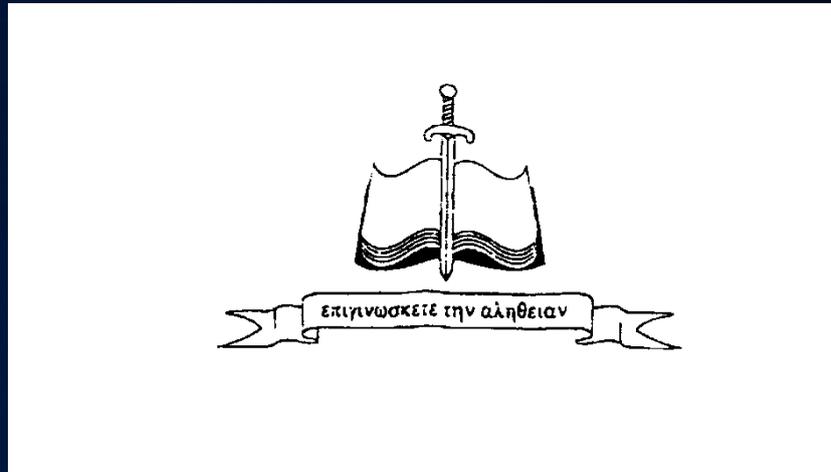


EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



# THE MILLENNIUM

and Reign of Christ as King on the Earth

by

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[BOOK 142]

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**WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

Professor Simon Greenleaf was one of the most eminent lawyers of all time. His "Laws of Evidence" for many years were accepted by all States in the United States as the standard methodology for evaluating cases. He was teaching law at a university in the United States when one of his students asked Professor Greenleaf if he would apply his "Laws of Evidence" to evaluate an historical figure. When Greenleaf agreed to the project he asked the student who was to be the subject of the review. The student replied that the person to be examined would be Jesus Christ. Professor Greenleaf agreed to undertake the examination of Jesus Christ and as a result, when he had finished the review, Simon Greenleaf personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Professor Greenleaf then sent an open letter to all jurists in the United States saying in part "I personally have investigated one called Jesus Christ. I have found the evidence concerning him to be historically accurate. I have also discovered that Jesus Christ is more than a human being, he is either God or nothing and having examined the evidence it is impossible to conclude other than he is God. Having concluded that he is God I have accepted him as my personal Saviour. I urge all members of the legal profession to use the "Laws of Evidence" to investigate the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and if you find that he is wrong expose him as a faker but if not consider him as your Saviour and Lord"

**HOW CAN I BE SAVED?****Salvation is available for all members of the human race.**

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace.

It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation, neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise, nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

**How do I become a Christian?**

There is but one simple step divided into three parts. First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Secondly, realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my own free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

**The results of Salvation**

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful:

My sins are taken away (John 1:29),  
I possess eternal life now (1 John 5:11,12),  
I become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17),  
The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (1 Corinthians 6:19),  
And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the goal of all people; this is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The following conclusions are drawn from examination of Biblical investigation into the Millennium.

