were subjected to pogroms and expulsions until in the last century they were hunted down by the Nazi and killed in their millions. After World War 11 the devastated survivors limped back to a land that had become barren and inhospitable and to neighbours who did not welcome them. No one gave them much hope of surviving, but they have, in the face of overwhelming odds. They should have been wiped out in several major wars but miraculously survived.

All this has shaped them into a people unlike any other. They have been tempered through fires of adversity and the furnace of persecution; they have steel in their souls. They will need it for the things that are still to come upon them. At great cost they will stand alone with the God of Israel, the God of the Bible and LORD of the Covenant. They will be tested to the limit. Will they give in to despair and turn to hatred and injustice, as so many nations before them have? Their greatest test

still lies ahead but they will prevail and survive and be changed to become the Prince of nations in the Coming Kingdom of Messiah, Lord of truth and mercy. They will know the God of the Universe and trust in Him. This will be the defining moment of the ages. And all who call upon His Name will be saved, Jew and Gentile alike. Through the history of Israel runs a thread of future deliverance for Israel *and* the world: it is the **Coming Prince** the **Messiah**. Revelation 5:4,5-13, 2 Timothy 2:8, Matthew 1:1,9:27, 21:9,15, 22:42,43, Luke 1:27,32, 2:4, Rev 22:16.

A few scriptures in the Tanakh (Old Testament) that refer to Messiah.

The Seed of Abraham – Genesis 12:2,3 23:18. Foretold 3400 years ago. The seed came through Isaac, Jacob and the family of Jesse and David; Gen 26:2-4, 28:13,14, Isa 11:1, 1 Samuel 16:10-13. He will be a Hebrew but all genealogies have been lost so no one else can now fulfil it.

A Prophet Like Moses – Deuteronomy 18:15-19. The Mishna states that this Prophet will come from the people of Israel. The Talmud states Messiah will be the nearest to Moses. He will be Jewish.

The Suffering Servant – Psalm 22 given about 3000BC years ago gives details about Messiah even to the words he spoke when he died. There are other scriptures such as Isaiah 53 given 700 years BC. Zechariah 12:10 – He is the one who is pierced.

The Child of God – Isaiah 9:6,7. The Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Branch – Jeremiah 23:5,6, 33:15, Isa 4:2, Zech. 3:18, 6:12,13. This person is called “Yaweh” our Righteousness.

The Birth of a King – He will be ruler in Israel, whose going forth is from the “days of eternity,” and he will be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2-4.

There are over 450 prophecies of Messiah; about his lineage, birth, ministry and death. For so many to be fulfilled in one person makes it impossible for there to be an imposter. There is only one person who has fulfilled them, Yeshua our Messiah.

CHAPTER – 2

THE COMING OF MESSIAH

The Prophecy of Daniel concerning the coming Prince Messiah and the “Seventy Weeks”

Daniel 9

At the end of the previous chapter there are a number of scriptures that foretell the coming of Messiah. The book of Daniel contains one of the most important of these prophecies. Daniel was an outstanding man who rose from being a young captive, dispossessed of land and home at the time of the Babylonian invasion, to become one of the most powerful and significant men of the Old Testament. He saw the rise and fall of three world empires and several great kings. His life is one of faithful endurance in the midst of severe testing. He was one of the most influential men in the history of Babylon, Media and Persia. Scripture says that he was so highly regarded by the God of the Bible that he was numbered with Noah and Job. Ezekiel 14:14,20, Daniel 9:23, 10:11. In the Tanakh there are few greater men other than Moses. Daniel received visions, had angelic visitations and supernatural encounters with God in which the entire progress of history was disclosed from the days of Babylon to the end of this present age. It is my belief that *all* the prophecies concerning end time events must fit in to the overall prophetic pattern that God showed Daniel.

Daniel chapter 9 is one of the most important scriptures about Messiah in the entire Tanakh for it tells us *when* he will come. If one had lived at the time of Yeshua and if one had understood the prophecy correctly which was not too difficult seeing it was given in plain language one could have calculated exactly when Messiah would come and what would happen including the destruction of the temple. In fact there were some people who knew Messiah was close: Simeon, who was advanced in age, knew he would see Messiah before he himself would die; Anna, a devout woman who spent much time in prayer knew

Messiah was coming soon; the wise men from the East knew the future King had been born. There was great expectation among the people that Messiah was coming and they looked for him or a Prophet who would announce him. In fact it was possible from scripture to know the year of his coming.

I believe the prophecy of Daniel 9 about Messiah and the Covenant is so important that the “deceiver” has in recent years done everything possible to confuse its meaning and so rob both Jew and Gentile believers of its enormous significance and thereby cause confusion and lost hope in the promise it contains. The God of the Bible is the God of the everlasting, unbreakable covenant which He will never renege on. That alone is where our faith lies. No wonder there is such contention as to the meaning of Daniel 9:24-27.

Let’s look at the overall significance of the prophecy of the “**70 weeks.**” First of all we must put it into its historical and Biblical context.

In about 606BC Daniel as a youth was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. He spent most of his life in that region and when he wrote Daniel 9:1 the year was about 537BC, the first year of the reign of a king called “Darius of Media” who is generally considered a viceroy to King Cyrus of Persia who captured Babylon in about 539BC. Daniel was then an old man, probably well into his eighties. As a youth he may well have heard Jeremiah’s prophetic warning of captivity and when reading the prophet Jeremiah he understood that *after 70 years* in Babylonian captivity the Lord would enable his people to return. Jeremiah 29:10 and 2 Chronicles 36:19-23. Leviticus 26:18-45 tells us why this captivity came about. It was now seventy years from Daniel’s deportation and he realized that the time had come for this momentous event to happen. He prayed and in answer to his prayers the angel Gabriel gave him a very special message; a Command would soon be issued.

In 536BC, *seventy years* from the deportation of Daniel, King Cyrus of Persia issued a Word of Command that Jews in Babylon could return to Jerusalem and rebuild it and the Temple. The prophet Isaiah foretold

that Cyrus would allow the Jews to rebuild *both* the **city of Jerusalem** and the **temple**. Isaiah 44:28. This is the same Cyrus mentioned in Daniel 1:21, 6:28, 10:1 and in Ezra 1:1 and especially 6:14.

It is important to grasp from the very start that these are literal years that came about as a consequence of the people of Israel breaking God's Covenant in the land. It is written in Leviticus that every seventh year the land must lie fallow and have a Sabbath rest. The people had not done this and had disobeyed much of God's Covenant. Just read Jeremiah and you will see how much importance he put upon Israel's breaking of it. Jeremiah warned of the consequences but the people disregarded him and were banished to Babylon for **70 years**, each **year** representing the time during which they had not kept Sabbath. Throughout Jeremiah the emphasis is on the Covenant and the need to obey it. In fact it is Jeremiah who gives the clearest prophecy of all about the Covenant being renewed by God in a wonderful manner. He declared that God Himself will establish a New Covenant with His people. This future Covenant would be established by Messiah. So we can see very clearly the historical context of the seventy weeks is about Messiah and God's Covenant. Jeremiah 31:31-33, 32:40, 33:20-25.

This is also the immediate context of Daniel 9 for his prayer was about God's Covenant. His prayer was a declaration that God keeps Covenant with all who love Him and keep His commandments. **Daniel 9:4**. He went on to confess the sin, disobedience, rebellion, shame and unfaithfulness of Israel in breaking that Covenant. They had committed great *abominations* even within the temple itself! Ezekiel 8:3-18. He acknowledged that judgment on Jerusalem was the direct result of breaking that covenant and that through judgment God "had *confirmed* His words which He spoke against them." Daniel 9:11. He confessed Israel's sins and pleaded with God to remember them and have mercy on His *city* and *people* and to forgive them for His Own Name sake. This is the context of his prayer; God's Covenant, the city and people. This must not be forgotten as we consider the message the angel Gabriel gave Daniel when he came to answer this prayer.

After Cyrus another King called Darius came and in 520BC he also issued a command which reiterated that the Jews continue building the temple. This was completed in 516BC *exactly* 70 years from its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 586BC. Some considerable time after this yet another king called Artaxerxes issued a final command in 457BC which renewed the building of **Jerusalem**, it having stopped because of opposition by enemies. None of these Commands are recorded in Daniel or Nehemiah but in Ezra. In fact all three are specifically recorded in Ezra 6:14 as the **Command of the God of Israel**. The first command was issued by Cyrus in **536BC** (Ezra 1:2). The second was issued by Darius in **520BC** (Ezra 6:8). The third was issued by Artaxerxes in **457BC** (Ezra 7:12-26). All three commands were lumped together as God's Command which means they were completed in **457BC** at the start of restoration under Ezra. A careful reading of Ezra 7 shows it was under this command that Israel attained full government. Subsequent to this the building slowed and in 445BC Nehemiah obtained letters of safe passage that were based on the *previous* command of 457BC.

This is of utmost importance in understanding the message the angel delivered to Daniel. He foretold that from a certain Command there would be a period of 70 “weeks” in which certain significant things would take place. What did Gabriel mean by 70 “weeks”? We have to consider the Hebrew to grasp it. The Hebrew word “week” actually means seven so in this context it means $70 \times 7 = 490$. It comes from the original **70 years** of captivity (9:2) except it was to be multiplied by seven. During these 490 years and especially the final 7 years certain important things will take place. See Appendix 1.

The seventy “weeks” are in three groups; 7, 62 and 1 divided in two halves of $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years. These divisions indicate stages; in the first 7 “weeks” (49 years) there would be extreme opposition; then there would be another 62 “weeks” (434 years) *until* Messiah. The 7 weeks and 62 weeks is a total of 69 “weeks” or 483 years *until* Messiah. Daniel 9:25. If one knew the year the command was issued then it was simple to calculate when Messiah would come. There were reliable Babylonian calendars recording these events. The question is; “which king issued

the command?” Ezra gives the answer – it is **God’s Command** issued through the human agents of *three* kings; Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes. **Ezra 6:14**. Let me re-iterate, all three commands were lumped together as **one** divine Command. Therefore the date *must* be counted from the final command of Artaxerxes’s in **457BC**. This command is not even mentioned in Nehemiah but it is fully recorded in Ezra and calculates **exactly** from then to the year that Yeshua was *anointed*. He was *not* anointed at his birth or at his death but at his baptism when he was publicly revealed to the nation as Messiah, *anointed* with the Holy Spirit and declared from heaven to be the “Beloved Son of God,” and from the lips of John the Baptist to be the “Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.” This is considered by reliable historians to be the autumn of **AD26** at the start of the Hebrew civil year **AD27**. Although some may question these dates there is a consensus of opinion about them and they coincide with all other Biblical events. They are the *simplest* and *clearest* fulfilment of this prophecy. Jesus confirmed this was the year of his *anointing* when he read the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah at the **start** of his 3 ½ year ministry. Luke 4:18,19, Isa 61:1,2. Not only did Daniel foretell the time at which Messiah would appear but as we shall see, also the duration of his public ministry and atoning death.

All seems clear enough but now there is disagreement. **Two Interpretations from the same scriptures!**

For a long time the meaning of these prophetic verses was consistently interpreted and understood by notable and reliable Bible teachers. In comparatively recent times an alternative view has arisen. This difference of opinion results in a very different eschatological understanding of “end time” events and brings conflicting conclusions. It is therefore of utmost importance that we get it right and know what we believe and why.

The first parting of the ways comes right here. There are those who say that the correct date that Gabriel meant was 445BC in Nehemiah 2:7,8. This would therefore change the calculation to work out to a much later disclosure of Messiah somewhere around AD38.

However, **no** new Command was issued at the time of Nehemiah; some even call it “the case of the missing decree.” Artaxerxes did *not* issue a Command but gave *letters of safe passage* based on his *previous* Command in **457BC** recorded in Ezra 4:21, 7:13. The letters were to build the walls. There is *no* mention of another Command whereas all three major commands are *fully recorded* in Ezra. It is clear that rebuilding the city was *already* in progress under Ezra but had halted because of opposition by various enemies. Some argue, however, that 445BC must be correct because it is the only scripture that specifically refers to the restoration of the *city* and not the temple. However, we read in Isaiah 44:28 that rebuilding of both temple and city was commissioned by Cyrus in **536BC**. This was the *first* of three commands that together became one Command issued by God. Clearly, the city had been rebuilt right from the start, it was the *walls* that needed renewal. In fact, it is clear from Haggai 1:4,9 that many of the people had *already* built substantial homes while the temple was still in ruins, so this idea is refuted by scripture. It was because of their enemies that the *walls* needed renewal in the days of Nehemiah but the **Command of God** was already complete in **457BC**. This has direct bearing on whether there is seven years left.

Is there a Seven Year Tribulation Period?

If you believe in a seven year tribulation period you will hold to the view we are about to consider. However, most people who believe it are not familiar with why they believe it. Let me therefore briefly explain to you what you believe. I can do this because for many years I believed and taught the seven year “Pre Tribulation Rapture”.

You will have to believe that the period of “weeks” started when Nehemiah went to Jerusalem with *letters* in 445BC. Then you will have to calculate 483 years from then to work out to the time of the Lord’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem just days before his crucifixion. To do this you will have to do a very complex mathematical calculation. This theory originated with a man called Sir Robert Anderson who calculated 483 years to that exact day. He converted “normal years” to “prophetic

years” and then juggled the number of days between them to get his result. His book “The Coming Prince” was written late in the 19th century and became very popular. However, very few people if any actually endorse his calculation; the Jewish calendar is so complex one would have to be a professor in astronomy. It is impossible to do so and I believe totally inconsistent with the original meaning, yet many people take it on face value and put all their trust in it without ever understanding it. By changing the number of years Anderson succeeds in making the years from Nehemiah in 445BC to end in AD32, the year he claims Jesus came to Jerusalem. However, 483 normal years should come to AD38. By his own admission Anderson has managed to lose about 6 years! This is truly ingenious, or is it? Anderson justifies his calculation by saying that “prophetic years” are shorter than normal solar years. He quotes in particular the reference in Revelation that 3 ½ years is 1260 days of 30 days for a month. We will consider this in a later chapter. However, we see in Daniel that 3 ½ years is 1290 days. The Jews used their own calendar but made allowance for any difference between it and a solar calendar by an additional month every few years to reconcile their calendar and bring it into alignment with the proper seasons so at no time did it alter the actual length in a sequence of years; years were years with their appropriate seasons.

Anderson said the Lord died on Passover AD32, a date that many scholars including scientists do not accept. The real issue is that we have no right to change plain scripture from one figure to mean another. Just as the original 70 years were real calendar years aligned to the seasons so are these. There is absolutely no justification to tamper with them. In fact the total of 490 is an important number that Jesus used in his teaching on forgiveness. We are to forgive not just 7 x 7 but 7 x 70 = 490 times. Matthew 18:22. Why did the Lord use this number? It comes from Daniel 9:24 and represents the fullness of time when all things will be reconciled and sin and transgression finished. Back in Genesis Lamech had sought for revenge 70 x 7 whereas Yeshua said we are to love our enemies and forgive them 70 x 7. This is the difference between hate and forgiveness. The Lord did not change this

number; it stands as the complete number of reconciliation which is seen in the message of Daniel 9 in the 70 “weeks”.

The day the Lord rode into Jerusalem was indeed a significant day but it was **not** the day of his revelation as Messiah but the day of his rejection. Although the crowds sang his praise the leaders were planning his death and Yeshua wept as he pronounced judgment on the city within the lives of those present and their children. Luke 21:43,44, 23:28-31. The angel told Daniel that it would be 483 years until Messiah not to his death; in other words 483 years to his public disclosure as Anointed Messiah. That day was at Jordan; from that day he was the “Anointed” and for 3 ½ years prevailed and confirmed the Covenant. It was also then that the “time of the prophets” ended and a kingdom age started with the Presence of the King. Luke 16:16, Mark 1:15.

The 70th “week” does not start at his arrival in Jerusalem but at his baptism **exactly** three and a half years earlier in AD26/27 when he disclosed himself at Jordan and, more important, when he was acknowledged by the Father in heaven. The 70th week does not start at his death but at his baptism and continues for three and a half years, the first half of the final week. The angel Gabriel said that Messiah would be “cut off” sometime **after** the 69 weeks and we are told **exactly** when, in the “middle” of the final week. Anderson starts at the wrong time and ends at the wrong time. The 70th week started at Jordan and the crucifixion was in the exact middle, after 3 ½ years. Nowhere does Daniel mention 7 years at the end but *only* 3 ½ years. Daniel 7:25. This is endorsed throughout Revelation where the *only* time is three and a half years. The end period is only 3 ½ years; this is a literal time. So as to eliminate any further confusion about this it is also given in *months* and *days*. We will look again at that later in this book.

Here again there is a parting of interpretations.

If one accepts the idea that instead of being *revealed as Messiah* he *died* at the end of the 69th week, then this gives credence to the idea that there is a period of 7 years still to be fulfilled. This is said by some

to be the final “Tribulation.” They assume that the “*prince that shall come*” is the antichrist and that the covenant he makes is a seven year “peace treaty” to rebuild a temple and restore sacrifice, which he breaks half way through. By saying “he” is the “antichrist” gives room for this idea. Is this sound exegesis or is it inconsistent with the facts? Is there a single scripture to endorse this? Have they lost the significance of the 3 ½ years during which Messiah prevailed? Have they got the wrong start of the 70th week? And have they considered the Hebrew meaning of the words “***he shall confirm the covenant...and cause the sacrifice and offering to cease***”? v27.

It seems to me that this is a reversal of the actual meaning of the Hebrew text for it is clear that the first half of the 70 “week” was fulfilled by Jesus himself. There are many translations of these verses that cause confusion so be careful of translations that add words not in the original. Firstly, one must consider the true meaning of “***he will cause the sacrifice to cease***.” The word ***cease*** in Hebrew means to “*observe the Sabbath, to rest*.” Strong’s 7673 – *sabat*. It was Prince Messiah who did this by his death on the cross. The words “cut off” are significant in that they can apply to someone who is banished or separated. This happened to Yeshua, he was “cut off” because of our sins; not for himself but for us. The same word is also used in “cutting” a covenant. Gen 15:10, Jer. 34:18. Only Messiah could establish the blood covenant and bring about a Sabbath rest to end all further sacrifice. He brought an end to sacrifices in the *middle* of the week; after 3 ½ years of amazing ministry he was “cut off”. No one else could do this but Messiah. Hebrews 8:13. The epistle of Hebrews is an explanation of this very fact especially chapter 10 where it is written; “*This is the covenant that I will make,*” and the covenant is mentioned no less than fourteen times. It explains how by one sacrifice Yeshua took away all further sacrifices and established the new covenant. This is exactly what Jeremiah foretold! As we have seen, after reading Jeremiah Daniel prayed about God’s Covenant. It is mentioned 6 other times in Daniel as the Covenant of God. Is it possible that the angel misused this word after Daniel had specifically prayed about it? No, it

was Jesus not antichrist who caused all sacrifice to **cease**. On the last night of his earthly life he sat down at supper and established the *new Covenant*. The following day he cut the Covenant in crucifixion and was cut off for our sins. The antichrist did not do this!

Secondly, the Hebrew word "confirm" (gabar) means to *prevail, to strengthen, cause to triumph, to show oneself as victor*. A related word (g^ebar) means "mighty man" and another related word is gabri'el, "strong man of God" the very name of the angel that delivered the message. It was Messiah who prevailed and established the covenant of God. This word is used in the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 42:13, "*The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man, He shall stir up his zeal like a man of war, He shall cry out, yes shout aloud, He shall prevail against His enemies.*" Of whom is the scripture talking? "*I the Lord have called You [Messiah] for a righteous purpose and in righteousness: I will take You by the hand and will keep you: I will give You for a covenant to the people (Israel) for a light to the nations [Gentiles].*" Isaiah 42:6 Amplified Bible. This is exactly what Yeshua did; it all points to Messiah not antichrist. For three and a half years in the midst of great adversity and opposition he declared the Kingdom of God and overcame his opponents both physical and spiritual. At his public baptism and subsequent anointing of the Holy Spirit he took up the sins of the world and carried them to the cross. For three and a half years he "confirmed the covenant" by declaring the Kingdom of God, teaching the truth of God's word, healing the sick, casting out demons and even raising the dead. On the last night of his earthly life he sat down with his disciples and confirmed the Covenant with them. This is exactly what is written in Galatians 3:15-17. Throughout the book of Daniel *covenant* always means the Covenant of God. Why should Daniel suddenly change it to mean something different from every other meaning it has in the book? The Hebrew word covenant is used in the Old Testament 255 times for the Covenant of God and less than 10 times for any covenant between men, all clearly seen in the context. The entire context of Daniel's prayer and of Jeremiah's message is the Covenant of God. How dare we degrade it to mean a "treaty with antichrist"?