1. The Bible teaches that Jesus will establish His personal reign over all the earth at the time of His Second Coming, and the Old Testament contains many prophecies about that event. [Pages 7-11]
2. The Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional and relates specifically to Israel. It shows God's protection and provision for Israel and cursing of whoever are anti-Semitic
3. The Palestinian Covenant is unconditional and relates specifically to the provision of the Promised Land to Israel. Israel has never controlled all the allocation. God says they will.
4. This covenant is eternal and shows that Israel has been the owner of the Promised Land for 4000 years and those in it over the time Israel has been in dispersion have been squatters.
5. Israel is a real group who will inherit a complete promised area on earth as God has promised.
6. The Davidic Covenant is unconditional and relates to the King of Israel stating that the Messiah will one day sit on the Throne of David. David will be the vice Regent appointment. This has not happened to date, David is still in his tomb and no one has ruled a united Israel since Solomon.
7. The Throne of David is not the Throne of God in heaven and has never been occupied by Christ. God says it will be to start and everlasting reign by the Messiah, a descendant of David.
8. The New Covenant relates specifically to Israel. It is everlasting and unconditional and did not require that Israel be the cause for annulment. This means it is still and always will be valid for Israel.
9. The New Covenant has spiritual as well as physical blessings. The Church, all born again believers since Pentecost as a totally spiritual group share the spiritual blessings but not the physical blessings which are enjoyed by Israel after the Church's removal.
10. Evaluation of the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 terminates at the setting up of the Kingdom with the last 7 years of that prophecy yet to be fulfilled by Israel after the Church leaves.
11. The total accuracy of Bible Prophecy is confirmed by reviewing past prophecies which have been literally fulfilled. This is seen to be true in the First Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ and in History.
12. We can, using Bible Prophecy, know that we are the generation which will see the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the setting up of His Millennial reign on the Earth even though we do not know the timing of His return, first for His bride.
13. The Feasts of Israel show that the spring feasts were fulfilled literally to the day in the First Advent. Period so we should therefore be confident that the autumn feasts will be fulfilled in the Second Advent period including Tabernacles picturing the Millennium and God dwelling with His people.
14. Whilst the Church has been active in spreading the Word it will not succeed in converting the world ready for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither will it be the case with the evangelism of 144,000 Jews after the Rapture of the Church. God will send a mighty angel to finish the job.
15. Knowledge of Old Testament prophecy is particularly necessary to the understanding of New Testament prophecy. Revelation and Daniel fit together like a hand in a glove. Neither one can be understood apart from the other.
16. If we deny that God will literally fulfil the unconditional and everlasting Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic and New Covenants based on His Character with Israel we are denying His absolute character. By application can be confident of other areas such as redemption.
17. It is useless for any to try to eliminate the Jews or claim their inheritance as God says they will remain. The Church does not replace Israel in the Plan of God. Who do we believe, God or men?

**INTRODUCTION - WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE ?**

All Bible believing Christians agree that at some time in the future the Lord Jesus Christ will return. There will then be a separation of the just from the unjust. The just will spend eternity in the presence of God while the unjust are condemned to an eternity with the Devil and his angels in the Lake of Fire.

The basis of the future of all members of the human race is on their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The details of the events from here to eternity differ as to the method of interpretation of Eschatology. The various methods of interpretation will now be examined and the selected method, that of a pre tribulation, pre millennial viewpoint which is the interpretation accepted by this college will be used as the basis for the rest of this book.

The A-millennial viewpoint of end time Bible prophecy is the majority view within the Church today, held by both the Roman Catholic Church and most mainline Protestant denominations.

A-millennialists are those who believe that Jesus is currently reigning over all the world from Heaven through the Church. They therefore believe that we are in the Millennium now in a spiritual sense at least; that it began at the Cross and will continue until the Second Coming. They do not believe that Jesus will ever return to this earth to reign physically from Jerusalem.

To sustain their viewpoint, Amillennialists must spiritualize most end time prophecies, arguing that they do not literally mean what they say, but follow "accepted formats". Thus, for example, they dismiss the fact that in Revelation 20 we are told six times that the Millennium will last 1,000 years. They reject the thousand years believing them to be "figurative in nature," meaning only a long period of time, quoting 2 Peter 3:8, *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"*.

Generally they have little or no knowledge of the end time prophecies contained in the Old Testament Scriptures, spiritualizing those they accept as "prophetic". Most of them appear to believe that the only place in the Bible that the Millennium is mentioned is Revelation 20.

In their attempt to defend their viewpoint, they have developed a doctrine which states that "all Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled." To justify that assertion, they point to the words of Jesus recorded in Luke 24:44, *"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."*

The problem with using this passage to justify their dismissal of Old Testament prophecy is that it does not say that all Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled. It says they **must** be fulfilled. The First Coming prophecies have been fulfilled 100% and all literally. However the prophecies concerned with the Second Coming are yet to be fulfilled, and our expectation is that they will be 100% fulfilled literally also.

Knowledge of Old Testament prophecy is particularly necessary to the understanding of New Testament prophecy. Revelation and Daniel fit together like a hand in a glove. Neither one can be understood apart from the other.