It must be obvious to those without preconceived ideas and who carefully read the angelic message that Daniel 9 is about Messiah and that he ministered for exactly 3 ½ years and was “cut off”. There is absolutely no justification to make the “he” of verse 27 to mean anyone other than the “coming Prince” who the angel calls Messiah the Prince. The message is *not* about antichrist but about Messiah. The message is *not* about a “peace treaty” but about the Covenant of God. If we remain within the context of the major subject the meaning is clear. It is only when we leave this and stray away from discipline of correct interpretation that we end up off target. It does not matter which language we are trying to understand, the rules remain constant. In any discussion or account, if there are two subjects then the main one is the major subject and the secondary one is the minor subject. In Daniel 9 the *main* subject is Messiah the Prince. If anyone else is mentioned that is of secondary importance. In fact many Bible scholars see no justification to introduce a second prince into this passage. There is only one Prince and the *people* of that Prince. Although the Romans were used as agents to bring about the desolation it was the Jewish *people* led by corrupt leaders who caused it by their rebellion, first against Messiah and then against the Romans. The *people* then fought among themselves and caused their final demise. So both Jews and Romans caused the desolation but it all came about through the *people* breaking the Covenant.

The idea that the “he” of verse 27 is the antichrist and that the covenant is a “peace treaty,” and that he allows the Jews to rebuild a temple which he then defiles, is a great leap into assumption.

In verse 26 we are told that the “*people* of the prince who is to come” will destroy the city and sanctuary and the end will come in a flood. It is true that the Romans besieged the city. The story is told that the Roman troops ran amuck and disobeyed orders and set fire to the Temple and city. The consequence was horrendous as many hundreds of thousands of Jews were brutally killed. However, the emphasis is on the *people* of the “prince” and the angel has already told Daniel who the “coming Prince” is; it is “Messiah Prince” (9:25). He said that

Messiah will be cut off and the people of the prince (ie. Messiah) will destroy the city. The upper and lower case used for Prince in verse 25 and prince in verse 26 are *not* found in Hebrew. In fact they are *exactly* the same Hebrew word and there is no warrant to make the second read “ruler” as some Bibles do hence giving the impression he is another inferior person. In the context it is the same Prince for the angel has *not* introduced another; Messiah *is* the coming Prince and it was the people, under false leaders, who disowned and rejected him and brought destruction upon their own city. The Romans were only the agents of judgment used on the disobedient people. The two events are directly linked.

However, even if there is a second person in the narrative it does not change the major subject. The Prince is still the main subject and even if someone else is mentioned the subject remains the Prince. The “prince who is to come,” although not clearly defined, *should* revert back to the *major* subject which must *always* take priority in ambiguous construction of language. So too in this scripture; the Prince is the major subject and the “he” who follows *should* revert to the same Prince; same word same person. Some translations make allowance for the role of the Romans but even so they are *not* the “prince” mentioned in verse 27. This Prince “Confirms the Covenant”. He does not make a “peace treaty” but confirms the *existing* Covenant that was already established in the Old Testament and fulfilled by Jesus.

Either way one interprets it, Messiah is the one who makes the covenant. It was the Jewish people, some not all, who *caused* the destruction of the city and temple. Their *leaders* rebelled against the Romans and then divided into different factions and fought each other. The consequence was the destruction of their city. The Romans were only used to bring about that judgment. The desolation came as a result of their rejection of Messiah; they are linked. Matt 21:33-46. Yeshua was the true temple who was killed. John 2:19-21. Because of this the desolation of the brick and mortar temple was inevitable. The people who caused the desolation of the earthly temple first destroyed the *living* Temple. The people who rejected the Heavenly Temple were left

desolate at the destruction of the earthly temple. It was the rebellious people who fought the Romans *and* one another, who destroyed both the earthly and Heavenly temple. Dan 9:26. The Romans and their Legions were indeed part of this desolation but were not the primary cause. Just as the Lord used the Babylonians to bring judgment upon the nation in 586BC so too the Lord used the Romans to bring judgment at this time but it was a result of their own sins. When Yeshua was falsely condemned and cruelly killed it was the Jewish leaders and Roman leaders who together must take responsibility.

From time to time in the history of Israel prophets warned the people that if they persisted in their corrupt ways judgment would fall upon them. This was foreshadowed by Jeremiah. For many years he warned the corrupt people that if they did not repent then both their "city and temple" would be destroyed. Instead of taking heed their response was to declare that it was Jeremiah who deserved to die for saying so. Jeremiah warned that if he was killed they would bring innocent blood upon themselves and the city. This was *exactly* what happened when Yeshua was killed. By foretelling the desolation of the city and temple he was declared guilty of death. Even when Pilate appealed to them they answered "Let his blood be on us and our children." The crucifixion of Yeshua and the desolation of the temple are directly linked. Jeremiah 26:6-8, 11,15, Matthew 26:66, 27:25. The city and temple were destroyed because the *people* forsook the Covenant of God. Jeremiah 22:8,9, 25:11,12, 34:8-21, 38:23. The people themselves caused the destruction of the first temple and so too the second. Yeshua went to some lengths to make it plain that the temple would be permanently destroyed and that not one stone would remain upon another and there is no indication from him or Daniel that another temple will be rebuilt, just the opposite, "*the end will be with a flood of desolation even unto the consummation is poured out on the city*". Daniel 9:27. There are some translations of these verses in Daniel that are ambiguous and words *not* in the original are put in to endorse various man made doctrines. However, the main thrust of the message is clear, the temple's desolation will continue even unto the *very* end. With the

death of the Lord came the inevitable destruction of the temple. The Hebrew word for desolation means “utter **astonishment**, to *stun*, to *grow numb*, *stupefy*, to *be destitute*, *destroy*” (Strong’s 8074). The crucifixion of Yeshua was appalling and utterly devastating and caused stupefying astonishment; it was the most stupendous and prodigious event in the whole of history. Jesus, the true temple, was disfigured beyond all recognition, marred more than any other man. The result was horrific; the utter desolation of temple and city.

Let me emphasize that *large numbers* of Jews received Jesus; it was only the corrupt leaders who rejected him. Subsequent to the crucifixion many Jewish people came to believe in Yeshua as Messiah. The leaders, however, continued in their denial and rejection of him. Stephen the first martyr was killed for this very reason; warning them that the temple will be destroyed.

There is no definitive statement in the New Testament that a temple will ever be rebuilt before Messiah returns, quite the contrary. This idea comes from assumptions based on a doubtful interpretation of Daniel 9, hardly the substance to base life changing beliefs upon. There are two verses in the New Testament that some use to teach that a temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem but both these verses refer to the “temple of God” *not* a temple of antichrist; 2 Thessalonians 2:4 and Revelation 11:1. In the NT the temple of God refers to a *living* temple, the one exemption may be 2 Thessalonians for Paul wrote this before the earthly temple was destroyed. However, this prophecy has been fulfilled many times through history if applied to the church being controlled by ungodly men. There is no evidence in the NT that endorses the belief that a temple will be rebuilt *prior* to the coming of Messiah. Most Jews who look for a temple believe it to be rebuilt only *after* Messiah comes; the temple Ezekiel described. The temple of the antichrist is already there yet many believers are blinded by their theology and cannot see it even though it is staring them in the face.

We will consider more about this false “temple” later in this book.

And last but not least is the whole aspect of what “confirming the covenant” really means. When Yeshua sat down at the Passover supper he took the bread, symbolic of his body, and the cup, symbolic of his blood and established the *new covenant* that Jeremiah foretold. Jeremiah 31:31-37, 32:40, 33:20,21. The next day he endured the horror of crucifixion; he bore the sins of all mankind and shed his blood. The angel said to Daniel “Messiah shall be *cut off* but not for himself.” This term is used especially “to cut covenant” as in a blood sacrifice. After six hours on the cross he cried with a loud voice “it is finished”. To what was he alluding? It was to Daniel 9:24. It was at the cross that Messiah made an end of sin, made reconciliation for iniquity, brought in everlasting peace for all who believe, sealed up and fulfilled prophecy and *finished* transgression. Psalm 22:31 Amp Bible. Although this is still to be fully worked out it was during his 3 ½ years ministry culminating at the cross that he began it. Contrary to tradition he was not crucified on Friday but on Thursday. This is well accepted by many Bible scholars and there are good books that explain it; see my book “The Crown of Thorns.” He entered Jerusalem and *exactly* in the middle of the last week of his earthly life he “confirmed the covenant” at the Passover which took place on Wednesday evening. This is significant.

The final vital ingredient of the angel’s message to Daniel is “anoint the Most Holy.” There are different opinions as to what this means. It is used of the Holy of Holies, the most sacred place behind the second veil. This was where the “Shekinah” cloud of God’s glory, His Presence dwelt immediately above the Ark between the two covering angels. The Ark was symbolic of the Lord himself; made of wood it was covered with pure gold and contained the tablets of the law and the rod that budded, all symbols of Messiah, both his earthly and divine nature. He is the Branch that budded, the Word of God clothed in humanity, the Son of Man *and* Son of God. The temple was holy because of who lived in it, the divine Presence symbolised in the Ark.

However, most people do not know that the temple to which Yeshua came did not contain the Ark. It had been lost when the first temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. When it was rebuilt and to the time

of Yeshua it contained no Ark; there is absolutely no mention of the Ark or indication it was restored within the Holy of Holies. When Yeshua came to the temple in the last week of his earthly life he took complete control of it. He healed the sick and taught the people; he was himself the true ARK. The Most Holy had come back to the temple. At the exact moment he died the veil was rent in two indicating the way into the Presence of God was open through the blood of the Lamb, Yeshua.

Yeshua said to the people that he was the true Temple and even if they destroyed his body he would raise it up in three days. He is also the Holy Ark of the Covenant. Isaiah spoke of the “Holy One of Israel” over thirty times! Yeshua was himself the Most Holy who was anointed; the anointing oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and he was anointed by God at Jordan when the Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove. This is why he is called Messiah, the Anointed One. He had the fullness of the Godhead in him. Acts 10:38, 4:27, Luke 4:18, Colossians 2:9. While in the temple he was once again endorsed by the Voice from Heaven. In fact he was anointed as Messiah for the supreme purpose of dying.

The Most Holy is not a place but a person, the Holy One of Israel, the **Messiah**. The Most Holy (kodesh kodesh - Strong's 6944) was killed and then through their own disobedience, rebellion and faction fighting the *people* were responsible for the destruction of the earthly sanctuary (kodesh 6944) and city.

His death on the cross fulfilled Daniel 9:24-27. Messiah came, confirmed the covenant and was cut off; this horrendous event caused utter desolation on the earthly temple and those who rejected him.

In the light of our discussion you must come to a decision about what the Bible actually means. You have a choice between two conflicting interpretations. The one is about Messiah and what he will do and is entirely Biblical with the focus on the power and glory of Messiah. The other is focused on antichrist and is based more on assumption than anything else. Did Gabriel come to tell Daniel about Messiah and God's Covenant or about antichrist and a peace treaty? You must decide. Yet

this interpretation is now *written into* some modern translations as if it were fact! It is a serious thing to change the Word of God.

You may say it is not important what we believe and it will make no difference but your conclusion will influence your ability to understand current events and what will happen. The one interpretation says it is Messiah who established the covenant; the other the exact opposite, that antichrist will make a peace treaty. The one indicates that the first half of the last week has already been fulfilled by Messiah and there is now only 3 ½ years left; the other that there is seven years left for which there are no clear collaborating scriptures. The one indicates that Messiah will return in power to fulfil all that he promised; the other that antichrist will rise up and rule the world for seven years. Linked to whichever you choose will be other important issues such as; will a temple be rebuilt or is the false temple already there, will there be a seven year treaty or is Messiah returning to those who are looking for his appearing to “confirm the covenant” and complete what **HE** began? So much fear has been taught through the idea of being “left behind” and going through “tribulation” that many Christians have become filled with a spirit of fear instead of the power of Christ.

SUMMARY -

At the risk of repetition I give the following summary of what we have so far presented. We are sometimes unable to think outside the restrictions of our theological boxes and can miss simple truth.

Daniel 9:24-27 is about Yeshua. There is some obscurity in the many translations of this passage but it should not be too difficult if one maintains the simplicity of the original language without adding extra words to the meaning. The entire period is 70 weeks (70x7) 490 years and starts with a Royal Command. It is to do with Prince Messiah; anyone else who may be mentioned is incidental. It was given to answer Daniel’s prayer about God’s Covenant which the people had broken by committing abominations, bringing 70 years of desolation upon themselves. Dan 9:4,12. In response to his prayer Gabriel

announced that Messiah will come and confirm the covenant – cause the Covenant to prevail. It is *not* about antichrist but Christ.

9:24 “...to anoint the Most Holy” - Yeshua “Messiah.” The whole message is about Prince Messiah and what He will do. This verse lists 6 things and it is generally accepted that Yeshua fulfilled the first 3 perfectly and the last 3 partially. He is the MOST HOLY true Temple and at the moment he died on the cross the veil in the temple was torn.

9:25 – 7 and 62 weeks unto the Messiah the Prince. From the command in 457BC it would be 69 weeks to the coming Prince. Ezra and Nehemiah record the first 49 years as a time of trouble and oppression.

9:26 – “after the 62 weeks Messiah shall be cut off but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Sometime after the period of 62 weeks Messiah was “cut off” but not for himself. The full period of 483 years works out to the exact time when Yeshua was baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit in AD26/27 at the start of his 3½ year ministry. This was the first half of the 70th week; then he was “cut off” in the middle of it. It was then that the allocated time was also cut off with a gap in the final week.

9:27 - “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifices and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make desolate, even until the consummation and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

To “Confirm the Covenant” means God’s Covenant *not* a peace treaty; confirm means to strengthen and covenant is the Biblical word for God’s Covenant. The covenant number is seven and **he** will do this for one “week” of seven. **He** has already fulfilled the first half of this week and confirmed the Gospel for 3½ years, established the Covenant in the middle of the 70th week and caused all sacrifices to cease in a cessation

as in **Sabbath**. The words “he will bring an end to sacrifices” or in the AKJB “he will cause the sacrifices and oblation to **cease**” are significant. This word means “**to observe Sabbath**” and carries the meaning of rest, cessation and fulfilment. (**Strongs 7673** – *shabath*). Antiochus never did that or anyone else other than Yeshua. He *alone* brought an end to *all* sacrifice and the “**Sabbath rest of God**”. Daniel 9:24-27, Hebrews 4:9, 10:11-14. He also warned of desolation to come and the Romans were agents in this divine judgment.

Messiah began his ministry at the time of Trumpets and Atonement and ended at Passover exactly 3½ years later. He was lifted up “as an **abomination** that causes **astonishment**” and “desolation” followed. He was hung on the “wings of the temple” for all to see and this deed ultimately brought utter desolation to the nation. In the first half of the 70th week, he confirmed the **Covenant**, *took away all sacrifices* and after his resurrection poured out His Holy Spirit on the new living temple. This view is in fact the original oldest view of Daniel 9:24-27 held long before any ideas about antichrist came along and hijacked the real meaning. Many authentic long standing scholars believed this.

The view that the prophecy of Daniel 9:27 is about antichrist making a “peace treaty” with Israel which he then breaks does not make sense. The message Gabriel brought is a direct result of Daniel’s prayer to the Lord who keeps His **covenant** with all who love him and keep His commands. The word **covenant** is used hundreds of times in scripture for **God’s Covenant**. (**Strongs 1285**) Daniel confessed that Israel had broken this very covenant. Another word meaning covenant by cutting flesh is to “*cut off*”. (**Strongs karath** - 3772) This word is used in Daniel 9:26 of Messiah who was “**cut off**” but not for Himself. He was perfect but was cut off from his people and his Father, and died in our place.

The word “confirm” is a word meaning to “be strong, strengthen, cause to prevail.” (**Strongs gabar** 1396). It is linked to the name of the angel **Gabriel** who brought the message; *geber* - 1397 “a valiant man, warrior” and *el* - 410, “strength, especially of the Almighty.” The overwhelming meaning of the word to **confirm** is to “strengthen in a valiant

manner as a warrior and man of God.” Messiah did this; for 3 ½ years he prevailed against all the powers of Satan and the forces of evil, then he was “cut off” in our place. For 3½ years he declared the covenant with signs and miracles. He confirmed it exactly in the middle of the final 70th prophetic week and also the middle of his final week of earthly life. He ministered for exactly 3½ years, from his baptism to his death, during the first half of the 70th week. It was 69 weeks “until Messiah” and exactly 483 years to his *baptism* when anointed by the Holy Spirit and declared to be the Son of God as well as the Lamb of God. This was his public revelation as Messiah; 3 ½ years later, *exactly* in the *middle* of the 70th week he died on the cross.

The idea that antichrist will make a treaty with Israel and then break it is totally out of context with the meaning of the entire chapter. Israel may be forced by international powers to give up Jerusalem but that is not what this refers to. Messiah confirmed and fulfilled God’s Covenant and brought a **Sabbath rest** to sacrifices. Nowhere does it say that antichrist will “break the Covenant.” It was *our* sins that broke God’s Covenant and caused Messiah to be “cut off”. Neither is there any mention of a rebuilt temple. The temple was destroyed with no further need for sacrifices. Even devout Jews who look for a rebuilt temple believe it will happen *after* Messiah comes and not before. This prophecy makes it clear that the temple will *remain* desolate right to the **consummation**. Matt 23:38. This is a strong word and means an *utter* and *complete* destruction to the very *end*. (Strong’s 3617) Some teach that a so called “peace treaty” will be made for seven years by a confederation of nations (Psalm 83) but then broken in the middle. There are two problems with this. First of all there is not 7 years left in Bible prophecy, only 3½. Nowhere does Daniel talk about 7 years only 3½. Secondly, the nations of Psalm 83 do not covenant *with* Israel but hate Israel and covenant *against* Israel. Some people may ask, “What then of the calculations made by Robert Anderson who calculated the time of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem?” This is a complex calculation which most people have no understanding of and certainly cannot replicate. There are two problems with these calculations; they start at the wrong

time and end on the wrong day. Anderson starts his calculation from Nehemiah in 445BC and through a complex process works it out to the time Jesus died. However, the prophecy of Daniel states clearly that the period is *until* Messiah the anointed one; to his public *anointing*. He was anointed at his baptism not his birth or death. Also, Nehemiah never had a Command but only a letter of safe passage that was based on the previous Command given in **457BC** under which the rebuilding of the city was already well advanced and Israel had attained self-rule and spiritual restoration as a nation. Calculating the time from then works out **exactly** to when Jesus was baptized at the start of his 3½ years ministry, not his entry into Jerusalem or death. **It is the only date that falls within the life of Jesus without juggling the figures.** I cannot understand why people reject this simple Biblical and historical fulfilment when it is so clear. The three decrees were complete at the return of Ezra in **457BC**. (If one wants to consider the 62 weeks as a separate period and not part of the whole then the 445BC of Nehemiah may have a dual significance to the *birth* of Jesus, but not to his baptism. From 445BC works out to within 6 years of his birth. Those 6 years can possibly be accounted for by the 2300 days when Israel was not a sovereign nation but under the control of Antiochus IV.)

However, the message as a whole is clear and so simple that many do not want to accept it! Daniel was a great prophet. He had dreams, visions and angelic visitations. He saw the Lord in the Throne room of God and spoke directly with Him. He pronounced judgment on two of the most powerful kings in history and foretold the course of Gentile Nations right up to the coming of Messiah, the “Stone from heaven,” the “Prince of the Covenant,” the “Prince of Israel.” He foretold the rise of Antiochus IV, the desecration of the temple, its rededication, the first coming of Messiah and the resurrection. He also foresaw the most awful act of sacrilege ever seen in the whole of history, the crucifixion.

He also foretold the return of Jesus to complete what he began and to establish God’s Kingdom and everlasting righteousness. Daniel does not end with antichrist but with the great blessing that comes through Messiah.

CHAPTER 3 –

“THE TIMES OF MESSIAH”

THE FIRST 3 ½ YEARS OF MESSIAH

Yeshua was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Galilee under Roman control. He remained unknown until the day of his disclosure when John the Baptist cried “Prepare the way of the Lord” and pointed people towards Messiah who came at the *exact* time foretold by Daniel; *after* 69 weeks or 483 years. In the year 26/27AD Yeshua was baptised and anointed by the Holy Spirit and publicly revealed as Messiah. His ministry lasted *exactly* three and a half years. This is confirmed by harmonising the four Gospel accounts. He fulfilled the *first* half of the seven years and in the *exact* middle he was “cut off” and crucified. It is significant that Jesus ministered for 3½ years, something many Bible readers do not stop and ponder. We now consider some important events that verify the time of his birth and ministry.

(Dates may vary among scholars but these are accepted by many. See my books for more information: The Covenant of Glory, Crown of Thorns and The Coming Conflict.)

HE IS THE TRUE TEMPLE - John 2:20

Yeshua said he would raise up the true Temple in three days! In the Gospel of John this event is placed near the beginning of his ministry when the Pharisees said Herod’s temple had been in existence for 46 years! Herod started to build it around 20/19BC. Yeshua started his ministry in AD 27; a simple calculation confirms that it was 46 years to that time. This was also 483 years from the decree that Artaxerxes issued in 457 BC, as the angel had said, a total of 69 weeks to the coming of Messiah! After his baptism Yeshua began to teach, cast out demons, do miracles and raise the dead. In this way he confirmed the Covenant from the start of the 70th “week”. He did this for 3 ½ years which brought the time he came to the earthly temple at the *end* of his

ministry in the **50th Jubilee year** which is the year in which slaves are set free and all debts are paid! This is highly significant. Luke 19:29-48

Herod erected a golden eagle within the temple and also built the Fortress of Antonia on the northern **wing** but the temple had no Ark. Why? Yeshua himself was to come and fill it. He came bodily to it, cleansed it and for three days took up residence in it (Mal 3:1). Then he was arrested and beaten, scourged and mocked, all in the nearby fortress on the **wings** of the temple. After that he was taken to the extremity of the temple and at its northern **wing** was lifted up on Golgotha within sight of the temple itself. I believe this was the exact place where Abraham offered up Isaac and the highest spot for miles around so that the crucifixion was visible to all in Jerusalem, a most horrendous sight, an awful abomination if ever there was. To be hung on a tree was considered a curse and he was lifted up like the serpent on a stake in the wilderness, a sight so appalling it was a horror for all to see. He who was spotless became a curse for us. Galatians 3:13. This is important to grasp so as to understand what I will share later.

After his ascension he confirmed the New Covenant and poured His Holy Spirit into his new Spiritual Temple. From then on the temple in Jerusalem was destined for desolation and the *living* Temple of God became the true temple in which God took up residence. God replaced the earthly temple with a spiritual temple. Hebrews 8:13. Nevertheless, work on the earthly temple continued until AD 64. The people went on beautifying it for many years *after* the Lord had come and gone! (Amos 9:11-12.) A few years after this, rebellion broke out among the people and it was destroyed in AD 70. The disciple Stephen fearlessly proclaimed that Jesus would destroy “this place and change the customs of Moses” and this was why he was stoned to death. Acts 6:14.

Yeshua had already proclaimed its total destruction. Luke 19:44, Matt. 23:38. Daniel also foretold its complete desolation even to the *end* meaning that the Temple will *not* need to be built again before Messiah comes despite what some may say! In fact in Daniel 11:45 we are told the temple was replaced by the “*tents and tabernacle*” of the vile “king

of the end times” which have been standing there for a long time already. We will look more closely at this amazing prophecy later.

YET ANOTHER CONFIRMATION

Luke 3:1 gives us the exact year for the start of Christ’s ministry. It was in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. Tiberius started his rule as coregent with Augustus Caesar in AD 11/12. The fifteenth year was therefore between AD 26 and AD 27. Pilate started as governor in AD 26. If Yeshua was born in 5 BC as many believe then at this time he was thirty years old; 26 + 4 years (count 4 years from birth in 5BC). This is the age when a man was fully accepted in the synagogue and society. It is significant that Jesus ministered for *exactly* three and a half years! He alluded to this in Luke 4:24-27 and most scholars agree with this. Then he was cut off. Yet so many Bible researchers totally ignore this important time? Why is that? Is it because they have completely misinterpreted the message of Gabriel? They have reversed it to mean what antichrist will do instead of what Messiah will do.

As I said before, anyone at the time of Yeshua could have read the prophecy of Daniel and calculated when Messiah would come even to the day. When Yeshua strode down to the Jordan he calculated the exact day. It was around the time of the **Feast of Trumpets** followed by the **Day of Atonement** (these 10 days were called the **Days of Awe**). We see certain things that confirm this. It was at Atonement that priests and people went through ritual washing. Atonement was also the time when sins were confessed. And at Atonement the High Priest would lay his hands upon a lamb’s head and confess over it all the sins of the people before driving it into the wilderness where it was left to die. This is what happened at Jordan. The people came to John and confessed their sins and then went down into the water and John placed his hand on their heads and baptised them in total immersion. They went in defiled and came out symbolically clean. Yeshua was pure and had no sins to confess. Nevertheless he submitted to John and was baptised. He went into the water clean and came out carrying all the

sins of the people. He was then driven into the wilderness for 40 days and should have died but came back in the power of the Holy Spirit. From that time not only was he revealed as Messiah, having been anointed by the Spirit, he was also the “Lamb of God who carried away the sins of the world.” From that time it was *exactly* 3 ½ years to the Day of Passover when he was slain on the cross. During that time he walked the length and breadth of Israel and confirmed the Covenant with all who came to him.

If Messiah confirmed the first half of the 70th week, where then is the second half?

The first coming of Yeshua took place in the first half of the 70th week; there is a gap and his second coming takes place in the second half.

The question we must ask is “where is the final 3 ½ years, the last half of the seven years?” Some people say it followed immediately afterwards, from the crucifixion to the stoning of Stephen. However, there is no mention of this in scripture. Others claim it was fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD70. (Luke 19:42-48, Matthew 24:21) Although the Lord clearly warned about this event there is no scriptural reference to that time being the last half of the week and none of the predictions mentioned in Revelation had happened because it had not yet been written.

Yeshua told about both the Roman destruction *and* a future time of trouble at the end times. Prophecy often has a double fulfilment. Because the *whole week* of 7 years is the period in which he will confirm the covenant the last 3 ½ years must be similar to the first, in fact far greater. The first half was that period in which Messiah was revealed and did great miracles of healing and deliverance; the second half will be greater. It will follow on and repeat what took place but be expanded. Far from being a time of satanic power the last half must be like the first, a time of great miraculous supernatural wonders, the defeat of evil and victory of Messiah. It is a mistake to think the end time is only Satan’s time; it is God’s time of power and victory.

It is similar to the first time but then Yeshua was limited to the land of Israel. For 3 ½ years he declared the Kingdom of God, preached the Gospel, healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead and ministered to the people. Many Bible readers ignore the fact that he ministered for *exactly* three and a half years! On the final night at the Passover Supper he confirmed the covenant and was crucified the next day, thereby *taking away* forever all further sacrifice. This is verified by Hebrews 7:27. He will return to continue where he left off.

There are two halves each of 3 ½ years.

If you have followed what has been presented, you will have grasped that there will be another 3 ½ year period sometime in the future in which Messiah will once again “confirm the Covenant.” When he came the first time he did many mighty acts of God. Those who lived during that time walked with Messiah and saw and experienced great things. They were living in the “times of Messiah.” There is coming a second time like the first but *much greater*!

This will be the time in which Messiah will once again intervene in world history. During this second time Messiah will again confirm the Covenant not just to Israel but worldwide! These “times of Messiah” are nearly upon us; the second half of the 70th week.

BOTH PERIODS are FORETOLD in DANIEL 12

There are two periods of three and a half years.

Daniel 12:1 - Michael is the Great Prince who stands watch over God's people.

Yeshua said Daniel was a prophet and quoted from him. (Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:15.) Just as the message in Daniel 9 is about Messiah the Prince so the closing chapter of Daniel 12 is about Michael the Prince. We Gentiles miss what it means because we lack the knowledge to understand Hebrew synonyms not having been brought up to think in a Hebrew way. When we read about Michael the great **Prince of Israel**

we don't stop to ask ourselves what this title means. Our Theology has told us he is only an angel but he represents far more than that.

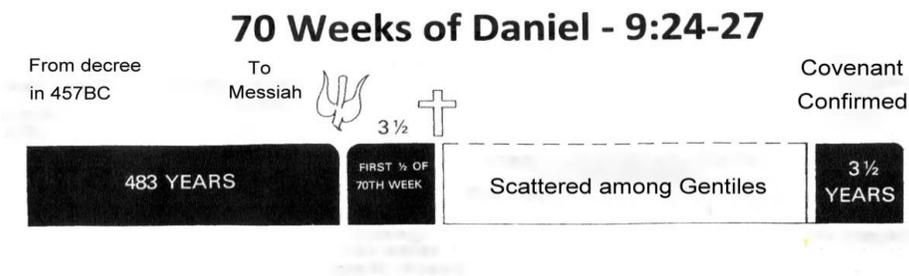
In Jewish tradition **Michael** ("Who is like God") is a *synonym* for **Messiah** the **Great Prince of Israel**, the Archangel and "Angel of the Lord" highest in rank over all angels. In Biblical context this does not mean that Messiah is a created angel but that he is the "Messenger of the Lord", the "Captain of the Armies of the Lord", first or chief in rank over all angels whom he commands. The title Michael is accepted by Jewish scholars as Messiah mentioned in Old Testament scriptures. Genesis 22:11,15, 48:15,16, Exodus 3:2, 23:20,21. The Apostle Paul confirms that in Jewish thinking Michael the archangel is a title for Messiah who he directly links with the resurrection; "*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel...and the dead in Christ will rise." In another place Yeshua said of himself "*the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth.*" John 5:28. No angel can raise the dead, only the Lord himself for he said, "*I am the resurrection and the life.*" He was not talking about an angel but of himself. There cannot be two voices that raise the dead and it was Michael who also contended for Moses' body. There is only *one* Captain of the Armies of God who John also called Michael the leader of all God's angels. Joshua 5:14, Rev 12:1. In Jewish thought Michael is a name for Messiah just as Melchizedek is too. In Jewish thinking he represents Messiah.*

There are two periods of 3 ½ years in Daniel 12

The last chapter of Daniel is very difficult to understand. Bible commentaries try to explain it but are inadequate simply because Michael is not seen as representing Messiah. I have never read an explanation about the 1290 days and the additional 45 days that is meaningful. They are usually applied to the antichrist and his abomination of desolation without considering anything else. However, I must ask the question "Do you not think it incongruous that the last words of the greatest discourse on prophecy should end with the focus on antichrist and not Messiah?" This has always bothered me and for

many years when I studied it I would pray “Oh Lord, show me what this means.” Then one day I heard the Lord say to me, “Look for two periods of time in the chapter.” Sure enough they are clearly there as soon as we stop looking for antichrist but focus on Messiah and what he will do. The Lord could not show me this until He first changed my focus from antichrist to Messiah. Even Jewish people can miss this but Jews of that time would have known what these days meant. Over a long period the Lord taught me how to consider scripture from another view point, that of Messiah. I propose we now do this so as to grasp what Daniel means.

Just as Daniel 9 foretold what Messiah will accomplish during the final “week” of seven years so does Daniel 12. Just as there are two periods of 3 ½ years in chapter 9 so there are in chapter 12. Daniel 9 reveals the 7 years will be divided in the middle when Messiah will be “cut off” making two periods of three and a half years. A careful reading of chapter 12 reveals it also has two periods of three and a half years. Both periods reveal what Messiah will do during the 70th “week” but divided in the middle with a gap between the two. The first half of the “week” is three and a half years; the second half is also three and a half years. Daniel said they are a “times, a time and half a time” and even gives the number of days as 1290 days; **3 ½ full solar years.**



Both halves end with a resurrection. The important thing to grasp is that the first 3 ½ years was fulfilled when Yeshua came the first time and the second 3 ½ years will be fulfilled when he comes the second time. The gap is not between the 69th and 70th “weeks” but according to Daniel 9:27 *exactly* half way through the 70th. During the first half

Messiah established and confirmed the covenant and was “cut off”; during the second half he will finish what he began and bring all things to completion. Daniel never referred to seven years at the end of the age but always defined it as three and a half years but there are two ages; the end of the Old Testament and start of the New Testament age with 3 ½ years transition, and the end of the New Testament and start of the Kingdom Age with 3 ½ years transition.

Daniel 12:1-7 is the conclusion of the message that Daniel received in chapter 11 in which he was informed about events concerning the “King of the North” and a “time of trouble” which brings us right to the very end of this present age when all things will culminate with the resurrection and the Kingdom Age established on earth at the end of the *final* “time, times and half a time”. Compare Daniel 7:25-27 and 12:1-7 to see this.

In 12:5 Daniel saw two “angels” and heard one of them speak to a “man clothed in *linen* above the waters.” Linen is the garment of a Priest. This person is described in Daniel 10:5-9 and also in Rev 1:13-17 as the Lord. Daniel saw him in His pre-incarnate form in the OT, the “Angel of the Lord” and called him, Michael the great prince. There might be an angel called by that name but Jews of that time would have understood this name as a synonym for Messiah, the chief Prince of Israel. One of the angels asked the “man” clothed in linen “how long” will it be until the fulfilment of all things. His reply was “a time, times and a half.” This is obviously the final last period of 3 ½ years that ushers in the Kingdom Age. Daniel 7:25-27.

However, Daniel did not fully understand everything and asked a question; “*O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?*” to which he gets an amazing answer. The reply is a very personal message that is especially applicable to him; “*Go your way Daniel till the end; for you shall rest and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days*”. Which days are meant? In context they are the 1290 days. Dan 12:9-13. We need to ask when the resurrection of Daniel’s age took place. ***This is a key to understanding the whole passage.***

It is a personal message to Daniel; he will live out his life and die but rise again in a *resurrection*. We have to ask "When did the resurrection of Old Testament saints occur?" What is generally missed is that after the 3 ½ years ministry of Yeshua's there was a resurrection of OT saints. Matthew 27:51-53. Although these verses are usually glossed over they clearly state that "*many bodies came out of the graves.*" This is exactly what Daniel was told; "*many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*" Many theologians believe the resurrection is in stages and that the Old Testament saints arose *with* Yeshua. This may pose a problem for some but when Yeshua arose *many* others did too. Surely Daniel was included in this Old Testament resurrection for the "man in linen" said to him, "You will rest and stand in resurrection at the end of the days." In the context these are the 1290 days of the *first* 3 ½ years. I can hardly see Daniel being left behind; he was among the greatest of OT saints. Daniel 12 contains a hidden message. For Gentile believers the clues may be totally missed for they mean nothing to us but to Jewish believers it was filled with great significance. Daniel arose *with* Jesus in the resurrection of OT saints.

But the wording of 12:11 seems obscure. What does it mean? Two events are described and it is logical that the 1290 days was the period between them. The NEB says, "*from the time when the regular daily offering is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be an interval of one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*" Some see this as a reference to Antiochus Epiphanes and what he did when he defiled the temple in 168BC. However, Daniel had already foretold that event and said it was 2300 days *not* 1290, so he did not mean the time of Antiochus. (Daniel 8:14) Throughout Daniel there is a play between two personalities; the Messiah and the antichrist. Have we forgotten what happened to Yeshua? To fully understand this verse we have to focus on Messiah then it becomes clear.

The crucifixion is pivotal in history. It brought about the greatest "desolation" ever! During the final days of his earthly life Yeshua came to the temple in its 50th anniversary year to set the captives free. He first cleansed it and then took up residence in it and taught and healed.

In the *exact* middle of that last week he inaugurated the New Covenant on the evening of Passover and died the following day which was still Passover day. OT prophets foresaw his death in precise detail. On that day he fulfilled numerous prophetic scriptures. Psalm 22, Isaiah 53.

He began his ministry at the time of Trumpets and Atonement and ended it at Passover exactly 3½ years, **1290** days later when he brought a “Sabbath rest” to all sacrifice. No one else other than the Lord could do that. He *alone* brought an end to *all* sacrifices and established the “Sabbath rest of God.” His sacrifice is complete. All further sacrifices are unnecessary. Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:9-14. In fact God had already foretold the rejection of animal sacrifices because of the national apostasy. Malachi 1:7-10, Isaiah 1:11.

As we have seen, Yeshua’s ministry started near the Day of Atonement; this is indicated by the way he presented himself for Baptism which is a ceremonial washing. At Atonement the High Priest especially, had to wash. The ministry of John the Baptist was like a trumpet on the Day of Trumpets calling the nation to repent before the Day of Atonement. Many people came to John and confessed their sins and were baptized in the river Jordan. They went into the water dirty and came out clean. They symbolically dumped their sins in the water. Yeshua came to the river as pure as a lamb without blemish, went into the water and came out *carrying* the sins of the world. At the moment of his baptism *all* the sins of the world were put upon him and he was driven as the “Scapegoat” into the desert for forty days where he should have perished. He became the Scapegoat and took our sins. John the Baptist declared he was the “Lamb of God” who took away the sins of the whole world. From the moment of his baptism Jesus became the living sacrifice, the substitute lamb that took our sins away. In the desert he was exposed to all our temptations as if one of us yet without sin.

Instead of dying he came back *anointed* with the *power of the Spirit* and did great miracles, healed the sick, cast out demons and raised the dead. Wherever he went he was confronted by enemies and opposed by evil spirits. Contrary to the general idea that it was all a time of

wonderful blessing it actually was a time of great spiritual conflict. Within the spirit realms great battles raged. Many times he was confronted by demons. Satan dogged his every move arousing animosity and hatred wherever he went. Many people directly opposed him. On several occasions his life was in jeopardy; at Nazareth, on the Lake of Galilee, among the religious leaders. He ended his ministry 3½ years later when rejected by Herod the puppet king of the Jews, condemned by a corrupt High Priest and sentenced to death by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, he died at the exact moment of the Passover sacrifice. From 9am to 3pm people brought their Passover lambs to the temple to be killed, but Yeshua was on the cross as the true Passover Lamb as our sacrifice and also our High Priest.

As we have seen, Yeshua is the living Temple of God. Matthew 12:6, John 2:19. This fact is not generally thought much about but is clearly stated. As a child he came to the earthly temple with full authority because he was the *real* Temple. What was done to him, the Holy Son of God, was a horrendous thing. Crucifixion is an appalling abomination. Abraham had a vision of it thousands of years before when God “cut” the Covenant with him and showed him the **“awful horror of great darkness”**; he saw the crucifixion. Genesis 15:10-12,17,18. Abraham saw the burning Presence of the Lord pass through the cleft sacrifice that symbolized the “cutting” of the Covenant. Yeshua was cut; beaten, torn, flayed and pierced. He was disfigured more than any other person. **Isaiah 52:14, 53:1-12**. To have seen this sight was a **great horror**. No crucifix, painting or film comes close to portraying it. When he took our sins he was lifted up like the serpent had been lifted up in the wilderness and he took the full *curse* of all mankind upon himself. Galatians 3:13, Deut 21:23, Numbers 21:8. It is difficult to fully comprehend the awful horror of the death of Jesus. He was the Holy Temple of God and at the crucifixion was treated with utter contempt. All our abominations were put on him and he was nailed to the cross and “set up” on the pinnacle of Mt Moriah where all in the city could see him; a hideous, abhorrent, appalling sight which caused utter astonishment and horror to all who saw it. Utterly desecrated and

rejected he was treated in the most contemptuous manner like a serpent set up as an abomination. The “Most Holy” took our sins! The living Temple was made totally desolate, the greatest abomination ever committed. It was predicted in the Messianic Psalm 88:8; “**You have put away my acquaintances far from me, You have made me an abomination to them.**” What Daniel described in 12:11 is what sin did to the Son of God. “**From the time the sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that makes desolate set up there shall be an interval of a thousand two hundred and ninety days.**” Strong’s Dictionary describes the “abomination of desolation” as a person, thing or event that causes utter desolation. Our English translations do not show that **desolation** and **astonishment** are interchangeable words. (Strong’s 8074) Long before Daniel used it Isaiah used this exact word when he described the horror of the cross. (Isa. 52:14. Amp Bible.) Nothing can be compared to what was done to Yeshua! He *carried* our sin for 1290 days, was lifted up, and died as an abomination.

There is another thing to ponder in these words. At the start of his ministry he was baptized by John who publicly declared him as the “Lamb of God that **takes away** the sins of the world.” From then on he identified with our sins yet lived a perfect life of holiness as a living sacrifice, as the Lamb of God. He became the living substitute for every temple sacrifice. At Jordan he picked up the sins of every person who has ever lived and *carried* them for the next 3½ years to the cross. In the closing chapter of Daniel 12 in verse 11 we are told “*the daily sacrifice is **taken away***” and these words carry great meaning. They come from the Hebrew word “**sur**” (Strong’s 5493) and mean to *turn aside or turn off, remove, depart*. Strangely enough it is also the name for one of the Temple gates, Sur. What significance may this have? It was Yeshua, the Gate to the Temple and Door for the sheep who at his baptism *carried away* the sins of the world. (John 10:1-9) He turned aside, took up our sins and carried them to the altar. From the very start of his ministry the Temple sacrifices had become unnecessary, he was the “Lamb of God” who replaced them: “turned them off” and removed them; he was both Sacrifice and Temple. Perhaps we don’t

fully appreciate this. He died at the exact moment of the Passover and at that moment the veil in the Temple was rent in two. The “**MOST HOLY**” is not a *place* but a person. Even the demons knew this. Luke 4:34, John 2:19-21. Daniel 12:11 is *not* about antichrist but about Christ. To take away *our* sin *he* became the abomination that was lifted up.

In the final days of his earthly life Yeshua cleansed the *earthly* temple and by his death opened the gates of the *heavenly* temple for every believer to enter. Malachi 3:1-3, Hebrews 8:1, 9:11. He took upon himself all the sins of mankind and was broken, crucified and discarded as rubbish. The crucifixion was the **greatest abomination** ever committed the **greatest injustice** of all time. In the days of Antiochus Epiphanes the temple was defiled but in Yeshua it was completely destroyed. The **MOST HOLY** died in a most barbaric horrific way. He was taken to the *extremity* or “wing” of the earthly temple and killed; ***“on the wing of the temple an abomination will bring desolation (astonishment).”*** All who look to him are healed but the inevitable desolation of the temple followed. Just as the serpent gave life in the wilderness so does Jesus. His ministry was the *start* of the great commission to take the Gospel to all nations and to all people. He turned what appeared total disaster into triumph. He brought the end to the Prophetic age and the start of the Gospel age. In fact the 3 ½ years was a preview of the Kingdom Age. Luke 16:16.