The book of Revelation contains more than 300 quotes or references to Old Testament passages, and not a single one is identified. A person without knowledge of the Old Testament could read the book of Revelation and never realize how interlaced it is with Old Testament prophecy.

There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that pertain to the First Coming of the Messiah, but many of these are repetitious. Those that are separate and distinct total 109. There are many more than this that relate to the Second Coming and the Lord's Millennial Reign.

All the First Coming prophecies were literally fulfilled, and there is no reason to assume that the fulfilment of the Second Coming prophecies will be any different. We need, therefore, to take the Old Testament seriously, and we need to study what it has to say prophetically about the end times.

The Bible teaches that Jesus will establish His personal reign over all the earth at the time of His Second Coming, and the Old Testament contains many prophecies about that event.

Once the Messiah has poured out the wrath of God on the enemies of God, He will establish His reign over the earth, and He will begin to manifest His glory in an earthly millennial kingdom to fulfil all prophetic words.

All the various aspects about the Lord's millennial reign are spelled out in detail in the book of Isaiah. The book of Revelation is predominantly about the Tribulation. It is the book of Isaiah that reveals many of the details of the Millennium. We don't have all things revealed, the best we suspect is "yet to come" at the time.

## **PROPOSAL – THEOCRACY AT THE BEGINNING AND AT THE END**

It is proposed that the history of man commenced in a world ruled by God, a Theocracy involving the first Adam and that the history of man will end after 1000 years of Theocracy where the earth is ruled by God the Son, the Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. Arguably this is how earth's history has to end to show the completion of God's purposes within this present space-time universe, before eternity swallows it up.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**MILLENNIUM** - The Millennium is the one thousand year global reign from Jerusalem on earth by the Lord Jesus Christ after His Second Advent.

**COVENANTS** – In Christian terms a covenant is the promised relationship between God and man

## **METHODS OF INTERPRETATION OF ESCHATOLOGY**

The greatest concentrated amount of information about this period is found in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. There are a number of different means used to interpret these books.

### **[A]. PRETERIST INTERPRETATION**

In this form of interpretation the prophecies of Revelation are viewed as having been fulfilled in the early history of the Church and so are all past. A preterit outline would therefore be:-

- [i] Chapters. 6-11 tell of the church's victory over Judaism.
- [ii] Chapters. 12-19 tell of her victory over pagan Rome.
- [iii] Chapters. 20-22 tell of the happy bliss and glory of the church.

This view of the Book of the Revelation came from a Spanish Jesuit of Antwerp named Alcasar in the early part of the seventeenth century. This was to counteract the teachings of the Reformers who included in their interpretation the concept that the Pope was the Antichrist.

### **[B] THE IDEALIST, POETIC, SPIRITUALIST OR ALLEGORICAL INTERPRETATION**

This interpretation considers the book a pictorial unfolding of great principles without reference to actual events. Such an interpretation regards the book only as a form of spiritual encouragement and assurance of the ultimate triumph of Christianity.

Augustine in the 5<sup>th</sup> century regarded Revelation as presenting in a symbolic way the total conflict between Christianity and evil or the City of God versus the City of Satan.

This point of view originated in the Alexandrian School of Theology represented in Clement of Alexandria and Origen. To them the book was one big allegory, but they made most things in scripture allegorical. The holders of this view do not believe that the 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation 20 should be read literally and are therefore A-millennial in outlook.

### **[C] THE HISTORICIST INTERPRETATION**

This view understands the book as portraying a panorama of the history of the church from the days of John to the end time or the Second Advent. Though it had earlier proponents, Joachim of Fiore [1135-1202], a Roman Catholic scholar, is largely responsible for this, as was also the originator of the first forms of post-millennialism.

This method of interpretation achieved popularity during the Reformation because of its identification of the Pope and the Papacy as the beasts of chapter 13. Wycliffe, Luther and Joseph Mede were adherents of this view. It is what a friend of mine calls “angry exegetics”, as it has a condemnation to make.

One problem with this view is that no two scholars can agree in the identification of the personnel pictured in Revelation, or of the historic interpretation of the events.