The words “set up” are also significant and the same as “Nathan” the prophet – “gift”. It is used in many ways but a priority meaning is “gift or given” (Strongs 5414). For God so loved the world that he *gave* his only begotten son to be crucified. The ministry of Yeshua lasted **1290** days from when he took the sins of the world at his baptism to when he was slaughtered on the cross. He was the Lamb who took away our sins, the Temple that was destroyed, the Gift of God given to us, lifted up as a serpent in the wilderness to take the sins of the world and he became an **abomination** for us. His death brought utter desolation to those who reject him and great blessing to those who obey him. He did not weep for the earthly Temple with its rituals and sacrifices but he wept for the people and warned them that their city and temple would

be utterly destroyed; the people who abused him brought about their own desolation. Daniel foretold a period of **1290** days in which “Michael” would prevail. This climaxed with an **abominable** event that brought appalling **astonishment** and utter **desolation** but after **1335** days great **blessing**. Dan 12:11-13. Daniel had already foretold an event that was called an “abomination of desolation” which was fulfilled by the cruel, ungodly Greek called Antiochus IV Epiphanes who marched into Jerusalem in 168BC, claimed to be Zeus and, placed Zeus’s image in the temple and forced Jews to worship it. Daniel 8:11-14, 11:31. However, these **1290** days refers to the time of Messiah. Daniel contrasted the actions of Antiochus to Messiah. Antiochus came to the temple and placed an idol in it and the daily sacrifice was **taken away**. This means to remove by force, (Strongs 7311 – **ruwm**) and has connotations of pride, haughtiness and rebellion. However, in Daniel 12:11 the daily sacrifice is **taken away** (Strongs 5493 - **sur**) which means to turn aside or turn off. Antiochus “took away” by force but Yeshua “took away” in love as in a **Sabbath**. Antiochus polluted the earthly temple whereas Yeshua is the pure Temple; Antiochus was a satanic man, Yeshua is the Son of God. At the time of Antiochus the temple was desecrated; at the time of Yeshua, He the *true* temple was destroyed. Antiochus was a proud cruel man, Yeshua was a suffering servant. This comparison of extreme opposites was portrayed at the Feast of Dedication when Israel remembered the awful sacrilege of Antiochus. Yeshua was in the temple at that very time and the Jews came to him and asked him if he was the true Messiah. He plainly revealed his identity to them and it is significant that he did so at this Feast when the nation recalled the horrors of the “false leader” who claimed to be Zeus in contrast to the Son of the Living God. John 10:22.

Throughout Daniel there is a play on two divergent figures which are contrasted with each other; the true Messiah and the false messiah. The book of Daniel concludes with Messiah not antichrist. Daniel was even told when he would himself arise, at the end of **1290** days, the end of the age in which he lived, *after* Messiah had been slain. That age culminated with the greatest **horror** the world has ever seen, the

“Abomination of desolation and utter astonishment” on the highest point or “wing” of the temple. It *took away all* other sacrifices. Several translations allude to this as the greatest sacrilege. The GNB describes it as the **“AWFUL HORROR”**. Daniel 12 ends with Messiah’s suffering.

TWO PERIODS IN DANIEL 12

There are at times double fulfillments of prophecy and as outlined above, if one carefully reads Daniel chapter 12 it becomes evident that there are *two* periods each of 3½ years; one that refers to the first half of the week and one that refers to the second half of the week. Daniel 12 gives insights into the end of two different ages; the Old Testament Age as well as the New Testament Age. The first has been fulfilled by Yeshua, the second is still future with a gap between the two. Verses 1-7 apply to the end times; verses 8-13 are to do with the past; the ministry of Yeshua, his death and subsequent resurrection. Both periods are 3 ½ years. Let me explain further.

The Lord said *“Go your way Daniel for the words are closed and sealed till the time of the end.”* Then in verse 11 Daniel was told there would be **1290** days and he will arise at the end of those days. Daniel 12 contained a hidden message. For Gentile believers the clues may be totally missed for they mean nothing to us but to Jewish believers of that time it was filled with significance. After the **1290** days Daniel will arise in a resurrection. The resurrection has an order and does not happen all at the same time but in stages; Christ the *First Fruits* and those with him, *then* those that are Christ’s when he returns, and *after* that the final general resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:23. The “First Fruits” resurrection of Christ *with* Old Testament saints happened at the end of his 3½ years ministry when he and a *multitude* of saints arose. They had been *resting in death* awaiting the “Coming One” who would raise them. He descended into the abode of the dead and after three days ascended leading those saints with him. Daniel too must have risen at that time. Ephesians 4:8. So there is an order; Yeshua *took away* all need of daily sacrifices, then by his death on the cross he made all further sacrifices **cease**. As the living Temple of God he was killed in

the most horrendous act of **abomination** that brought utter **desolation** to the nation. The earthly temple was no longer needed and eventually destroyed but not before the great **blessing** was given to those who believed. This may seem new but if we get out of our theological boxes and focus on Messiah it will become clearer.

THE FEASTS OF THE BIBLE ARE PROPHETIC

For Gentile believers with Greek based theology **1290** days may have no immediate meaning but to Jewish people with a Hebrew mindset it was of great significance. They knew that there is a 3½ year cycle every seven years between the major Hebrew Feasts of Passover and Atonement, and Atonement and Passover. The Hebrew Feasts are arranged in two groups, **Spring** and **Autumn**, in such a way that every 3½ years they **start and end on alternative Feasts**. The Jewish calendar consisted of 12 *lunar* months of 29 and 30 days which was usually 354 days in a year. However, because of the discrepancy between the Hebrew lunar calendar and the earth's solar calendar an extra month was added every three years. We do not know the exact day Yeshua was baptized but we do know it was around Trumpets and Atonement. John's ministry was a Trumpet call for the nation to repent and immediately after his baptism Jesus was driven into the wilderness for 40 days as the Scapegoat for Atonement. I believe he was revealed on the exact **Day of Atonement**. After nearly 2000 years and because of the nature of the Jewish calendar we cannot prove this conclusively but even a simple look at the Feasts will show this period easily works out to *exactly* **1290** days in a solar calendar. Some readers may say Jesus could never have been the abomination of desolation but he was.

It was Jesus who fulfilled this half of the 70th week of Daniel.

Daniel was given understanding about many things; the great troubles at the time of Antiochus and subsequent cleansing of the temple, the first three and a half years, the crucifixion of Messiah, and even his own resurrection. During this period many would be purified and cleansed. What we may fail to grasp is that this is *exactly* what Yeshua did. John

the Baptist's message was, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor and gather the wheat into the barns and burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." During his ministry Yeshua sifted the hearts of the people and purged the entire nation for the Day of Atonement. He cleansed many of the people even though the wicked continued to be wicked.

The first half of the "week" lasted **1290** days. Another **45** days brought the total period to **1335** days; "**Blessed is he who waits and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty five days.**"

As Gentiles we have no idea what this might mean but Jewish readers should know immediately. It comes to a significant event, **Rosh Codesh Sivan**, the time when God spoke at Mt Sinai to Moses in preparation for the Covenant. Exodus 19:1. This date is *linked* directly to **Shavuot**. Wave Offering and Shavuot are considered one continual Feast over 49 days from start to finish. However, there was some conflict as to how Shavuot was calculated. The Sadducees calculated the start from *after* the *weekly* Sabbath during Unleavened Bread. Leviticus 23:15,16. The Pharisees counted it from the first day of Unleavened Bread. This meant it changed its date and in order to anchor it, it was *linked* with the 1st of Sivan the day God spoke at Mt Sinai. This date was standardized as **45 days** after the First Day of Unleavened Bread. According to the Rabbis the Covenant was established during the next 5 days and culminated at **Shavuot**. These days were the "days of separation" during which the people prepared and were set apart and sanctified for the giving of the Torah. In fact the Covenant was like a marriage when the whole nation was betrothed to the Lord. It required at least three days of sanctification but this was preceded by two days of teaching. Every Jew knew the significance of the **45 days** in preparing for **Shavuot**. Let me explain more.

YESHUA FULFILLED ALL THE SPRING FEASTS

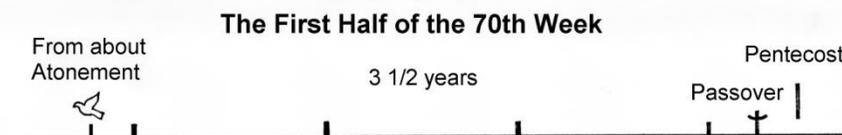
In the closing verses of Daniel 12 there is a promise of blessing to those who **wait** and come to the 1335th day. Counting the 45 days from the

16th of Nisan comes to **Rosh Codesh Sivan** and the next 5 days are set aside as preparation for the giving of the Covenant. The first 45 days of “counting the Omer” are considered the time of remembrance and repentance, the next 5 days are the days of revelation and preparation concluding with God revealed Himself to Israel in the cloud with fire, power and great shaking.

In the New Testament, Shavuot is the counterpart of that very event when Jesus established the New Covenant and gave the greatest blessing of all to the new born church; the Holy Spirit. The 1335th day was 45 days *after* his resurrection and was the start of the days of preparation for Shavuot. This was why Yeshua told the disciples at that time to **wait** until the Holy Spirit came. This was the cloud of the Holy Spirit coming to the spiritual Temple with a great shaking and when the New Covenant was confirmed and established in each believer sanctified with tongues of fire.

Daniel 12:8-13 is about Yeshua; the way he was lifted up in death as an *abomination of astonishment*, followed by the resurrection of OT saints and then the great blessing for the living saints of the New Covenant.

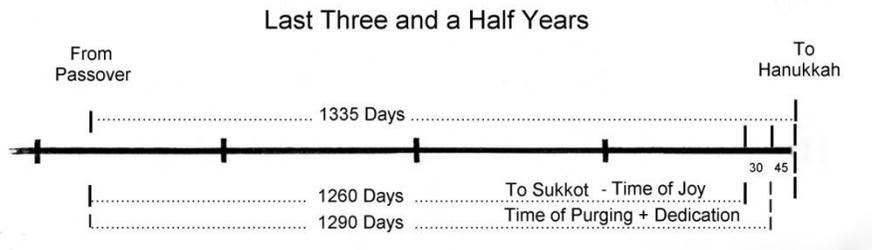
The *first* 3 ½ years were perfectly fulfilled by Messiah; **he** was lifted up on the wings of the temple bringing desolate astonishment, followed by the Resurrection and the great blessing at Shavuot.



The Ministry of Jesus - 1290 days plus 45 days from Wave Offering = 1335 days

The **1290** days of Daniel are nothing to do with the antichrist. They are in fact all to do with Messiah and the time of great purging, the resurrection of the Old Testament saints and ended in great blessing for the living saints. We need to focus on Christ not antichrist.

There remains a *second* half which is a **mirror** image of the first and starts at Passover and ends at Sukkot. Messiah will fulfill all the **Autumn** feasts at the end of year, after the harvest. These Feasts are **Trumpets**, **Atonement** and **Sukkot**. This period is also 3 ½ years but there are some important changes. Strangely, this whole period finishes during the 8 day Feast of Hanukkah and the cleansing of the Temple.



When Jesus rode into Jerusalem he said they will not see him again until they cry out “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” He foretold Jerusalem would be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the “times of the Gentiles” ended. In other words, when the age of Gentile control of the world ends a new age will begin, the age of Messiah’s Kingdom. But there is a gap between the first visit of Yeshua and his second. The gap is in the *middle* of the seventieth week, between the two halves of the week. During that period the Gospel went into the world and every nation. The *last* half of the week will start where Jesus left off and will continue until **Atonement** when he will reveal himself as High Priest to all who look for him (Heb 9:24-28), followed by **Sukkot**, the time of rejoicing at the great end time harvest. **Passover** is the time of salvation for *individuals* and families, **Atonement** portrays cleansing of believers and atonement for the *nation* and **Sukkot** represents the joy of God’s Kingdom in the *world*.

Daniel foretold a *future* period which will end in resurrection and Jesus also foretold a final future period after the “times of the Gentiles.” In Matthew he referred *directly* to Daniel 12:1 and said those days will be “*shortened for the sake of the elect*”. Matt 24:21,22. Which days did he mean? Daniel had foretold exactly **1290 days**. Jesus did not say by how

much they will be shortened but the apostle John makes it very easy for us. We do not have to be professors in divinity to understand because John tells us; the final three and a half years of **42 months** is *exactly 1260 days*; each month has **30 days**. 1260 days is the *exact* period in a Jewish calendar from **Passover** to **Sukkot**, the time of the ingathering at the end of harvest. It also coincides with the **1260 days** ministry of the two prophets. It starts with the sounding of the 7th trumpet and ends with the trumpet's final full blast. Daniel 12 foretold the closing periods of both the OT and NT ages and Jesus spoke of the **1290 days** but shortened them for the "sake of the elect." John tells us they are shortened by **30 days** during which something happens. It is hidden from us; ***"seal up the things that the seven thunders uttered...in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel when he is about to sound the mystery of God is finished."*** Rev 10:4-7.

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

Here I must pause and draw your attention to the exact sequence of trumpets in Revelation. There are seven trumpets and there are three "woes" that correspond to the 5th 6th and 7th trumpets. Rev 8:13. The fifth trumpet is the first woe, the sixth trumpet is the second woe, the seventh trumpet is the third woe. Notice that when the seventh trumpet sounds the "mystery of God" is finished. Rev 9:12,13, 10:7 and 11:14,15-19. In chapter 10 John then writes a parenthesis in which he records **1260 days** during which two prophets will prophesy. Only after telling of their ministry, their death and their resurrection in the cloud of glory does he continue the wonderful account of what happens when the seventh trumpet sounds. Clearly, the seventh trumpet fully sounds at the *end* of **1260 days**. What will happen? We remember that Jesus said; *"For the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."*

THE TIME OF WRATH COMES AFTER THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

Immediately following the seventh trumpet several things happen; the Lord takes up his great power, it is a time of resurrection when rewards are given to the servants, prophets and saints of God, and followed by

the wrath of God. Rev 11:15-19. The wrath of God comes only *after* the sounding of the 7th trumpet which sounds *after* 1260 days, leaving 30 days. The 1290 days are shortened by 30 days. The world will never endure 7 or even 3 ½ years of wrath! At the time of the flood it took only 40 days to destroy the entire world. So we can see that the elect, a word used for the true church, are still here right through the 1260 days of the last 3 ½ years. They are only delivered from the final 30 days. We recall that Paul the apostle said the glorious appearing of Yeshua will be at the sounding of the "last trump." This is the 7th trumpet of Revelation and is the mystery of the *resurrection* of the NT saints, after which comes the time of great *wrath* on the wicked and *judgment* upon the nations; 30 days. (1 Corinthians 15:52, and I Thessalonians 4:16.)

We must conclude that "the Mystery of God" is revealed at the sounding of the 7th trumpet at the end of the last 3 ½ years. There is no mention of 7 years anywhere in scripture, except in Daniel 9:27 of which, as we have already seen, the first half was fulfilled by Yeshua during his earthly ministry.

If you have followed the preceding scriptures you will have seen that there is no Biblical foundation for a future seven year period. Nowhere in Revelation is there a 7 year period, only 3 ½. This is seen from three different perspectives: in chapter 11:2,3 it is seen as the time of two prophets and is 42 months, 1260 days; in chapter 12 it is seen as the persecution that God's ancient people will endure for 3 ½ years; and in chapter 13 it is also seen as the time of the beasts, 42 months. These periods are not different times, then it would be a total of 10 ½ years, but are all the same time; they happen simultaneously seen from different perspectives. There is no 7 year Tribulation. There is a period of three and a half years during which a **great conflict** will take place and half the city of Jerusalem will be trodden underfoot for forty two months. (Zech 14:2, Rev 11:2) However, there will be an amazing intervention by God at this time for it is during this last half of the 70th week that Messiah will once again "confirm the covenant with many." Just as there was a period of three and half years to birth the church so there will be a period of three and half years to prepare and usher in

the Age of the Kingdom. Both times are followed by a resurrection. The OT saints rose after the first 3 ½ years. The last 3 ½ years is the time of great harvest during when God will work outstanding miracles with signs and wonders throughout the world. It is the “great revival,” the “times of refreshing” leading to the “times of restoration of all things.” It is the end of this age and the beginning of the next. Acts 3:19-21.

Two mighty Prophets with great anointing and authority will challenge the ungodliness of the whole world and pour the oil of the Holy Spirit into Jew and Gentile alike. (Joel 2:28-3:1, Rev.11:1-) Haggai 2:7-9. It will be the greatest time of glory in the whole of history because Messiah will come suddenly and fill His “temple” with glory. It will end with the resurrection of deceased NT saints and the changing of the living saints.

We will now consider the time and manner of the appearing of Yeshua in order to get a better view of what really happens.

CHAPTER – 4

“THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES” AND THE “TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE”

Jesus said that *“Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles”* are fulfilled. As he carried the cross to his execution he again reminded the bereft people of this dire warning. What did he mean? He clearly meant that Jewish believers should leave the city as its desolation was certain. When asked about the end of the age he quoted from Daniel and gave the sign of the *“abomination of desolation standing where it ought not.”* Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14. Both these Gospels have an editorial, warning readers to understand. Why is that? I believe the writer did not want to implicate believers in something that would provoke persecution so no mention of the Romans was

made. However, it is recorded that believers remembered the warning and fled before the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem and burnt down the temple and much of the city. But most commentators agree that there is a double application with a future fulfilment. Jesus foretold in Luke 21:20-28 that *“when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies.. Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”* In this statement the emphasis is very much on the end of the age and Jerusalem surrounded by armies. Through two millennia Jerusalem was continually controlled by various Gentile nations. It was only in 1967 that Israel captured the city and for the first time in 1900 years Jews were able to pray again at their “holy place” the “Wailing Wall.” However, much of the old city and temple area has never come under Jewish control but is administered by Muslim authorities. The “times of the Gentiles” will only conclude at the return of Messiah when he will establish his Kingdom. Before then Jerusalem will again be surrounded by armies and *“trodden underfoot for forty two months.”* Revelation 11:2. So this prophecy is fulfilled but still to be fulfilled. It was fulfilled when Yeshua was lifted up on the cross. That *horrendous event* was the early warning of further impending *desolation* when the Romans destroyed the city. It will be fulfilled again when the end time “false prophet” will take control of half of Jerusalem. Daniel foretold these tents will stand on the Temple Mount in the vicinity of the “Court of the Gentiles.” Dan 11:45. Some people are looking for a new built temple but miss the glaring evidence of these shrines which are in fact the cause of the present violence. The conflict between Muslims and Jews over the Temple site will not be resolved without much bloodshed. Some sacred places of all three religions may be lost in the coming conflict including shrines that already dominate this “holy place”. Confrontation over who owns this ancient area will ignite the final 3 ½ years. The greatest time of trouble lies ahead but out of it will come great deliverance. I believe the scriptures are clear; there is coming another great confrontation at Jerusalem, half the city will fall and be plundered and many will be annihilated. For 3 ½ years conflict will rage. When all looks lost the Lord will show his great power and intervene to deliver all who trust in him.

Within a few years after the resurrection of Yeshua the Gospel was taken to Gentiles through men such as Peter, Paul and others. The book of Acts ends with a statement from Paul that because Jewish people rejected the message he would go to the Gentiles. Acts 10:45, 11:1, 15:3, 28:28. Jerusalem fell to the Romans. Through every age there have always been Jewish believers in Yeshua but Paul said the Jewish people had been blinded and described this as a great mystery. However, in Romans chapters 9 to 11 he explained that there is a *remnant* of Jewish believers in Yeshua. Romans 11:5. In fact many historians believe that large numbers of Jews became followers of Yeshua before the eventual destruction of Jerusalem and banishment of Jews from the land. Paul declared that God would never break covenant with them and that in some future time a *remnant* of surviving Jews will be saved and when that happens the "*fullness of the Jews will bring life from the dead.*" He said blindness had only happened to them until the "*fullness of the Gentiles has come in*" and then "***The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.***" Romans 11:12, 15, 25-28. Notice the tenses used in these verses; past, present and future. So Paul evidently believed that at some *future* time Messiah will come from Zion (Jerusalem), deliver Jacob (Jews) and "confirm his covenant" with them. He quoted from Isaiah 10:20-23 which foretells the return of Jewish people from the four corners of the earth back to their land. In its correct context this is the final return of the Jews to their homeland and *then* the Lord will do a "short work upon the earth." This is a reference to when Messiah will again reveal himself to the Jewish people a second time. "***The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord of Hosts shall make a consummation, even determined, in the midst of the land.***" This sounds similar to what Daniel was told by the angel; during a time of great trouble Messiah will finish transgression, put an end to sin, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting *righteousness* and seal up prophecy.

What does the “fullness of the Gentiles” mean and is it connected to the “times of the Gentiles?” Yeshua said that Jerusalem would be trodden down by Gentiles until their times are fulfilled. In Revelation 11:1-8 there is a prophecy which predicts that unbelievers will tread the “holy city underfoot for 42 months.” This coincides with the 1260 days in which two prophets will be raised to prominence. Zechariah 11:8. Half of the city will fall. Zechariah 14:2. The “times of the Gentiles” conclude at the sounding of the seventh trumpet at the end of the 1260 days. Revelation 11:3, 15. During this period the city is divided and a conflict ensues in and around its walls. Only when Messiah returns will Jerusalem be fully restored and the “times of the Gentiles” end when his Kingdom is established

So in Paul’s mind the “fullness of the Gentiles corresponds very closely to the “times of the Gentiles.” There is a divine plan through the ages and part of that plan is to give the Gentiles time in which to rule in order to allow them opportunity to hear the Gospel. God has always used Gentile nations and leaders to fulfil His plan; Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus are some examples. Satan offered Yeshua all the kingdoms of the world but he refused them because he is himself the King of kings and one day all kings will fall at his feet. Until then God uses them to reveal his power to the invisible rulers of the universe. Paul wrote; ***“this plan regarding Christ (Messiah). God did not reveal it to previous generations but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe...share equally...both are part of the same body...this mysterious plan that God the Creator of all things has kept secret from the beginning...to display his wisdom...to all the unseen rulers and authorities in heavenly places. This was his eternal plan which he carried out through Jesus (Yeshua) our Lord.”*** Ephesians 3:3-10 NLT.

The Mystery of Messiah has been kept secret through past generations and will not be fully revealed until the “times of the Gentiles” are ended and the Jewish people cry again “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord”. He will return to Jerusalem where many Jews have already

returned. In the Kingdom Age Israel will become the leading nation but before that can happen there will be a time of great conflict in which Jewish people will call upon Messiah and see him “face to face.”

This period is also called the “*time of Jacob’s trouble*” (Jeremiah 30:7) and is prefigured in Genesis 32. Jacob had run away from his homeland but there came a time when God said he must return: 31:3, 13. When Jacob came back to the land he was pursued by people who wished to kill him and was faced by people who also wanted to kill him. Behind him were enemies, before him were enemies, he had nowhere to go but to God. Jacob was left utterly alone and that night he wrestled with a man whose name was “wonderful”, none other than Messiah. It was at that time that Jacob’s name was changed to Israel, “Prince of God”. It was when Jacob saw Messiah “face to face.” Genesis 32:24-31.

This is like a picture of what will happen again in these end times. In the last century the Nazi persecuted the Jews and if the Allies had not stopped them all Jews would have been killed. After WW11 the Jews fled to their ancient homeland and established a new land but they now find themselves surrounded by enemies who want to destroy them yet again. The people from where they fled wanted to destroy them and the people to where they have fled want to destroy them. Anti-Semitism is greater now than ever.

I believe we are seeing the rumblings of another great war, WW111. This war will engulf much of the world as “brother fights brother” but it will center upon Jerusalem. The days are coming when Israel will stand utterly alone. There will be only one person who will not desert them. In this time of great adversity Messiah will reveal himself to them in a most amazing and wonderful manner. They will see him “face to face” and Messiah will “Confirm the Covenant.” Zechariah 12:10. We will consider this later.



CHAPTER 5 –

WHEN WILL MESSIAH COME?

IS A PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE BIBLICAL?

Is the Rapture, as taught by some, fact or fiction, true or false?

The pre-tribulation rapture originated in Scotland in the early 1800s and with its acceptance by some clergy it spread quickly to America and became widely accepted. It is still taught in several influential Bible Colleges and numerous books and films have promoted it worldwide to such an extent that in some denominations it is considered part and parcel of the Gospel. In some churches membership and ordination depend upon one believing it. In this respect it has become cultish and deviatory from the body of belief held by majority of Christians over nearly 2000 years. It has at times caused extreme despair for those who fear they will be “left behind” and proponents of it have fallen into the error of even declaring the year and day it will happen causing great distress to people who sold up everything, gave belongings away and even left employment. I have had to counsel people who have been damaged by the doctrine especially young people who have been adversely affected by it so as to be unable to plan a future, get married, plan a family, study for meaningful employment and lose all earthly expectations.

What happens if the “rapture” teaching, which is popular in certain churches and taught so convincingly by some, is in fact the *exact* opposite to what the Bible really teaches? What if there has been a massive reversal of truth? Are some people so convinced about going away in rapture that they are not prepared if it does not happen? Will we be ready for what will happen and the amazing events at the return of the Lord? I recall listening to a Chinese man years ago who came to our church and spoke on how, after the communists took over China, Churches established by some western missionaries collapsed quickly. When asked about this the answer he gave was that they were taught

they would be taken away before persecution and were unprepared when it came. Eschatology had become escapology. I spoke with a believer once and challenged him about his belief in the rapture. His answer was “If there is no rapture what is the point of being a Christian?” This is extreme but it illustrates the distortion the teaching can give. While much of the western “Church” focuses on wealth and blessing and escaping tribulation many believers worldwide are suffering severe hardship, persecution and even death; every day hundreds of Christians die. The two are inconsistent with one another.

Is the pre-trib rapture, as taught in popular books and films, truly Biblical? Does the Bible support this teaching or does it teach something far more profound and wonderful? Does the teaching do justice to the awesome return of the Lord and does it really stand up to sound exegesis and Biblical truth? Is it what Yeshua and the Apostles taught or is it a teaching that has developed in comparatively recent times with cultish characteristics? How did early Jewish believers understand the return of Messiah? Did the church “fathers” believe it?

Many followers of Messiah simply do not believe the rapture as taught by some churches. We do not question the devotion and sincerity of anyone but do question the methods used to teach it. We do not judge the *people* but the teaching.

When Jesus returns do you want to be taken away or do you want to be left behind?

This is the question that you need to be sure about because whether you are taken or left will seal your destiny.

As a young believer I was “brought up” on the “Pre Tribulation Rapture” of being caught away before a seven year Tribulation at the end of the “church age.” I embraced it and taught it. Even though I could teach it very convincingly and quote many scriptures I found no genuine anointing of the Holy Spirit to endorse it, so I asked Him why and over a period of many years He began to open scriptures to me that I had never heard anyone in my church talk about. I believe the Lord is now

giving *many* people a far more Biblical and wonderful understanding about his return and what He will do when he comes. The Holy Spirit is confirming this to people through His Word and inner witness to Biblical truth.

So we must ask “Will there be a *secret* rapture *before* the Tribulation?”

Those who believe a pre-tribulation rapture say that God’s dealing with “Gentiles” ends when the “Church” is taken in rapture at the start of the Tribulation. However, as we have seen the “fullness of the Gentiles” only ends when the Jewish people cry out when Messiah comes and this is linked to the final 3 ½ years when Jerusalem is “trodden under foot by the Gentiles.” The belief that the “Church” will be removed before the Tribulation is largely based on a belief that there is one plan for the Jews and another for the “Gentile Church”. The reason given is that there are different “dispensations” and the Tribulation is only for Jewish people and *not* for the Church which will not go through the wrath of God. As we have already seen however, the wrath of God comes only at the end of the last 3 ½ years and will last *only* 30 days.

There is only one Olive Tree, one Body and one plan of Salvation.

Right from the start there have always been Jewish believers in the Church. In fact the early church was almost entirely composed of Jews. There was never a particular moment when God abruptly cut off Jews and began to deal only with Gentiles. It was a gradual thing that happened over generations and largely because of the prejudice shown towards Jews by Christians. All through the “Church age” there have always been Jewish believers. There are many scriptures to endorse the “oneness” in Messiah of both Jew and Gentile. Paul makes it abundantly clear that there is only one Olive Tree into which Gentile believers have been grafted. He emphasized that there is no difference in the “body of Messiah” between Jews and Gentile believers who have become part of the “commonwealth of Israel”. There are no grounds to say that God has one plan for Gentiles and another for Jews. There is only one plan; that is redemption for all through the blood of Yeshua.

Ephesians 2:16. However, it is reasonable that God moves at different times in different nations. We can see this as we consider history and the great revivals that have occurred from time to time all around the world. In these end times there will be a great move of God once again and this will include the nation of Israel. God will be true to His covenant, bring them back to Himself and pour out His Spirit on them but it will not exclude the rest of the world but include *all* who call upon Him. The future great move of God will be with Jews but also include all nations.

Gentiles are included in God's covenant with Israel and share the benefits and blessings. The church has not replaced Israel but has been grafted *into* Israel. (Rom 11:13-25) Some Jewish branches were taken out and Gentile branches grafted in. The church has not replaced Israel but has joined with Israel and included in its promises. The idea that God has one plan for the church and another for Israel is entirely erroneous. God has a plan for Israel in which Gentiles are included as branches grafted in; all our benefits are supported by God's Covenant with Israel. Jeremiah 31:31-33, Hebrews 8:6-13, Eph 2:11-22. God will be true to His covenant and the Jews will come to Messiah. Their calling is irrevocable. (Rom 11:29) It is only because God is faithful to Israel that Gentiles have future hope of salvation. Yeshua said the day will come when Gentile believers will sit down *with* Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Both Jew and Gentile are included, only unbelievers are rejected.

Gentiles are grafted in "*until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*" then *all* Israel will be saved. (Rom 11:25,26) This fullness of the Gentiles is the "times of the Gentiles" that Jesus spoke of. God made a covenant with Israel and Gentiles are included in it and find mercy. Even though Jews were blinded Paul warned Gentiles not to boast against them but to fear, "*otherwise you also will be cut off*". When the time is right the remnant of Israel will be grafted back. Paul said "*The remnant will be saved for He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness*". (Rom 9:27,28) If you look up OT verses with the word "remnant" it will show what Paul as a Jew meant by *remnant*. He quoted OT prophecies about the remnant coming back to the land *and* to God. (Isaiah 10:22,23,

11:11) Then their acceptance will give us life from the dead and resurrection; when the *remnant* is grafted back the complete Church, Jew and Gentile, will be empowered with life from the dead.

Those who believe in a secret rapture believe the Lord will return and “take away” the church so that they will not experience the dreaded time of “tribulation”. However, this is by no means supported by scripture.

One taken and one left.

Perhaps the scriptures most often quoted by those who believe pre-trib rapture are the words of Yeshua when he said that at his return *“there will be two people in one bed: the one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.”* Matt 24:37-42, Luke 17:26-37. These verses are often used to explain that those taken away are taken to heaven and those left are left to go through the Tribulation. However, the exact opposite is meant. Read it carefully in context. He said that just as it was in the days of Noah when the flood came and took them all away so it will be at his return. Who was taken away? The ungodly were taken away in the flood, the righteous remained and were delivered.

Some say that the righteous were taken away at the time of Sodom, however once again, it was the unrighteous that were taken away and Lot was left behind and delivered. Ezekiel 16:50.

When asked by the disciples “Where will they be taken?” Yeshua said they will be taken to “where the carcass is and the eagles gather. As we will see this is not a good description.

We need to then ask “who then are left if the wicked are taken away?” The righteous are left. The Greek word “**left**” is the same word as “**forgiven**”. (Strong's Concordance No. 863) This is the same word used in Matthew 9:2 in the Lord's Prayer and also used in Matthew 6:14,15 and John 20:23 to mean forgiven for our sins. This is the primary and

overwhelming meaning of this word in scripture. Those who are left are forgiven! “One will be taken and one will be left (forgiven).”

In the teaching of Yeshua it is evident that the wicked will be “taken away” not the righteous. This is confirmed in scripture and in his parables and teaching. Matthew 13:30-50. He said that first, the ungodly will be destroyed and only then will the righteous be gathered. To make his words mean the church will be taken away in rapture is not possible without reversing the order he himself gave.

This is confirmed by many O.T. verses and Psalm 37 describes this same order; the removal of the wicked and the *remaining* of the righteous is the order through scripture. It is the ungodly who will be removed. If one wants to believe in a pre-trib rapture of the Godly then these verses cannot support it. The Lord never taught it because the order he gave is consistent through the Bible; first the ungodly are removed and then the godly who *remain* are gathered.

Believers are not taken away but are changed. The idea of being rescued to escape tribulation may sound reasonable to western minds but try telling that to believers in North Korea, China, countries under Islamic control and many others. It would be an insult to them. And what of the millions of believers through the age who have been persecuted and killed in the most awful manner possible? It just does not ring true to scripture or to reality.

HIS ABIDING PRESENCE

What Jesus promised was his abiding presence and help for all who trust in him. John 14:3 “***And I will go and prepare a place for you and will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am there you may be also.***” Many Bible scholars believe this is a reference to the Lord’s indwelling in life and meeting with us at death. The context of the whole chapter is about the fullness of the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, indwelling the believer. Jesus said this to living disciples that they will not be left as orphans because he will come to them! When will he come? It will be during their earthly walk, so they need not feel

abandoned, and at his meeting with them at death. He promised to come to every believer saying He will come and receive them to himself. When will he come? For those early disciples and many others it must mean at their death. Heaven is the home for every believer.

This is exactly what happened to Stephen. At the moment he faced death he saw Jesus standing before him to welcome him. This is also the testimony of countless people through the ages as they approach death. As believers come to death they often declare that they can see the Lord, as if seeing through a veil into the spirit dimensions. They evidently meet the Lord who comes and receives them into glory. This meeting can be at any time and we do not know when we will die.

Paul also said this; “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”. Yeshua endorsed this in John 12:26 *“If any one serves me let him follow me and where I am there shall my servant also be.”* It is the promise to every believer whether they live at the “end times” or not.

Do Christians go through what is called the Tribulation?

To support the theory of a pre-tribulation rapture it is claimed that the “Church” is not found in the book of Revelation and that the words spoken to John *“Come up here”* depict the rapture of the church. (Rev 4:1-2) This is a strange notion indeed. John never departed from the Isle of Patmos but was in the Spirit, something very different to a bodily departure. John was not taken away in rapture and in fact it is traditionally believed that all the twelve apostles were martyred. There are some who say that Paul and the other disciples were misled because they believed that Yeshua was to return in their lifetime. It can be pointed out, however, that the Lord told Peter that he was to grow old and eventually suffer martyrdom. Paul, in the latter part of his life said he was ready to die for Messiah and knew he would be killed. It is clear that the disciples were under no illusion about Messiah’s return for they constantly referred to it as being in the “end times” It was also universally understood that before he could return certain significant events must occur. Zechariah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos and all the OT

prophets explain that when Messiah returns the *remnant* of Jewish people will be back in the land. Yeshua said the same thing. Paul also stated that a *remnant* of Israel will return and the “man of sin” would first be revealed.

John was *not* taken away in rapture but saw visions of things *to come*, the events that would unfold through the ages including great spiritual conflicts and vast numbers of martyrs who would lay down their lives for the Kingdom. It was necessary for the church to understand the great sacrifice of following Yeshua. There would be no quick and easy intervention but 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 tribulation and to be faithful in the midst of it.

Those Bible teachers who say that the “church” is not mentioned in Revelation ignore many references to what must be Christian 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 by 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 believers in Jesus.

These 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 must “escape” the 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, torture, 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 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. Today hundreds of thousands even millions of Christians are under severe persecution; in China, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Syria, many African and Asian countries and in fact worldwide. 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. If we carefully consider Jesus’ teaching we see that believers are NOT taken away when he comes but that they are changed and empowered with resurrection life in a new immortal body.

However, he did say at the coming of his "Presence" some people will be taken away, NOT in rapture but in judgment, one from a bed another from a field, yet another from the work-place. In its context this is not a removal of believers but a removal of the wicked! This is in *direct* reference to the flood. Those who are taken away are taken in judgment just as they were in the flood. When asked by his disciples where they would be taken his reference to “eagles gathering at a body” confirms it is to judgment and comes from a description by the prophet Ezekiel of the great "judgment supper". Please don't think the eagles are a good reference or that the “body” is the bride; it means the exact opposite; the eagles are vultures and the body is a carcass. It is a description of the Day of Judgment. (Ezekiel 39:17, Rev 19:17)

Those who are taken are the wicked not the righteous! Those who remain inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5. The Lord said that at his coming there will be a purging on earth. (Matt 13:30-50) He said that *first* the tares will be gathered and burnt then the wheat gathered. That is the order. The idea that the righteous are first taken away is the direct

opposite of what the Lord taught. He also spoke of those who may try to enter his “Presence” at his return but will be turned away and prevented from doing so because he never knew them. The judgment of the world at that time indicates that some people will enter the Kingdom but not all. (Matt 25:11,12,30,41) So it is evident that he did not teach a pre-tribulation rapture, quite the opposite, he said “he who endures to the end will be saved.” Matthew 24:13

One of the most important questions you must answer is “When Messiah comes do you want to go or do you want to stay? If he is coming back why would you want to go away?”

The Jewish people have long hoped in the coming of Messiah. They believe he will come to *earth* and establish a Kingdom on *earth*. This is how the Lord taught us to pray; *“Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is heaven”*. The idea of being whisked away was never a Biblical concept. The rapture has gained acceptance because of the idea that God’s people need to be rescued from the horrors of a world in the grip of Satan. Escapism is a modern western mindset. People want to escape from the reality of today’s world; the daily drudgery of some, the apparent meaningless existence of many, the harsh battle to survive for others. We are an escapist society and the drug culture is a symptom of it. Prevailing TV and movie themes perpetuate it. The greatest escape trend is to deny the reality of God and sin. (1 Jn 1:8) People are deeply spiritual but many are in denial of their own inner conscience. The rapture appeals to our natural mind to escape death and suffering. But scripture says *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation”*. (Heb 2:3) God promises salvation not escapism.

When the Old Testament prophets foretold the “Day of the Lord” they always foretold the destruction of the wicked not the removal of the righteous. Those who are wicked are destroyed, those who remain are saved; the emphasis is on overcoming in the circumstances, victory over evil, God working in the situation. Any rescue of God’s people will not be by their removal but by the destruction of their enemies. Yes, Moses led God’s people out of Egypt and Lot came out of Sodom but they

never left the planet. Neither did Noah. It was the wicked who were taken away. Elijah was the only one to be removed but that was to extend his ministry into the end times and he is coming right back into the thick of it. As for Enoch he walked straight into the Kingdom. ***This is a preview of what will happen when the Kingdom Age comes on earth.*** *Isa 65:20, Rev 21:4, 1 Cor 15:26.* Death will only lose its power at the end of the millennium but those who live in resurrection will be able to access both earthly and heavenly dimensions, just a step away. This is how angels come and go, just as Jesus did during the 40 days of resurrection; he had the ability to walk through the dimensions and live in both. In a similar way in the resurrection God's people will be changed and empowered to function like angels. Matt 22:30. We will consider more about this dynamic change later.

The Old Testament prophets foresaw the Kingdom of God coming upon the whole earth. Like the mustard seed it will eventually fill the entire earth. (Matt 13:31) Yeshua will rule the nations and his people will be empowered to rule with him. Peace then will fill the earth when the wicked are removed, Satan bound and the Lord rules.

THE THIEF IN THE NIGHT ASPECT

This must be understood correctly. Yeshua, the mighty king of the universe, is not going to sneak in like a thief. When he comes back the whole earth is going to shake in signs and omens. His coming as a thief is only applicable to the ungodly, not the godly. The thief aspect *only* applies to those who are *not* watching or ready. Those who are prepared will *not* be caught, it's that simple. The prospect of people being caught is because they are *not* living for him and *not* prepared. This is the clear meaning the Lord gave in Matt 24:42-51 and Luke 12:31-40. It is those who allow their hearts to turn away from him who are caught. Those who are right with him are not caught. It is our own spiritual state that traps us. This is exactly what Paul says; "*we are not in darkness that the day should catch us unawares*". (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4) Peter said the same thing in 2 Peter 3:3-14. He said that scoffers discount his return but believers look for it and hasten towards it. In

other words the day of the Lord will come as a thief on the unbelieving world but not on believers. It is how we keep our hearts that matters.

The exact time of the Lord's return to an individual at death is unknown in that we do not know the number of our days. We could die at any time and when we do he will receive us. (John 14:1-3) He gave this promise to his early disciples, to take them to heavenly mansions. Some believe that Christians sleep in dormancy until the return of Yeshua. However, the aspect of sleeping is in the context of the *body* sleeping. (Luke 8:52) The apostle Paul said that when he died he would go straight away to be with Jesus. (Phil 1:23) Peter said the same. (2 Pet 1:14) Heaven is a real place and believers go there at death.

However, Messiah promised to come back to earth. The time of this is unknown but we can understand the "times and seasons" and those who look for his coming actually hasten towards it. They see and understand the signs, they make proper preparations for it, they get their lives in order; the wise take oil, the foolish do not.

The Lord himself gave the time of his return. (Matt24:29-31) He said his coming will happen immediately *after* the "tribulation." I don't know how clearer he could make it.

THE FALLING AWAY – 2 Thessalonians 2:3-

One of the portions of scripture some people use to teach pre-trib rapture is 2 Thessalonians 2. Somehow these teachers make this mean *exactly* the opposite of what it plainly says. In Thessalonica there were some believers who said that the Lord's coming was imminent and may have even occurred but Paul had to correct this and say that the Day of the Lord will not come until the rebellion and the "man of sin" is revealed. He was emphatic about this. There is a certain time for the Lord's return and it is *after* the "son of perdition" is revealed. In Jewish tradition this title applied to Antiochus IV who tried to Hellenize the Jews and force them to become apostate and turn to Greek values and concepts. He destroyed the Jewish scriptures and persecuted the Jews. He was a forerunner and example of end time anti-Semitism.