The very variety of historical interpretations is its own downfall. If this is the correct method of interpretation, then it is clear that no one has found the key or understood God’s revelation to man.

**[D] THE FUTURIST OR LITERAL INTERPRETATION**

This views the book of the Revelation chronologically with chapters 4-22 as prophecy yet to be fulfilled. This was the view held by the early church until spiritual decline corrupted her doctrine.

This method allows for the Scriptures to be accepted on face value with the concept of when a passage makes sense we should seek no other sense.

**THE ADOPTED METHOD**

Having indicated the four methods used to interpret the book of the Revelation we have adopted the orthodox one, the one that was once and for all given to the saints - Jude 3 - the futurist or literal interpretation.

**SEQUENCE OF MAIN ESCHATOLOGICAL EVENTS**

The overall sequence of the main events is therefore as follows:-

The Removal of the Church at the Rapture

A time of great trouble called the Tribulation involving a one world Government led by a satanic figure

The Second Advent of Christ

The Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth

The Last Judgment

Eternity Future begins with this present “space-time” universe “wrapped up”.

**THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION**

From a literalist viewpoint of the Scriptures there are a number of possible frameworks of explanation which could outline the sequence of events in the future. The sequence we believe scripture portrays is the removal of the Church at the Rapture, followed by the Tribulation Period of “Jacob’s Trouble”, Second Advent of Christ, Millennium, and then Eternity Future with the new creation beyond the present limits of space and time. Perhaps the clearest portrayal of “From Here to Eternity” is given in the simple outline of the book of the Revelation.

CHAPTER 1	Presentation of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
CHAPTERS 2-3	The Church on Earth
CHAPTERS 4-5	The Church in Heaven
CHAPTERS 6-18	The Tribulation
CHAPTER 19	Second Advent of Christ
CHAPTER 20	Millennial Reign of Christ
CHAPTERS 21-22	Eternity Future

**SOME PROPHECIES FOR THE MILLENNIUM BY BOOK OF THE BIBLE**

TEXT	SUBJECT
Genesis 13:14-15	God gives the Promised Land to Abram for ever
Genesis 17:8	God confirms the gift of the Promised Land to Abram for ever
Deuteronomy 30:2-3	The future repentance of Israel
Deuteronomy 30: 5	Confirmation of the provision of the Promised Land
Deuteronomy 30:9	Israel will have prosperity
2 Samuel 7:8-17	The King to sit on the Throne of David
1 Chronicles 17:9	Promise of the Land and security
Psalms 2:6-8, 11	Jesus Christ to rule from Jerusalem
Psalms 2:6-9	His rule for justice will be very firm with a rod of iron
Psalms 46:9-10	He will create perfect peace on earth and be highly exalted
Psalms 67:4	The nations be glad and sing for joy because of the just global rule.
Psalms 72:2-16	His judgment is sure and the righteous will prosper
Psalms 89:20-37	God's covenant will not be broken nor alter his spoken promises
Psalms 105:8-11	The gift of the Promised land is again given
Isaiah 2:2	The Temple to be Rebuilt
Isaiah 2:2-3	Jerusalem will become the worship centre of the world.
Isaiah 2:3	Jesus Christ to rule from Jerusalem with a rod of iron
Isaiah 2:4	Universal peace
Isaiah 2:11-12	The arrogant will be judged and brought down
Isaiah 4:5	Solar and Lunar light to increase.
Isaiah 8:17	Israel to Recognise her Messiah
Isaiah 9:6-7	The mighty God, the Prince of Peace will sit on David's throne
Isaiah 11:4	Jesus Christ to rule from Jerusalem with a rod of iron
Isaiah 11:6-7	The wolf, lamb, calf and lion to lie down together in peace
Isaiah 11:6-9	The original curse on creation to be removed [see Genesis 3:17-19]
Isaiah 11:8.	A little child to safely play with once poisonous serpents and spiders
Isaiah 14:1-2	Israel to be exalted above the Gentiles
Isaiah 14:3-6	No social, political or religious oppression.
Isaiah 24:23	The Lord of Hosts will reign in mount Zion and in Jerusalem
Isaiah 25:8	Physical death to be swallowed up in victory.
Isaiah 25:8	All tears to be dried.
Isaiah 25:9	Israel to Recognise her Messiah
Isaiah 26:8	Israel to Recognise her Messiah
Isaiah 26:15	The Promised land to become greatly enlarged and changed.
Isaiah 29:18	The deaf to hear, the blind to see and the lame to walk.
Isaiah 30:19	All tears to be dried.
Isaiah 30:26	Solar and Lunar light to increase.
Isaiah 32:1	A King will reign in righteousness and prices shall rule in judgment
Isaiah 32:15	Full ministry of the Holy Spirit
Isaiah 32:18.	Universal peace
Isaiah 33:24	All sickness to be removed.
Isaiah 35:1-2	The wilderness and deserts to bloom.
Isaiah 35:5-6	The deaf to hear, the blind to see and the lame to walk.
Isaiah 35:6	A time of universal singing.
Isaiah 35:9	The original curse on creation to be removed [see Genesis 3:17-19]
Isaiah 40:11	Jesus Himself to be the Good, Great and Chief Shepherd.