The word translated “falling away” is “*apostasia*” (Strong’s 646). It means exactly what it says – apostasy - to forsake the faith. It is sad that there are some teachers who claim this means a “departure” of the church in rapture. The context means to depart from the faith. To say any different is to make Paul say what he did not mean.

The focus of 2 Thessalonians is on the revealing of Yeshua at his coming “parousia”. (1:7, 2:1) Paul wrote “*that day will not come unless the “falling away” comes first and the “man of sin”, “son of perdition”, is revealed*”. (2:3) He will be revealed first before Jesus is revealed and then the coming of Lord will destroy him. (2:8) Paul had already explained this to them (2:5) but now told them again about this person, Satan’s son, who *opposes and exalts himself above God*. (2:4) He said this *mystery of iniquity was already working* and “he who restrains will *continue* until he is taken out of the way”; it is Satan who is opposing and restraining. (2:7) “Then” (“*at that time*” Strong’s 5119) when he is revealed the Lord will consume him at his Coming. (2:8) Paul uses the word “parousia” for the public coming of the Lord when he is revealed. There is no secret rapture; there is only one Coming of the Lord and when he comes the “one who restrains” will be taken away. This is the “man of sin” *not* the church. Once again the scripture has been reversed by those who say it is the saints who are taken away.

The man of sin is revealed *before* Jesus comes. It is not too difficult to understand, just keep focused on the issue Paul is teaching; when Jesus is revealed the “man of sin” who opposes (God) and restrains (God’s people) will be consumed, “taken out of the way.” It is not believers who are taken away but the *wicked*. To say that believers are taken away is an *exact reversal* of what is meant. Paul even said “*you know what is restraining*”. (2:6) In other words they already knew Satan was doing the restraining; he is the great adversary of God who opposes and resists God. It is Satan who attempts to “restrain” and hinder God’s people; he “withholds” (Strong’s 2722 – *withhold, restrain*) fights against and frustrates the purposes of God. He is the “accuser of the brethren”. Revelation 12:10. Some people say that it is the Church that is restraining Satan however it is the *exact opposite*, read it carefully in

an accurate translation or look at the original language. It is *not* the Holy Spirit or the Church that is taken out but Satan and all his followers who are taken out when Jesus comes. The apostle Paul did not believe in a pre-tribulation rapture. In fact it is the ungodly that are taken out not the righteous; they will be removed not the godly. The ungodly will be taken away in flaming fire. 2 Thess 1:7-10. This fire is like a laser cosmic fire that is released at the brightness of the coming of the Lord and consumes *only* those who have the mark of the beast and the mind of Satan. It is a bit like what some people call “Spontaneous Human Combustion,” a strange phenomenon that is well documented but without scientific explanation. There is absolutely no way to make 2 Thessalonians say anything other than antichrist must come *first* before the Lord. To change the sequence means doing gymnastics with scripture. Be very careful of new translations that write in the doctrines of men instead of the sound Word of the Lord. There is a sobering warning in 2:11 and Mark 13:22 where Paul warns that even the very elect will be deceived. This is a direct reference to *anti-Semitism*. The “son of perdition” is a Jewish title for Antiochus the arch enemy of the Jews. Many Christians have been swayed by the media which reports lies about Israel and Jews. This, together with “Replacement Theology” which discredits the Jews as God’s Covenant people, has even turned “Christians” against God’s ancient people. **Anti-Semitism is the great lie** of the end times but God is giving the church one last chance to bless His ancient people.

The Coming of the Lord – His “Presence”

The rapture theory claims the Lord will come in secret and take away the “Church;” that he will come “with the saints” and then immediately turn around and go away with them and only return years later! This poses a problem because the word “coming” which we read in our English Bibles and used by rapture teachers means much more than just to come. The Greek word is “**parousia**” and to make it mean “coming” followed by immediate “departure” violates its proper meaning. The word is used in scriptures to describe the day of the Lord’s return and *remaining*. It is used for one event not two.

The Greek word for "coming" is listed in Strong's Concordance 3952 as "being near" with the meaning of not just an arrival but "*remaining with,*" "being present" or "being alongside". In Vines Expository Dictionary it is defined as "PRESENCE"; *para* - with, and *ousia* – being, and denotes both an arrival *and* subsequent presence. Where the word "parousia/coming" is found in scripture it must be understood in its full meaning better expressed as "presence." It is significant that it is used of both a bodily and a spiritual presence. If we use this definition the scriptures reflect a better concept of what the "coming" of the Lord really means. Instead of him coming and going away it has the meaning of him coming *remaining* with his people for an extended period during which his real and visible PRESENCE will be felt in a new and powerful way. To say he is coming and going away violates the very meaning of the word. He is coming and *remaining* with us, abiding in visible reality.

Finally, perhaps the most quoted of all verses is Revelation 1:7. However, even people who teach rapture do not really believe this verse refers to it but rather to the day when *all* mankind will see the Lord, even those who pierced him. Those who pierced him are not presently on earth but very likely in hades where they await the day of His universal disclosure. Philippians 2:10,11, Rev 20:12, Dan 7:10.

CHAPTER – 6 - HOW WILL MESSIAH COME?

There is no word in English Bibles for "rapture". It comes from one verse in the Latin translation. In Latin it means primarily to experience an ecstatic state, to become "enraptured" in joy. Teachers of rapture use it to mean something more; to be removed from this world and taken away. The Greek word is "harpazo". We need to examine the true meaning of the word. Does it actually mean a departure or does it mean a *changing* and catching *into* the power and presence of God?

Harpazo (Strong's – 726 to seize) is a "seizing" also said by Paul "to be changed" (Metamorphoo; Strong's - 3339 transform) a metamorphism.

“We all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory.” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

The use of this word by the Lord reveals its true meaning. He never said that people will be taken *out* of the world but that "harpazo" empowers "men of force" to *enter into* the Kingdom of God here and now. Matthew 11:12, Luke 16:16. Men enter in by the "harpazo" power of God. It conveys the idea of pressing in to possess with divine power. Through "harpazo" believers are able to take hold of and enter the Kingdom. Every time Yeshua did a miracle he reached into the "age of the Kingdom," seized it and released its power into the present situation. They were not taken out of the world but experienced the power of God coming in to them to change them *in* the world. He did not use the word to mean being taken to heaven but to mean entering the Kingdom of God's power here on earth. "Harpazo" is the forceful dynamics of God to catch someone into His power. It is God ***seizing*** control. This is a very powerful concept; one day the Lord is going to ***seize*** control of the whole world and establish his Kingdom. It is a total transition from one age into another, a divine Coup de tat.

Yeshua used the word to indicate spiritual power, nothing to do with a physical removal. He said people with faith were ***seizing*** the Kingdom by receiving the power that God was giving. They never left the earth but they entered a dimension of life in the Spirit, a real entry into the power of the Kingdom of God. It means first and foremost a change from one state into another.

Paul used the word "harpazo" to describe what will happen to *living* believers at the "coming/parousia" or Presence of the Lord. It is the release of God's power into believers, not to take them away but to empower them when He comes. It is not a removal from a *place* but a transformation from a *state*. The "harpazo" is the dynamic power of God to take believers out of the fallen condition of corruption and transform them into the incorruptible life of Christ. It means first and foremost a deliverance from carnality and death into the spirit's power and life. It is at the very heart of Paul's teaching in Romans chapter 7+8.

Paul wrote that we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:52. It is the power of God to fully transform us into the freedom of what he accomplished for us; the mortal will put on immortality.

IN THE CLOUDS – 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

We shall be "*caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*" What did he mean? If you think as a Gentile you may like to think that this means going up into the clouds in the atmosphere but if you think with your Hebrew mind you will know differently. Just as the Lord spoke in Biblical figurative terms so Paul also used these same terms to describe the mystery of what will happen at his return. If you rely on your Gentile mind you may like to think he is talking about flying up to the clouds in departure. However, if you are a Jewish believer you would not think that. In fact the term "coming on clouds" has a *special* significance *only* Jews knew and Gentiles did not which we will consider later in this book. The use of metaphor is a Hebrew method of teaching truth. We use them in English all the time. If I were to say "I am walking on cloud nine" what am I meaning? Do I really mean I am actually somewhere up in the sky? So too Paul used sayings that convey clear meaning to Hebrew people who knew the Bible. We must go back to scripture and consider the clouds of God's Presence first in the wilderness, then in the Tabernacle, then in the temple, in the visions of the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel and then at the Mount of Transfiguration. The Bible cloud is the Cloud of God's Presence, the Shekinah Glory of the Holy Spirit. It is very simple; Messiah will come in the cloud of His Presence. The term "in the clouds" does not refer to clouds in the atmosphere but to clouds of his spiritual Presence. He will step out of the cloud and appear right here.

When Yeshua returns he will bring back with him all who have died in him; in other words believers in heaven. After that, *living* believers who *remain* will be "changed" (1 Cor 15:52) and will be able to enter his Presence in "clouds of glory". Like Moses, and Elijah, Peter, James and John, we will be able to enter the Cloud and see him "face to face."

Why would the Lord bring back heavenly believers to immediately turn around and take them away again? He brings them back for a reason; to function here on earth. (2Cor 5:1-8, 1Cor 15:40-54, 2Pet 1:13,14) We need glorified bodies to function on earth not in heaven. The Lord will bring believers with him so that they can function in this dimension on earth. Note the order: First, believers in heaven come back, after that *living* believers who remain are *changed*. Together they enter the Presence of Messiah in "clouds of glory". These are not natural weather clouds but Biblical clouds, the clouds of the Lord's presence. Let me reiterate; the clouds are not up in the sky but right here in the midst of his people. The emphasis is on *remaining* and *changing*. Twice Paul mentions those who are alive and remain. When some believers insist the rapture means being taken away they are interpreting scripture from a Western mindset. A Jewish believer sees it with a Hebrew mind and understands what Paul says by the Biblical symbols he uses. The rapture is not up in the sky but right here in His Presence; it is not going up to the clouds but going *into* His Presence. For believers to be taken away by the Lord is the exact opposite of what it says about him bringing them back. This will require us to think differently but it is those who remain who are changed and empowered. The emphasis is on remaining and *joining* Him in the Cloud of his Glory at his return.

"A MEETING IN THE AIR"

If the clouds at Messiah's return are not weather clouds but clouds of God's Glory and Presence, then the term "in the air" must convey a spiritual reality. If I said "I am walking on air" would you take that to mean I am floating around in the outer stratosphere? Paul did not mean that believers will go up to the weather clouds but that they will enter the Presence of his Power and Glory in the cloud of the Holy Spirit right here. The place God met His people in the OT was in the Cloud here on earth in his "Divine Presence". (Num 12:4) This is how he will return, to earth to his Living Tabernacle, in the Cloud of His Mighty Spirit. Believers will not go *away* but go *into* His Presence and Glory when he returns. Psalm 91. The emphasis is on *meeting* not leaving.

The “air” is a word Paul used to describe a dimension in our immediate vicinity. This is not a frequently used word and the apostle Paul used it to mean the air in the sense of it being nearby, *surrounding us*, not far away. (Strong’s 109 - *circumambient*.) This is how he described the reality of the invisible spiritual dimension *very near* to us, all around us, right here “in the air”.

The word "air" is used in the New Testament for the realm of spiritual powers working in the earth. In the book of Revelation it is used in the context of angelic activity on earth and in Ephesians 2:2 it describes the realm and work of "the prince of the power of the air" working in this present age. It is a spiritual dimension right here within the natural air. To understand this one must understand the realities of different dimensions so close to each other that they superimpose upon each other. Paul linked the air with the realm where spiritual battle takes place and the Lord rules. The realm of the air is the realm over which Jesus has ultimate rule. This dimension will open for believers. When Jesus returns he comes to *meet* his people in the Cloud of Shekinah Glory in his Holy Presence “in the air” right here in the Spirit. It has taken 2000 years to establish his church worldwide, why would he remove it? He comes to change and empower believers to take the whole world where they will also reign with him a 1000 years.

The word "air" is used in a similar way as the word “wind” which also denotes spirit realities. (Eph 2:2) In the New Testament the word "wind" almost always conveys the meaning of "spirit". In the same way, when the apostle Paul spoke of "air" he certainly did NOT mean what we breathe made of nitrogen and oxygen but was referring to the spirit dimension. Air is the nearest Paul could get to describe the Spirit realm. Just as air is real but invisible so Paul used it to describe the very real but invisible realm which is very close to us. It is a spirit dimension which is not far off but nearby "in the air" all around us. Paul did not mean that believers will be caught up to the sky but that believers will have access to spirit dimensions. The "air" is the Spirit realm that Jesus rules over and which will open for believers. At his "coming" believers

are not going up into the weather clouds but into the "Presence" of Jesus in the Clouds of his Holy Spirit Shekina Glory.

Even now believers are "seated with him" and have access to the realm of his Presence even though we may not yet see Him. When he returns we will be able to *meet* him and see him "Face to Face" in Glory. To put it simply, when Yeshua comes the church is not going up into the sky but the veil will be *taken away* and we will meet the Lord in the Cloud of his Holy Spirit when he is unveiled right here with his people.

IT IS NOT A DEPARTURE BUT A CHANGE

The rapture is *not* a departure but a change. (Strong's - 236) At this meeting believers put on immortality to function with no restrictions and great power just as he did. His Kingdom will bring resurrection life into the world, bring spiritual and material realms into harmony, and believers will have access to both. This is the start of all creation being changed. Heb 1:12, Romans 8:21-23. Creation is waiting to be changed and become a "new creation." Rev 3:14, Col 1:15, Rev 21:1. It is the same word Paul used for the change in believers. (1 Cor 15:52) Another word Paul used for this change is "metamorphoo" a metamorphism; (Strong's - 3339 to transform). "*We all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory.*" 2 Corinthians 3:18. It is an ongoing process until, like Enoch, we will be able to walk straight into heaven. Those who are living for Yeshua will experience it when he comes.

You will notice that at the end of the first 3 ½ years there was an outpouring on the infant church that enabled them to take the Gospel into all nations. So too at the end of the next 3 ½ years there will be another endowment of power, the "harpazo" or "changing" which will empower God's people to *take* the nations for the Kingdom of God. To put it simply when Yeshua returns he will simply step out of the Cloud of His Presence and appear to his people. When he comes he will seize control of the whole earth and change and empower his people to rule and reign with him. He will come to Mount Olives *and* to all believers.

This immortality will be given to those who believe in him and truly love him, not church goers or religious people but obedient, devoted believers. Notice there is an order to Messiah's return. *First* the dead in Messiah are raised, *second*, those who remain will be *changed*; the emphasis is on *remaining*. It is personal, in a twinkling of an eye.

CHAPTER - 7

THE FUTURE TIMES OF MESSIAH

Messiah visited his people nearly two thousand years ago and walked among them for 3 ½ years. When he left the angels said to his disciples that he will come again in *exactly* the same way. The same person who came during the first half of the "week" will return for the second half and complete what he began. He will take up where he left off. It will be like the first half except much better. It will not be one physical man walking from village to village and being hounded by those who hate him. It will be risen Messiah in Glory moving throughout the whole world, appearing where and when he wishes to whomsoever he chooses. The 40 days after his resurrection was a preview of what will happen when he comes back but on a far greater scale. He will not just appear to a few believers but to millions worldwide. He will not do just a few local miracles but will reveal his great power and miracles of deliverance worldwide. The 70th "week" is a bit like a football match with half time in the middle. During the first half Messiah won the upper hand over death and the adversary. The second half will be a total wipe out of all the opposing forces. There will be mighty power and great signs and miracles worldwide and during this time the **Acts of God** will be greater than have ever been seen in the whole of history.

Daniel described the "end-time" as a "time, times and half a time," 3 ½ years. God will raise two Prophets with great anointing, power and authority, who will pour the oil of His Spirit into people, Jews and Gentiles alike. We read about this in Rev.11:2. Half the city of Jerusalem

will fall and be trodden underfoot for forty two months, the final period of Gentile domination. Zech 14:2 However, there will be a mighty intervention by Messiah during this last half of the week when he will “confirm the covenant with many” in an amazing manner. Just as there was a period of three and half years to establish the church so there will be a period of three and half years to usher in the glory of the Kingdom. The last three and a half years is not a time when antichrist will rule unhindered but a time during which God will work outstanding miracles and confirmation of His Covenant throughout the world. It will be like the time of Moses and Pharaoh. It is the great “revival”, the time of refreshing leading into the times of restoration of all things. Acts 3:19-21. He will come suddenly to his temple and fill His house with glory. Hag 2:7, 9. Just as he visited his people and walked among them for 3 ½ years he will do so again but this time worldwide.

It is a time of sifting, purging and preparation for the Kingdom of God when people and nations must repent or face judgment.

THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS

Just as there was a period of three and half years to establish the Church so there will be three and half years to usher in the glory of the Kingdom. Messiah has reserved for himself the conversion of his “ancient covenant people.”

This future period will be a time when the world is focused on Israel and Jerusalem. The Lord will reveal His Great Acts of Power and the inauguration of the Kingdom of Messiah will take place in all nations.

In the last chapter of Daniel we read that “Michael” will stand up and there will be a time of great trouble lasting three and a half years. This is the period Yeshua foretold and it comes at the end of this present age before the Millennium Kingdom. (Dan 7:25, 12:1-3, Rev 11) Some people say that the final half of the 70th week was fulfilled at the time of Stephen’s martyrdom. However, nothing in scripture endorses this. Others say that it was fulfilled at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the Jews in AD70. Again, all though

Yeshua foretold that event there is no scripture to show it was the fulfilment of Daniel's 3 ½ years. How can we know this? Well, its simple, Daniel foretold it ends with a resurrection but that did not occur on either occasion. (Dan 12:13) However, there *was* a resurrection when Yeshua arose with OT saints at the end of the *first* half of the week and there will be another at the end of the *final* half of the week. One is already fulfilled the other is still future. It is during this time that Messiah will "Confirm the Covenant". He will take up where he left off. He will come suddenly to his "temple," in his resurrection power. When he came the first time he entered the earthly temple and drove out the merchants and cleansed it. When he comes the second time he will not come to an earthly temple but a "spiritual temple" – believers worldwide. As "refiner and purifier" he will cleanse it; many will be purified, made white and refined. (Dan 12:10)

- He calls his people to turn from sins and come out of worldly Babylon. The systems of apostate Christendom will be judged; believers must turn from Egypt and Babylon. God's temple will be cleansed of all abominations. The real meaning of the rapture is to be delivered from sin and be separated from the worldly systems of false hood. He is not coming to take his people out of the world but to call them out of carnality to holiness. God calls His people to "*be separate.*" 2 Corinthians 6:16-18. See Romans chapters 7 & 8 to put it into the true context of Paul's teaching. As in the days of preparation for the Covenant we too must be consecrated and separated, undefiled by the world.
- Just as his people must come out of the world in a spiritual way so too He calls the *remnant* of His ancient people out of the nations to return to Him in repentance. Many Jews have come back to the land in preparation for this final great visitation of Messiah. They have returned in order to meet him and welcome him when he comes. A remnant will repent and cry out "blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

- He commands the peoples of the world, multitudes in the “Valley of Decision”, to repent. All people everywhere will be given a chance to do so. (Joel 3:14) It is the ingathering of the great harvest at the end of this age as in the Feast of Sukkot.

This will be a great end-time repeat of His majestic ministry, this time not confined to the land of Israel but worldwide. He will reveal his Glory to everyone who calls out to him. Joel 2:32.

What Daniel foretold is also seen in Revelation; there are three and a half years during which **Michael** fights, then a resurrection of God’s people. (Rev 12:7, 11:12, 14:14, 20:4) This is very significant as the apostle John, in AD96, considered the last half of Daniel’s 70th week to be still in the future. In other words the horrendous events of AD70 had already occurred but did *not* fulfill this prophecy. The first half of the 70th week was fulfilled by Messiah at the start of the age and the second half will be fulfilled by Messiah at the end. The gap is between the two halves of the 70th week. The time of *greatest joy and glory* is almost upon us. Get ready.

FEASTS OF ISRAEL

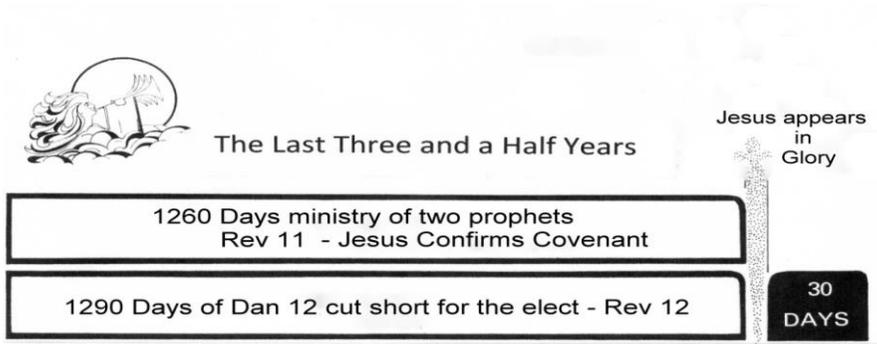
Passover to Sukkot = 1260 Days

May I once again draw your attention to the Feasts of Israel.

There is a vital thing to understand. The second half of the “week” will be a **mirror** reflection of the first half. Every seven years the Biblical Feasts are so planned that they complete a full cycle. Every 3 ½ years they start and finish on alternative feasts. The first 3 ½ years started when Messiah was baptized at the time of Trumpets and Atonement and it ended at Passover. During that time he perfectly fulfilled all the **Spring Feasts**. When he returns he will take up where he left off and complete what he began; he will start at Passover and end at Sukkot and fulfil all the **Autumn Feasts**.

The last 3 ½ years will follow a pattern from Passover to Sukkot. The manner in which the Passover is kept has changed very little in 2000 years except that there is no longer a lamb slain. Yeshua is our Passover. 1 Corinthians 5:7. Yeshua kept Passover with his disciples on the last night of his earthly life and left without drinking the fourth cup, the Cup of Consummation, also known as Elijah’s cup. He probably also left the Afikomen (the hidden piece of unleavened bread). He deliberately left the meal unfinished and said he would not drink again of the fruit of the vine *until* he drinks new in the Kingdom. It is significant that the Passover supper was left unfinished for he will return and reveal himself at Passover to those who keep covenant.

The last 3 ½ years starts at **Passover** and goes through to the **Autumn Feasts**. The **Day of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)** is held on the first day of the seventh month and starts the New Year. The trumpets sound to prepare people for the **Day of Atonement** which follows ten days later. These days are called the “**Days of Awe.**” During this time Jewish people believe that the names of all those written in the Book of Life are sealed; the righteous are sealed from the Day of Trumpets and the wicked are doomed on the Day of Atonement. Notice that in Revelation the opening of the seals is closely linked to the sounding of the seven trumpets. These are the days of repentance, the most awesome time of the year. God commands the whole world to repent.

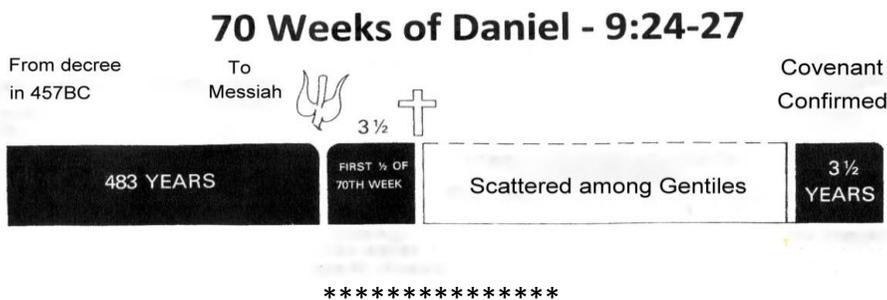


RECAP: Yeshua taught from Daniel chapter 12 about the end time and said “*except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened”.* (Matt 24: 21, 22 Mk 13:19, 20) What days did he mean? He took the *exact* days of **1290** as his reference point. The apostle John in Revelation tells us by how much they will be shortened. In Daniel the end time of three and a half years is **1290** days; in Revelation it is **1260** days; it is shortened by **30** days. Can we know what happens during the last 30 days?

In Daniel 12:6 Daniel heard an angel ask “***How long to the end of these wonders?***” Then the ‘man’ clothed in linen held up “***his right hand and his left hand unto heaven***” and answered “***a time, times and a half***” or 1290 days. This ‘man’ had the appearance of the Lord. (Dan 10:5-7,11) In Revelation (10:5-7) we see this again and John writes “***and the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand and swore by him that liveth for ever and ever ...that there should be time no longer but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God is finished as he hath declared to his servants the prophets***”.

This takes place at the sound of the 7th trumpet, yet no trumpet sounds momentarily for the very nature of a blast requires an extended sound. It is interesting that we are told that the 7th trumpet, the last in the entire Bible, sounds over a period of days. In fact between this verse when it is about to sound (Rev 10:7) and when it fully sounds (Rev 11:15) there is a period of 1260 days which is three and a half years, 42 months. Notice that when it is about to sound the “mystery of God is finished”. (1 Cor 15:51-53, 1 Thess. 4:16,17, Ephesians 5:32). By comparing the three woes (Revelation 8:13, 9:12, 10:7, 11:14,15) we see that the 7th trumpet begins to sound at the *start* of the two prophets’ ministry and fully sounds after the **1260** days. It is clear that the last **1290** days are cut short, for the sake of the “elect,” the chosen believers, the church. This is what Jesus himself said would happen. (Matt 24:21,22) When the trumpet sounds the great *mystery* (secret) of God is finished. The trumpet, which is the voice of the Lord and Archangel, sounds for *each* individual who belongs to Christ. Rev 1:10, 1

Thessalonians 4:16. This releases resurrection into living believers and a worldwide explosion of God's power follows. Just as there was an impartment of power into the early church that enabled them to take the Gospel into the world so too there will be another impartation of power into God's people that transforms and enables them to take the world and rule the nations. This is the manifestation of the Sons of God.



CHAPTER 8 -

MESSIAH WILL CONFIRM THE COVENANT

The coming of the “false prophet” – Rev 16:13,19:20,20:10,13:14

This may be sooner than most anticipate. Few people understand present events in Israel and Jerusalem because few take the time to understand the prophecies of Daniel 11. It is a neglected prophecy yet is one of the most important about the “end times”. It tells of the rise of a vile ‘king’. He is described in the vision of different goats that war with one another, depicting the course of historic events that eventually culminated with a man called Antiochus IV Epiphanes who attacked Jerusalem and brought devastating destruction upon the Jews. (Daniel 8:3-26, 11:36-45) In Revelation we find the same symbolic description of a *future* end time vile “beast” that looks like a goat and is called the “false prophet.” Revelation 13:11, 16:13, 19:20. He is similar to the king foretold in Daniel and is the final manifestation of him.

Daniel foretold the progress of the “false prophet” and that *“he shall annihilate many and plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain.”* “Tents or tabernacles” mean a place of *worship*, a temple. It is also called a palace or as another translation says a “royal pavilion.” The word pavilion means “a highly conspicuous domed building visible from a distance.” Even now it stands on the Holy Mountain, none other than Jerusalem, between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. Satan has for millennia sought to control Jerusalem. Why is that? It is the place where the Most Holy shed his blood. It was here that the Lord stopped Abraham from offering Isaac, a forerunner of Yeshua. King David purchased it for the full price and sang about *“Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”* 1 Chronicles 21:22, Psalm 48:2. This is also where Satan desires to sit. Isaiah 14:1. It is strange that Muslim nations are obsessed with Jerusalem and seek to control it when it is not even mentioned once in their book. Yet in the Bible it is mentioned over 800 times! Zechariah foretold that the city will be surrounded by armies seeking to possess it and it will become a delusionary burden and heavy stone for all who come against her, *except* the tents of Judah. Zechariah 12.

Daniel 11:36-45 depicts the final years of the existence of this “false prophet.” In the end time he will take control of half of the city of Jerusalem and the last three and a half years will come to pass; judgment falls on those who fight for it. Nations that have given themselves over to perpetual hatred of the Jews will self-destruct! Hatred and cursing can never produce righteousness and peace, only damnation and death. This is a serious warning to all who follow religions that deliberately promote violence and killing. The “false prophet” will come in peaceably with guile but will honour the “god of war.” He will come to his end and none will help him. Read Daniel 11:36-45; what do his characteristics best describe?

Gentile nations that embrace Babylonian paganism will be judged. All their sophisticated technology and clever philosophies that reject the true God of creation will not save them in that day. The “Times of the Gentiles” are coming to an end. For too long they have denied the very

existence of the God of truth and turned to false gods that cannot save. For all our advancement and enlightenment we are being overwhelmed by problems too big to solve. We can go into space but cannot bring peace on earth. Everywhere things are on the decline; financially, morally, mentally, physically, socially. We abort millions of children because we don't want them despite having medication to stop pregnancy; the family unit which is the cornerstone of society is undermined; corruption and coveting are widespread; drugs, illness and disease are at plague level; people make war for no reason; rebellion is rampant. People say "if there is a loving God why does He allow all these dreadful things to happen?" But it is not God that does it but us. We do the cheating and lying and killing. God has given us the way to live but we reject His Word and even deny His existence and walk in our own ways of sin. Even weather upheavals are blamed on God whereas they are the result of our own destruction and defilement of the planet. We pollute the atmosphere, the rivers and the seas, cut down the trees and turn good pasture into desert. Some people blame God for their problems; He is like a scapegoat for our complaints.

The injustice of two thousand years is being exposed. All those things that have been sealed and hidden will be brought to light and the "kings of the earth" will hide in the day of His judgment. Rev 6:14-17. For two thousand years and more, the people of God have wandered in the world destitute, persecuted, torn asunder, scourged, mocked and imprisoned. Hebrews 11:36-40. The poor, weak and others have been taken advantage of, used, abused and even killed. Those nations that have callously persecuted God's ancient people will need to repent or stand in judgment when Messiah comes. Life is made of choices and those who have chosen to pursue ungodliness will answer for their deeds. There is only one way out and that is to repent. We are living in the "Days of Awe" just before the judgment of the world.

Jeremiah predicted that nations that defy the God of the Bible will be judged. God is a God of Justice and He has a long memory! Jeremiah 25:15-38, Isaiah 60:12. There is still time to repent followed by a great reconciliation when bitter foes lay down their weapons and peace will

fill the earth. When the Prince of Peace steps through the veil Assyria, Israel and Egypt, all once bitter enemies will become as one; when Jacob turns to Messiah they will follow. Already the Lord is appearing to Muslims, Jews and others to bring them to repentance, reconciliation and faith in the living God. Isaiah 19:2.

The most astounding thing that will happen is there will be a real, literal resurrection. After Yeshua died on the cross he rose on the third day. This was real. He is alive. He came to overcome death. He is the only person ever to live and not fall into sin. Not only did he live a perfect life he was tested in the most extreme manner when he was tortured and killed. He endured this and at no time did he complain or even murmur. He did not judge or condemn the perpetrators of this dreadful crime. Right to the very end he was constant and true. He forgave the thief on the cross and all who hated him and caused his suffering. Through it all he trusted His Father and committed himself into his Father's care. Three days later he arose as the Prince of Life. He is the Resurrection and the Life and has authority and power to raise anyone he wishes. John 5. He knew what it was like to be human, to be a servant, to be despised and rejected as King of the Jews. One of the great mysteries is the "Suffering Messiah" described in Isaiah 53 and other Messianic prophecies in the Tanakh. How can he be both "Son of man" and "Son of God"? This is the mystery of Messiah that has been kept hidden throughout the ages. 1 Corinthians 2:8. This is God's plan.

"We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory." This word mystery means secret; it is a secret to be revealed.

He came like a lamb and carried away our sins. He went to the slaughter to make us righteous. When He arose a multitude of people from the Old Testament age arose; all those who had put their faith in him. At his return there will be yet another resurrection. It will be of all those who made the choice to follow him. Life is made of choices and

this is the main choice we are given; to believe and trust in a loving God of mercy and forgiveness. He is also a righteous judge of all who deliberately provoke Him. It is our choice. We will all stand before Him.

Some people say God does not know what it is like to be a human being and to struggle in life; but he does. Some say they cannot believe in God because of the extreme sufferings they have endured; but he too has suffered. It is not God who persecutes us but Satan. Satan has always hated people; especially God's ancient people. The Holocaust of the last century is an illustration of this undeserved persecution of millions of people who through no fault of their own were taken to gas chambers. However, God has used that dreadful experience to put steel into their spirits. These survivors now stand again at the brink of annihilation, surrounded by enemies who have a perpetual hatred for Israel. They will look again into the fearful furnace but they will not be alone; the Son of God will stand with them. Daniel 3:25. ***The whole world will become polarised over Israel.*** The "mouth" of some world media spreads lies against them. Rev 13:6. Every nation will be forced to make a decision. Joel 3:2,12. The Bible says that nations will gather against Israel to destroy it. Where will we stand when Israel is thrown into the furnace of destruction, when they face the Goliath of hatred arrayed against them? Will the world once again turn a blind eye? Two armies will clash; the armies of "Michael" (Messiah) and the armies of Satan. Rev 12:7. Guess who will win.

No one knows what weapons Israel may have. Their arsenal is small compared to the major powers but be assured they have sophisticated weapons more advanced than other nations. These are like the five small stones of David. They will not use these weapons *except* in defence, but woe to anybody who attempts to destroy them. The prophets of old looked into the future and saw the horror of the end time slaughter. Zechariah described what can only be nuclear war. Joel described great palm-tree shaped clouds standing on the earth. Zech 14:12-15 Joel 3:2:30. I suspect that Israel has developed powerful weapons more effective than others. Through history many leading scientists have been Jewish. They have contributed much in scientific

advancement, medicine and technology. They also have had to build weapons but their preservation will lie ultimately *only* with Messiah.

As a “**Scapegoat**” Israel has been driven into the wilderness to be accused and hated. Certain nations continually put responsibility for their actions on Israel which they blame for everything; it has become their scapegoat. Some people who hate Israel will not rest until they have destroyed it, or themselves, in trying to do so. Israel is a few million people surrounded by over a billion who hate her. Israel does not have resources to withstand the great world powers or the numerous nations that have vowed to wipe it out but it does have a last resort. It is called “MAD”, Mutual Assured Destruction. Never again will Israel allow another holocaust without fighting back. They went meek and mild to the gas chambers like people too numb to fight. It will not be like that again. This time they will fight. This is the moment in history they have been prepared for. Any nation that determines to destroy Israel will themselves be destroyed. This is the word of the God of Abraham; *“I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you.”* Yet there will be those foolish enough to try to destroy Israel. This will be the climax of this age and the result will be a watershed in history. Once again the God of the Bible will use the people of the Bible to bring deliverance. Israel will be drawn into a fight for survival. The world will be filled with madness as nation fights nation. In the midst of conflict *“every man’s hand will be against his brother.”* Ezk 38:21. Yeshua said *“When you see all these things look up for your redemption draweth near.”* When Israel fights they will fight not only for themselves but for all who love peace. Messiah will be with them. Psalm 2. He came as a lamb, when he returns he will be like a lion. The result will be worldwide purging. Israel will in a way be the salvation of the world for Messiah will triumph. Rogue nations will be defeated and ungodly armies permanently broken. Through Messiah the world will be saved from destruction and the Age of Peace will be ushered in; an age of restitution and restoration of all things when peace and justice will reign through Messiah, the Prince of Peace. His Kingdom of Righteousness will grow to fill the earth.

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of a great valley full of dead bodies. Ezekiel 37. Corpses heaped upon corpses, millions of bones filled the entire valley. Then he was shown their resurrection. Many Bible readers fail to see the meaning of this vision and say it is to do with the re-gathering of the scattered Jewish people back to their land. Yes, it is to do with the Jews but the ingathering and restoration of Israel is foretold in Ezekiel chapter 36. Chapter 37 is not their gathering but their resurrection; they come out of their graves just as Yeshua did. Read it carefully. Ezekiel saw the Holocaust. The whole world is going to get the shock of their lives when God raises Holocaust victims, millions of Jews who were murdered just because they were Jews. They will stand again a great multitude of people. God will raise every man, woman and child who has been slaughtered. He will also judge all nations and one day, at the end of the millennium, every single man and woman will be raised to stand before him. Psalm 22, Rev 20:11.

HOW WILL YESHUS COME?

He has already shown us how he will return. He will not come in the clouds of the sky but will step straight out of God's cloud. That is how he appeared during the 40 days after his resurrection and before he ascended. This is the way he has appeared all through history.

After Messiah rose from the dead and before he departed he was on earth for 40 days in his resurrection. During that time he appeared to his disciples. How did he appear? He simply stepped out of the invisible dimension into the visible dimension. The first part of his ministry started with 40 days in the wilderness when he was attacked by all the power of Satan. He withstood that most awful tempting and overcame. He was tested, tempered and forged, in the furnace of adversary he was hardened and gained an inner resolve as hard as steel to go all the way without compromise. It was necessary that before he could experience the power of the Holy Spirit he first had to overcome Satan. It did not end there, he had to endure the horror of crucifixion. After that hellish ordeal he arose and walked in triumphant victory for 40 days. Satan could no longer touch him.

He appeared first to a single woman and then to more and more people until he appeared to 500 at one time. He could appear at any place and at any time to whom he wanted but he never showed himself to unbelievers, only to those who loved him.

When he “ascended” from the Mount of Olives he did not go up like a rocket and disappear in the clouds. It says he “*lifted himself up and a cloud received him*” or *took him*. In other words he only lifted himself a few feet and disappeared into the supernatural Cloud of God right before the eyes of the disciples. When it says that the disciples gazed into heaven, or the sky which is the same Greek word, it does not mean they looked into the weather clouds but that they gazed into the spiritual realm, through “the veil,” into Heaven’s dimension. The veil opened and he just stepped through it. He disappeared right before their eyes and then two angels appeared just as suddenly. They did not come down from the sky; they simply materialized right next to the people. They said he will return in *exactly* the same way he left. How did he go? He stepped through the veil into the spirit dimensions. He will come in the same way; he will just step back into this dimension and appear to all who are looking for him, those who love him and are devoted to him. Yes, he will return to the Mount of Olives but there is nothing stopping him appearing to people in *every* nation and denomination, but *only* those who love him will meet him. Those people who have only a religious tradition or doctrinal belief and not a living relationship of faith in him will not see him.

In the Old Testament people had real encounters with Messiah. Throughout the Bible he *appeared* to people. He came to Abraham when he was sitting in his tent; he came to Samuel, Gideon and many others. He just stepped out from the invisible realm and appeared to Abraham in Gen. 18:1, Jacob in Gen. 28:12, 32:28-30, 33:10, Moses in Ex.33:11, Num.12:8. When he was finished he just stepped back again. The Apostles also refer to his “appearing.” The New Testament is full of promises that we too will see him. During the 40 days he came and went to any place at any time. Nothing has changed; this is how he will come in his unveiling, in *exactly* the same way. Only believers saw the

risen Lord and scriptures indicate that ungodly people will *not* see him or look upon his face, only the righteous and those who are *looking* for him will see him. Heb. 8:28. They will gaze on him in rapturous wonder, enthralled in their love for him. (Acts 1:11, 1 John 1:1,2, 3:2, Col.3:4, 2 Thes.1:10 - the word “admired” used here means to “examine him very closely”. Heb.9:28, Phil.3:20. Isa 30:20, 33:17, Zech 12:10.)

We need to understand the types, figures and idioms of scripture. The **Clouds** are *not* vapour clouds in the sky but **clouds of God’s Presence** as seen throughout the entire Bible; in the wilderness, in the tabernacle, in the temple, at Transfiguration. In the OT Messiah met his people in the Shekinah Glory within the veil of the Holy Place in the Temple, but in the NT he will tabernacle *in* every true believer and will be **unveiled** *in* his living Temple, the church. The **Air** is not in the stratosphere but the spiritual dimensions all around us. Eph.2:2. It is *not up* in the atmosphere but in our immediate vicinity. We don’t have to go to some locality, *he is coming to us*. A transliteration could read; *“Those who take hold of Him in faith will be seized out of carnality, changed and empowered to meet Him in the splendour of His Presence in the Cloud of His Spirit right here within the living church.”* The living temple will be established in every nation and all tribes and people will see it.

But Half of Jerusalem will fall. Zech 14:2, Revelation 11:1,2.

There is a period of three and a half years during which certain things will take place. Armies will gather around Jerusalem and half the city will fall and be trodden underfoot for the final forty-two months, 1260 days. God will raise two mighty Prophets with great power who will be His spokesmen. John drew from the words of Zechariah, Daniel and Yeshua and foretold an end period of three and a half years during which the “*outer court*” of “*the city called Sodom and Egypt where also our Lord was crucified,*” will be trampled underfoot by Gentiles for 42 months. Daniel 7:23, Luke 21:24. It is significant that the ancient parts of Jerusalem are mostly held under Muslim control including the Islamic shrines which now stand where the “*Court of the Gentiles*” was. I believe it is this half of Jerusalem to which John refers. This is very

significant when one considers the pressure on Israel by the international community to give up Jerusalem. Already a fence and wall stretches for many miles. The Palestinian administration is insisting that the eastern half of Jerusalem be given to them. Rev 11:8.

John also refers to the “measuring” of the “temple of God.” He wrote Revelation *after* the earthly temple was destroyed and therefore did not refer to it but to a “spiritual temple” which is consistent with its use *throughout* Revelation and the entire New Testament; the church is the “living temple of God,” a spiritual temple, the “Temple of God” the body of Messiah worldwide. There is no temple in heaven. John 4:21, Rev 21:22. For 3 ½ years the two prophets, representing the Law and the Prophets, will pour oil into God’s people. They are the fulfilment of Zechariah 4:11-14. The symbolism points to the God of the Bible encouraging and protecting His people. They stand “beside the Lord” as two olive branches, both Royalty and Priesthood, and pour oil into the lamps. Matthew 25:1. Through their ministry a mighty outpouring of oil, symbolic of the Holy Spirit, is poured into God’s people worldwide. This is where we also see Messiah; standing among the lamps that represent the seven churches of Revelation 1:12.