TEXT	SUBJECT
Isaiah 41:19-20	Man's knowledge about God to be greatly increased.
Isaiah 43:5-6	Israel to be Regathered
Isaiah 44:8	Israel to become God's witnesses
Isaiah 45:3	Full ministry of the Holy Spirit
Isaiah 49:8-9	No social, political or religious oppression.
Isaiah 49:10	Jesus Himself to be the Good, Great and Chief Shepherd.
Isaiah 49:22-23	Israel to be exalted above the Gentiles
Isaiah 52:9	A time of universal singing.
Isaiah 54:1	A time of universal singing.
Isaiah 54:1-17	Israel to once again be related to God through marriage.
Isaiah 54:13	Man's knowledge about God to be greatly increased.
Isaiah 55:3-4	David to aid this rule as vice-regent.
Isaiah 55:12,	A time of universal singing and joy.
Isaiah 55:13	There will be a refurbishment of nature and the environment.
Isaiah 56:7	My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.
Isaiah 56:7	A time of universal praying.
Isaiah 58:11	Jesus Himself to be the Good, Great and Chief Shepherd.
Isaiah 59:21	Full ministry of the Holy Spirit
Isaiah 60:1-3	God's glory to be seen by all nations.
Isaiah 60:14-17	Israel to be exalted above the Gentiles
Isaiah 60:19-20	Solar and Lunar light to increase.
Isaiah 61:1-2	The deaf to hear, the blind to see and the lame to walk.
Isaiah 61:6	Israel to become God's witnesses
Isaiah 61:6-7	Israel to be exalted above the Gentiles
Isaiah 62:2-5	Israel to once again be related to God through marriage.
Isaiah 62:11	The Lord has proclaimed globally that salvation comes to Zion.
Isaiah 65:20	Longevity of man to be restored.
Isaiah 65:24	A time of universal praying.
Isaiah 65:25	The original curse on creation to be removed [see Genesis 3:17-19]
Isaiah 65:25	The wolf, lamb, calf and lion to lie down together in peace
Isaiah 66:21	Israel to become God's witnesses
Isaiah 66:20-23	Israel will continue and the whole world contribute to the Temple
Jeremiah 3:17-18	Jerusalem called the Throne of the Lord
Jeremiah 23:3	The remnant of the Jews will be brought back and will prosper.
Jeremiah 23:5	The Righteous Branch will reign as king
Jeremiah 23:6	The Lord is called Jehovah Tsidkenu, the Lord our Righteousness
Jeremiah 24:6, ,	Israel to be Regathered
Jeremiah 29:14,	Israel to be Regathered
Jeremiah 30:9	David in his resurrection body to aid this rule as vice-regent.
Jeremiah 30:11	All the enemies of Israel will be destroyed
Jeremiah 30:17	All sickness to be removed
Jeremiah 30:18	The city of Jerusalem and the Temple to be rebuilt
Jeremiah 30:19	The population will be multiplied
Jeremiah 31:8	The deaf to hear, the blind to see and the lame to walk.
Jeremiah 31:8-10	Israel to be Regathered
Jeremiah 31:13	The mourning of the Jewish people will be turned into joy
Jeremiah 31:31-34	Israel to repent and enjoy the New Covenant with God
Jeremiah 32:37	God will gather all of Israel out of dispersion and dwell with them
Jeremiah 32:39	Israel to be regenerated
Jeremiah 32:40	God will make an everlasting covenant with them
Jeremiah 33:8	Israel to be cleansed
Jeremiah 33:11	Jerusalem will be filled with the voice of joy and gladness