Notice the awesome power of these two prophets. When they speak fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. The days of peace treaties and compromise are over. Their ministry is like the sounding of Trumpets calling people to repent and get ready for the appearing of the Great King and High Priest, Messiah. This is in contrast to the hate and lies that come from the mouths of the opponents of God. Rev 13:2-6, 16:13, 9:17-19. Already we hear blasphemy and threats on world media.

There will be an amazing revelation of Messiah in this last half of the week when he will “confirm the covenant with many.” It will be to God’s people everywhere. Messiah will come suddenly to his temple worldwide. I believe that the measuring of the “temple of God and those who worship there” has already begun. The Lord is sifting and purging his church. Christians are being tested as to what they believe

on a number of issues and especially about Israel. Churches that believe in “replacement theology” which is widely accepted by many need to ask themselves a very important question; “is the God of the church still the God of Israel?” “Is Jesus the King of Israel?” In the light of John 12:13 and Matthew 25:31-46 the answer we give will decide our future.

When Messiah returns he will come as King and High Priest. Just as he fulfilled the Spring Feasts so too he will fulfil the Autumn Feasts. I believe he will start at Passover where he left off. Jesus left an unfinished meal for a reason; he is coming back. The final cup was not drunk: it is called the “Cup of Consummation” or Elijah’s Cup. Zechariah foretold that multitudes of Jewish people, families set apart throughout the land, will see him and mourn. Passover is the time of family redemption. They will have their eyes “opened” to see the “Lamb of God” who was pierced and they will mourn for him who died for them. Zechariah 12:10-14. Yeshua gave a preview of this when he revealed himself at Emmaus when he took bread, blessed it and broke it and the eyes of the disciples were opened and they knew him. Luke 24:30,31. This meeting will be personal, for believers, behind closed doors, just as Joseph disclosed himself to his brethren and fell upon their necks and kissed them and wept over them. Genesis 45:1-5, 14,15. That was a preview of what will happen when Messiah discloses himself to his own beloved people, to those looking for him; believers in Messiah. Passover is a family meal and is kept by *devout* Jews worldwide. In Zechariah we see its end time fulfilment when the *tribes* and families in Israel will mourn when they see Messiah. One day as they keep Passover there will be a knock on the door and when it is opened a man will be standing there who will be glorious. (Rev 3: 20) He will come in and take the empty seat of Elijah and take the bread and bless and break it and they will see the nail prints in his hands. He will take the cup and drink it again. It was at Passover that Israel was protected and delivered from the Angel of Destruction; behind closed doors, sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb, they were safe. The Rabbis say that Israel will once again be delivered at *Passover*. In the end times *all* who shelter under the Blood of the Lamb will be protected in the Day of

Judgment and all believers of all *tribes* on earth will be able to meet the Lord *in* the day of His Presence. Matt 24:30.

BOTH JEW AND GENTILE BELIEVERS WILL SEE HIM

At **Passover** Messiah bestowed the communion to the church. We eat bread and drink the fruit of the vine in “memory of him until he comes.” Sadly, through the ages it was made a source of exclusion and dogma instead of the “love Feast” it was intended to be. At the Lord’s Table believers express their love and devotion and receive comfort in times of trouble in the midst of their enemies. It symbolises our *communion* with Him and by faith we can gaze upon him “face to face.” Psalm 23. His “Presence” transcends time and space and all who love the Lord still “see” him in the bread and the fruit of the vine. It was Melchizedek who first shared these emblems with Abraham. Melchizedek is another name for the pre-incarnate Messiah, King of Jerusalem and Priest of God.

The Day of Atonement - Yom Kippur

Yeshua will also fulfil the Day of Atonement as High Priest. It was at the Feast of Atonement that the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sacrificial lamb. When he was behind the veil there was complete silence as everyone waited for him to come out again. Even today on Yom Kippur although there is no sacrifice and no priest there is absolute silence right across the land of Israel as people pray and confess in the synagogues. I have been in Israel on this day and the silence is awesome. This is described when the seventh seal is opened and the Lord and steps back to reveal himself to his people having made an “end of sin”. *“The temple is opened in heaven and the ark of His covenant was seen in his temple.”* Rev 8:1, 11:19. I believe that the “temple” in Revelation means the “heavenly” spiritual temple of believers, consistent with the teaching of Paul. 1 Corinthians 3:16,17 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16, Ephesians 2:21. The “temple” in Revelation makes no sense unless it is a spiritual temple. Also, in a synagogue the “Ark” is where the Torah is kept and is symbolic of Yeshua, the living Word of

God. On Yom Kippur it is taken out and worshippers can touch it. This is what Hebrew 9:28 says will happen. He will *appear* to all who love him and are looking for him wherever they are throughout the entire world and they will see him and be able to touch him. “His Presence” is not confined to any one place but will be seen in the *midst* of his people worldwide. He is already appearing to people worldwide.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES - FEAST OF SUKKOT

Yeshua will also fulfil the Feast of **Sukkot**. It follows five days after Atonement and is a time of great joy. The end period of 1260 days means very little to Gentile believers but to Jewish people it has great significance. In the Biblical calendar of 3 ½ years, as told by John, it is *exactly* 1260 days from **Passover to Sukkot** It is the Feast of greatest rejoicing when Messiah will *dwell* with his people in clouds of Glory. The **Feast of Tabernacles** focuses entirely on when Messiah will tabernacle with his people. The imagery of Sukkot is seen in words such as tabernacles, over-shadow, glory and clouds. Its origins go right back to the wilderness when the people lived in tabernacles, or booths, and encamped around the central Tabernacle where the **Cloud of God’s Presence** dwelt. Numbers 9:15-23. On the Mount of Transfiguration Peter saw the Lord in the **Cloud of Glory** and he became so excited because as a Jew he immediately equated the two and knew he was seeing the reality of **Sukkot**. So he wanted to build three booths and celebrate Messiah’s Kingdom when he will dwell with His people. Peter wrote later in his epistle that on this holy mount he saw the “coming parousia of the Lord” just as it will happen at the end time. 2 Peter 1:16-18. **Sukkot** is the greatest time of rejoicing and the people dress in white robes, wave palm branches and leaves and sing “Hosanna to the King of Israel,” Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Revelation 7:9,10, Matt 21:8. The Torah is taken out and the people carry it aloft singing God’s praise. They reverently touch it as it passes by. This is what John as a Jew alluded to when he wrote 1 John 1:1-4 and John 1:14, God *dwells* with us. To a Jew the Torah is the most sacred object for it is the written “Word of God” but it is only a shadow and reflection of the “living Word of God”.

The Jewish people keep this Feast but are yet to meet Messiah. One day believers will see and welcome him. The final Great day of **Simchat Torah** is the day of greatest rejoicing. On this day they lift the Torah on their shoulders and carry it in the streets singing praise and touching it in reverent awe and worship. I had a dream of the Lord at Sukkot, dressed in a long linen tunic and wearing sandals he was dancing arm in arm with his people, kicking up his heels and rejoicing with them in the streets of Jerusalem. Zephaniah 3:14-20. When Yeshua said he will come *“on the clouds of God’s glory”* he was referring to the time of **Sukkot**, something every Jew immediately knew but Gentiles do not. At Sukkot they believed they were surrounded by 7 clouds; four on the sides, one above and one beneath and one overshadowing them. At this time great rivers of God’s Spirit will pour out like fountains of life and healing. This is what Messiah meant when at **Sukkot** he stood in the temple and cried with a loud voice *“If any one thirsts let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me as the Scripture has said, out of him will flow rivers of living water.”* John 7:37,38. It was at Sukkot that water from the Gihon spring was channelled into the Temple. A priest would take a vessel and pour it out and it flowed down the altar. This was symbolic of when the Lord’s healing Spirit will flow from Jerusalem into the world and all who call on His name will be saved.

The types and shadows of all the Feasts will be fulfilled perfectly by Messiah one day! When the temple was finished the **Cloud of God’s Presence** filled it. When the “fullness of the Gentiles” is fulfilled then the “fullness of Israel” will also come in and the *living* Temple will be complete and filled with the **Cloud of Glory**. The Lord has already built his spiritual temple in every nation on earth. He is not coming to “take his temple away” but to fill it with his *glory* and take up residence; in Jerusalem and in his “body” worldwide; he is coming to take the whole world for His Kingdom. Yeshua is already glorified; that means he is omniscient and omnipresent. He has no limitations or bounds, not in his Spirit or His glorified body. All the imagery of **Sukkot** such as glory, tabernacle, clouds, Covenant, living water, dwell, Word of God, are all fulfilled at his return. Some people are looking for an earthly temple to

be built in Jerusalem before the return of Messiah. There is not a single scripture that indicates this, quite the contrary as already pointed out. I believe the idea of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem before Messiah comes is not based on sound exegesis but is a spiritual red herring, or should I say a “red heifer.” The false shrines of antichrist already stand in the Temple court and will be removed in God’s time. If a temple is built it will be *after* Messiah; Ezekiel’s temple. Jewish people are not looking for a temple but Messiah. For 2000 years they have kept Passover but with no lamb. Hosea 3:4. Every year they sang “Next year in Jerusalem.” Now they pray “Next year Messiah.” He is the one to look for. He will come, not to an earthly temple but a spiritual temple filled with sacrifices of praise, power and light. He will “Confirm the Covenant,” change and empower his people and there will be a great renewal worldwide. In Jerusalem a fountain will be opened and he will cleanse all people who call on him. Zechariah 13:1,2. The Feast of **Sukkot** will become the main Feast in the Millennium and the nations of the world will come to Jerusalem to worship Him. In this time the Lord will “Tabernacle with his people,” make His permanent residence with them and cover them in His **Shekinah Glory**. His people will enter His Presence in the Cloud of Glory and see him “**face to face**.” After 1000 years New Jerusalem will come and a new creation, our eternal home.

HANUKKAH - PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY SEEN YESHUA

Strangely enough, if the 1290 plus 45 days to 1335 are applied to the last half of the week they just happen to come to the 8 day Feast of Hanukkah, the **Feast of Dedication and Lights**; the consecration of the temple and the supernatural infilling of sacred oil for the nine branched menorah. It speaks of Messiah cleansing his *temple* (church), *changing* and empowering his *people* and also points to the two witnesses who pour oil into the lamps. Wherever I share these things, people tell me of experiences they have had. Many have had encounters with the risen Lord. He is appearing to people worldwide. One man in Swaziland told me how the Lord appeared to him in his car and spoke to him. He appeared to a lady I know and to a child after an accident. He has

appeared to people who were sick or in distress. People have seen the glory “cloud” in meetings. He comes in dreams and visions. He has revealed himself to Muslims, Jews and others. I could write another chapter on this but they are confirmed worldwide. If you believe in Yeshua there is no need to fear being deceived by a false spirit. You will know him by the nail prints in his hands just as Thomas did and you will see His Glory. A dear lady I know sat down to alter a large thick curtain. To do this she had to unpick every small tight stitch but after a long time she had not got far and fell asleep. When she awoke the entire curtain had been unpicked! She was amazed. Then the Lord said to her, that is how he will come. The “veil” will instantly open and he will step through unveiled in glory and we will see him **face to face**. 2 Cor 3:12, Isa 26:6-8, Rev 3:5,10:7. We need our minds unpicked and renewed to perceive the mystery of Messiah; ***“that you may have all the riches derived from being assured of understanding and fully knowing God’s secret truth which is the Messiah! It is in him that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.”*** CJB –Col. 2:1,

CONCLUSION: We are seeing the end times unfold. There is no need for a rebuilt temple but Jerusalem will be divided and a terrible 3 ½ year conflict will occur. This could be closer than many think. When you see these things get ready, Messiah is coming. Do not miss the moment of His appearing; that is when the miracle happens.

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APPENDIX 1 - The 70 Weeks.

The 70 “weeks” are in three groups. One is 7 weeks, the next is 62 weeks and the final is one week. *“The streets shall be built again and the wall even in troublesome times.”* The first period of 7 weeks or 49 years was fulfilled during the very difficult time that Ezra, Nehemiah and others rebuilt the city of Jerusalem. According to Barnes and several other Bible Commentaries Nehemiah’s last act in building was completed in the 15th year of the rule of the Persian Darius Nothus (423-404BC). The 15th year was therefore 408BC exactly 49 years from

the decree in 457BC. The second period of 62 weeks is 434 years and comes to 26/27BC when Messiah was revealed. This is by far the simplest and truest understanding of Daniel 9. The last week of 7 years is divided in two: Jesus fulfilled the first half and will also fulfil the second half. When Yeshua was cut off then time was also cut off, in the middle of the 70th week. We now await the final 3 ½ years.

Appendix 2 - ISRAEL IN PROPHECY

Christianity has drifted so far from its Hebrew origins that many people cannot link the two. 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 towards Israel and the Jews stem from 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. When the Jews were scattered Gentile believers became more numerous in the church. The church increasingly spiritualized scripture instead of following a more literal interpretation which had been consistent till then. The church claimed all the promises of Israel to be theirs and believed the Jews to be a people rejected by God. Jesus was Christianized! At the time of the Reformation the Protestants proved no different. Luther became anti-Semitic when he found he could not convert Jews to his brand of Christianity. Persecution grew, resulting eventually in the holocaust, and continues even now. Much of the church is indifferent to Israel.

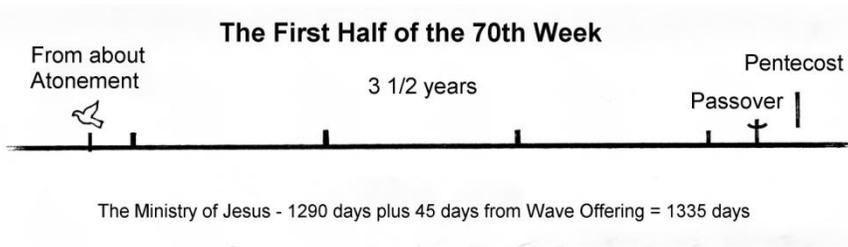
Replacement Theology is taught in many churches today. The church exalts itself *as* Israel and discounts any part Israel may play now and in the future. Christian believers do not *replace* Israel. The church should repent of its anti-Semitic stance and the considerable harm done to Jews through the centuries. Our spiritual renewal is closely linked with our Biblical stance of love towards God’s people. Matthew 25:31, Acts 3:19-21. Through the centuries and today most people involved in

intercession for world redemption have an understanding of God’s plan for Israel; the Lord is giving us one last chance to bless the Jews.

APPENDIX 3 – The Feasts in a Biblical calendar.

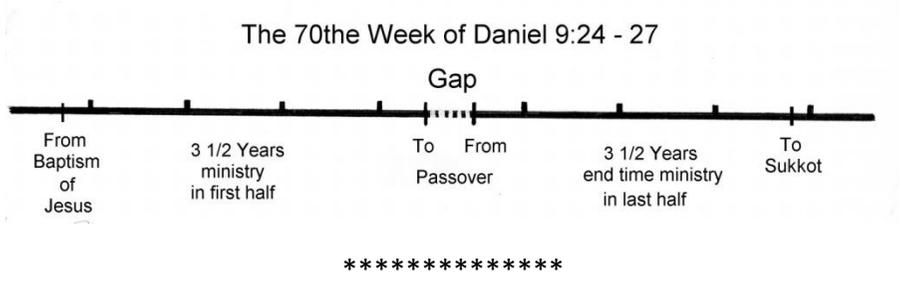
The Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar months and is very complex and different from a solar calendar which we use today. Hebrew calendars have months of 29/30 days and a year is 354 days. This calendar must be synchronised with the solar year which is the time for the earth to orbit the sun. Every leap year our calendars have an extra day. The Hebrew calendar must also have extra days added to accommodate the Biblical Feasts. This is done seven times during a cycle of 19 years; every few years another month of Adar is added. However, John in Revelation makes it clear that the final 3 ½ years are 42 months each of 30 days, a total of 1260 days. When Daniel wrote of 1290 days he was, I believe, meaning the *exact* time of Jesus’ ministry from Atonement to Passover. John, however, wrote of 1260 days, the *exact* time from Passover to Sukkot and the extra days just happen to take us into the eight days of Hanukkah. However, there is a 30 day discrepancy between the two periods. This is crucial to understand what the Lord meant when he said the 1290 days of Daniel will be shortened for the sake of the “elect.” The 7th trumpet sounds *after* 1260 days, leaving 30 days of harvest and judgment. If you wish to confirm these days get a series of Jewish calendars and start counting the Feasts. You will find they still work out very close to these numbers.

CHARTS – 1/

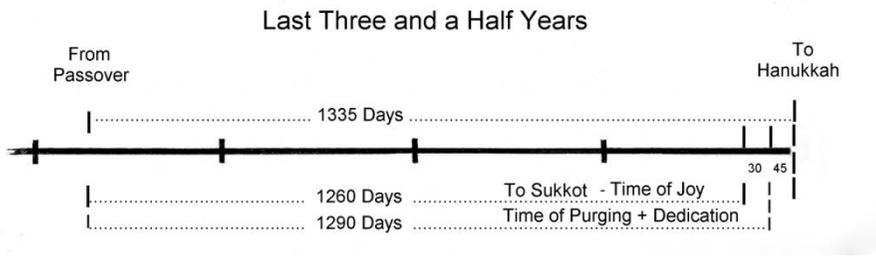


1290 days plus 45 days = 1335 days to preparation of Shavuot.

2/

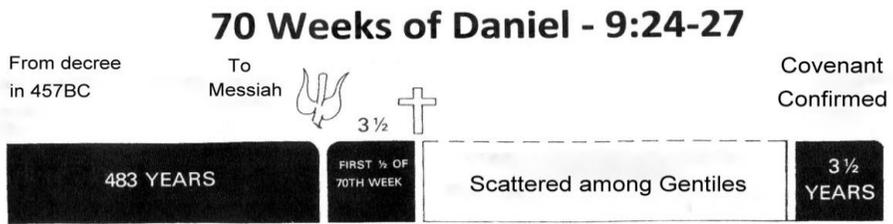


3/



This is a mirror of the first half – 1260 days from Passover to Sukkot, 30 days of harvest and judgment = 1290 days, plus 45 days = 1335 days to Hanukkah.

4/



The full period of 70 weeks with a gap between the first half and the second half.

Bibliography: -

Strong's Analytical Concordance

Vines Expository Dictionary

Abbreviations – AKJB – Authorised King James Bible

NKJ – New King James Bible

NIV – New International Bible

NLT – New Living Translation

NEB – New English Bible

CJB – Complete Jewish Bible

NEB – New English Bible

GNB – Good News Bible

Amp B – Amplified Bible

The author:

Since the 1960s the author was involved in church and mission work in Africa. As a Bible teacher he has ministered in many churches and several nations and authored the following books amongst others. These books contain insight and teaching on other themes.

Books by the author:

These books contain additional information that will clarify subjects only touched on in this book.

“Covenant of Glory” – an explanation of the Covenant of God.

“Crown of Thorns” – a study on the last earthly week of the Lord.

“War for the World” – an explanation of Revelation.

“The Coming Conflict in Jerusalem” – Prophecies about the end conflict.

“The Miracle of Israel” – A study on the eternal Covenant with Israel.

“Abba and the Tramp” – a story about two street kids who meet a king.

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Postscript.

There is a tendency to set specific dates for the return of the Lord and no dates in this book are intended to do so. However, scripture exhorts us to be ready and to know the “times and seasons” in which we live. The apostles of the Lord repeatedly said that in the “last days” people would be ungodly, corrupt and immoral and that many in the “church would be apathetic and ignorant, even some so deluded they would “believe a lie.”

I believe the scriptures are given that we may understand world events and live accordingly. Biblical prophecy is intended to strengthen our faith, give hope and impart expectation and joy. God has a preordained plan and there are cycles in that Divine plan. Several Biblical cycles are evident. Seven is God’s Covenant number and make a week. Also: 70 years of captivity, 70 x 7 for Messiah and seven sevens are 49 followed by a 50th year Jubilee. Then there is 40 years for Moses in Egypt, 40 years in exile, 40 years wilderness sojourn and 40 days in the Presence of God as well as 40 days of rain at the flood and 40 days of Jesus’ temptation and 40 days of resurrection. Also, Jerusalem was destroyed 40 years after the death of Jesus and the war that caused it started 70 years from his birth. In God’s dealings with Israel the cycle of 50 is significant; the Lord came to the earthly temple 50 years from the start of its restoration. In modern times this cycle is unmistakable. 50 years after the Zionist Congresses in 1896-8 Israel became an independent State. In 1917 Jerusalem came under a mandate and Jewish people were allowed to return. However, they were forbidden access to their sacred sites until 50 years later when Israel captured Jerusalem in 1967, 70 years from the first Zionist Congresses. These cycles continue and the next cycle may again be significant.

Since its founding Israel has had great opposition and there is little doubt that things are moving towards its future isolation until it will be forced to yield half the city of Jerusalem. When we see that we can say we are approaching the conflict that will end this *present age*. If we see the “Prophetic Witnesses” resist the deceptive “Son of Perdition” we will know more certainly. Many major prophecies have already been fulfilled and things are developing very fast but there is at least another 1000 years of Messiah’s reign. Because some Christians look for certain things that are not going to happen they might miss the obvious signs of what is happening. Many scholars believe that the Gospel period lasts 2000 years. 2000 years ago God’s Son walked on this earth and said emphatically he would return and reign. We need to be ready for that.