TEXT	SUBJECT
Jeremiah 33:16	Jerusalem to be known as Jehovah Tsidkenu [the Lord our Righteousness] and Jehovah Shammah [the Lord is there].
Jeremiah 33:18	The offerings to the Lord will be provided for perfectly.
Ezekiel 3:17	Israel to become God's witnesses
Ezekiel 11:17	Israel to be Regathered
Ezekiel 11:19-20	Israel to be Regenerated
Ezekiel 16:60-62	God will establish His new covenant with Israel who will repent.
Ezekiel 20:40	In the holy mountain all of Israel will dwell and serve Him
Ezekiel 28:26	God will judge the enemies of Israel who will dwell in peace
Ezekiel 29:9-16	Egypt will be punished and desolate for the first 40 years
Ezekiel 34:11-16	Jesus Himself to be the Good, Great and Chief Shepherd.
Ezekiel 34:16	All sickness to be removed
Ezekiel 34:23	David to aid this rule as vice-regent.
Ezekiel 34:26-29	The Lord will pour out showers of blessing on Israel
Ezekiel 36:24-25, 28	Israel to be Regathered
Ezekiel 36:26	Israel to be Regenerated
Ezekiel 36:27	Full ministry of the Holy Spirit
Ezekiel 37:1-14	The restoration of the dry bones into a spiritual united kingdom
Ezekiel 37:14	Full ministry of the Holy Spirit
Ezekiel 37:24	David to aid this rule as vice-regent.
Ezekiel 37:26-27	God says that he will set my sanctuary in Israel forever
Ezekiel 39:21	God's glory to be seen by all nations.
Ezekiel 39:25-29	On their return Israel will know that God has brought them home
Ezekiel chapters 40-48	The Temple to be Rebuilt, [details tabulated below]
Ezekiel 43:7	Pre incarnate Jesus points out His Throne in Millennial Temple
Ezekiel 44:1-3	The E Gate which is closed not to reopen before the Messiah comes
Ezekiel 47:8-9	The redemption of nature results in Dead Sea becoming fresh.
Ezekiel 47:8-9,12	Mount of Olive's river to flow to both Mediterranean and Dead Seas
Ezekiel 48:35	Jerusalem to be known as Jehovah Tsidkenu [the Lord our Righteousness] and Jehovah Shammah [the Lord is there].
Ezekiel 48:35	The earthly city to be 10 kilometres [6 miles] in circumference
Daniel 2:44-45	The Messiah returns to set up His kingdom which will be eternal
Daniel 7:13-14	The Lord Jesus Christ return at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent to rule over the world
Daniel 7:17-18	The saints of the Most High shall possess the kingdom eternally.
Daniel 7:21-22	The Lord returns to judge
Daniel 7:27	The Redeemed will reign with the Messiah
Daniel 9:24-27	The 70 <sup>th</sup> week of Daniel ends with the setting up of the Millennium
Daniel 12:11-12	An interregnum of 75 days before the Millennial government
Hosea 1:10-11	God uses the Millennium to fulfil His promises to the Jews
Hosea 2:14-23	Israel to once again be related to God through marriage.
Hosea 2:18	God established peace in the animal kingdom and between nations.
Hosea 2:23	The relationship with the Gentiles will be restored
Hosea 3:5	David to aid this rule as vice-regent.
Hosea 6:1-3	Israel will recognise the Messiah and be greatly blessed
Hosea 14:4-7	God will have a close protecting ministry to a prosperous Israel
Joel 2:28-29	Full ministry of the Holy Spirit
Joel 3:16	The Lord shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem
Joel 3:17	I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion my holy mountain
Joel 3:18	The Temple to be Rebuilt

TEXT	SUBJECT
Joel 3:18	Mount of Olive's river to flow to both Mediterranean and Dead Seas
Joel 3:18	The original curse on creation to be removed [see Genesis 3:17-19]
Joel 3:19	Egypt will be a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness
Joel 3:20	Judah shall dwell forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation
Amos 1:2	The Lord shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem
Amos 9:13-15.	The original curse on creation to be removed [see Genesis 3:17-19]
Amos 9:14-15	Israel to be Regathered
Obadiah 17-21	The Promised land to become greatly enlarged and changed.
Micah 4:1	Jerusalem will become the worship centre of the world.
Micah 4:1-5	God's glory to be seen by all nations.
Micah 5:7	Israel to become God's witnesses
Nahum 1:15	The Jewish people will enjoy perfect peace
Habakkuk 2:3	God is faithful and will send the Messiah back at the appointed time
Habakkuk 2:14	God's glory to be seen by all nations.
Habakkuk 2:14	Man's knowledge about God to be greatly increased.
Zephaniah 3:9.	A unified language.
Zephaniah 3:20	Israel to become a prime nation and God's witnesses
Haggai 2:7-9	The Temple to be Rebuilt
Zechariah	
Zechariah 2:5	Solar and Lunar light to increase.
Zechariah 6:12-13.	The Temple to be Rebuilt
Zechariah 8:3	Israel to become God's witnesses
Zechariah 8:5	Jerusalem will be filled with happy children playing.
Zechariah 8:6-8	Israel to be restored to the Land.
Zechariah 8:22.	A time of universal praying.
Zechariah 9:10	The King of the Jews will return to rule the whole earth.
Zechariah 9:11-12	No social, political or religious oppression.
Zechariah 12:10-12	Israel to Recognise her Messiah
Zechariah 13:20-21	Universal holiness
Zechariah 13:1	Israel to be cleansed
Zechariah 14:1-4	The Lord will defeat all of Israel's enemies at Jerusalem.
Zechariah 14:4,8,10	Mount of Olive's river to flow to both Mediterranean and Dead Seas
Zechariah 14:10.	The city to occupy an elevated site
Malachi 3:2-4	The Lord will return and the Levites purged and their offering is good
Matthew 4:17	Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand
Matthew 6:10	Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven [the Millennium]
Matthew 24:31	Israel to be gathered in by the Lord.
Luke 1:32	Mary is told Jesus would be given the throne of his father David.
Acts 2:29-30	David is dead and still in his tomb, Christ is to sit on David's throne.

TEXT	SUBJECT
Romans 8:19-22	Creation which has been destroyed is refurbished at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent.
1 Corinthians 15:25-25	The Lord will reign until all enemies have been subjected.
I Timothy 6:14-15	When Christ returns He will show Himself as the only potentate.
Revelation 1:7.	Israel to Recognise her Messiah
Revelation 20	The Millennial of the Lord Jesus Christ [details see below]

## REVELATION 20

Revelation chapter 20 can be divided into the following segments

VERSES 1-3	Satan in the abyss in temporary confinement
VERSES 4-6	The Kingdom in the Millennium
VERSES 7-9	The release of Satan and the rebellion against Jesus Christ
VERSE 10	Satan sent to the Lake of Fire
VERSES 11-15	The Last Judgment

## SUMMARY OF THE DIVISION OF EZEKIEL CHAPTERS 40-48

The Re-gathering of Israel	Ezekiel 39:25-29
The New Temple Arrangements	Ezekiel 40:1-19
Location and Size of Gates	Ezekiel 40:20-37
The Vestibule and its Furnishings	Ezekiel 40:38-49
Measurements of the Temple	Ezekiel 41
The Priest's Chambers	Ezekiel 42:1-14
Measurement of the Temple Area	Ezekiel 42:15-20
The Lord's Glory Enters the Temple	Ezekiel 43:1-12
The Size and Use of the Temple	Ezekiel 43:13-27
Laws about the Use of the Temple	Ezekiel 44:1-14
Laws about Priests in the Temple	Ezekiel 44:15-31
The Land for Priests and Prince	Ezekiel 45:1-9
Laws about Weights and Offerings	Ezekiel 45:10-25
The Offerings of the Prince	Ezekiel 46:1-15
The Prince and Inheritance Laws	Ezekiel 46:16-18
The Kitchen for the Temple	Ezekiel 46:19-24
The River Flowing from the Temple	Ezekiel 47:1-12
The Boundaries of the Land	Ezekiel 47:13-23
The Land Allotted to the North	Ezekiel 48:1-7
Allotment for Priests and Levites	Ezekiel 48:8-14
Allotment for City and the Prince	Ezekiel 48:15-22
Allotment of Other Tribes	Ezekiel 48:23-29
The City Named "The Lord is There"	Ezekiel 48:30-35

## COMMENTS

The above tables represent passages dealing with the Millennium, some such as Ezekiel 40-48 contain a large number of verses. It is not a comprehensive list. There are 201 passages of Scripture ranging from Genesis to Revelation. Of these 191 are in the Old Testament. Of the 10 passages in the New Testament half are in the Gospels where with the exception of John 14-17 our Lord dealt with the Jews.

The strongly held belief by Christendom is that Israel is of no significant interest to God in His future plans and as a result and that the Church has replaced Israel means that the Millennial implications of the above verses have been ignored. This only occurs because of "allegorical" interpretations.

The Bible identifies Him as "the God of Israel" 203 times, "the God of Jacob" 28 times, "the God of Abraham" 17 times, and "the God of Isaac" 13 times. Never is He called the "God of any other ethnic group." These designations are foundational to everything the Bible teaches, including the very Character of God.

## **THE COVENANTS**

Some covenants are unconditional. These promises God will fulfil, irrespective of man's obedience.

Other covenants are conditional depending upon man's obedience.

Some are eternal whilst others are not. Some are for the whole human race, the majority however for Israel

There are eight covenants made between God and man. They are focussed on the person of Christ.

## **CHRIST AND THE COVENANTS**

Christ is central to all of the covenants in Scripture:

- a) EDENIC - Christ is the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-47).
- b) ADAMIC - Christ is the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15).
- c) NOAHIC - Christ is the greatest son of Shem (Luke 3:36; Genesis 9:23-27).
- d) ABRAHAMIC - The seed to whom the promises were made (Genesis 22:18).
- e) MOSAIC - He fulfilled this covenant (Matthew 5:17).
- f) PALESTINIAN - He lived as a Jew in the land and will inherit the land.
- g) DAVIDIC - Christ is the King of the Jews and will rule forever (Luke 1:31-33; John 19:19-22).
- h) NEW - Christ's sacrifice is its foundation and focus in the Millennium (1 Corinthians 11:25).

Of the above covenants we will look at the unconditional and eternal covenants between God and Israel.

The three covenants God made prior to Abraham were the Edenic, Adamic and Noahic.

The conditional covenant made between God and Israel was the Mosaic covenant which was fulfilled by Jesus Christ at the Cross as seen above in Matthew 5:17 *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."*

The four covenants now examined are the Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic and New Covenants.

## **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

The nation Israel is unique in the fact that it does not relate to the table of nations as such but was created as a specific nation by God some 2000 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ as God's specific group representing Him on earth.

It should be noted that Israel is unique in that it is the only nation guaranteed by God to survive for all time irrespective of persecution, pressure or pogroms. It is therefore senseless for any group or nation to try and eliminate them from the earth. Such efforts are Satanic and doomed to failure.

## **WHO IS THE COVENANT BETWEEN?**

The Abrahamic Covenant was first given by God to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 founding the nation of Israel. It is confirmed with Abraham with emphasis on the land Genesis 13:14-17, the spiritual seed Genesis 15:1-6 and its everlasting quality Genesis 17:6-8.

## **PROMISES WITH ABRAHAM**

The seven-fold covenant (Genesis 12:1-3) *"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."* is fulfilled as follows:-

a) PROMISE *"And I will make of thee a great nation.*

FULFILLMENT Jews (Genesis. 13:16; John 8:37), Arabs (Genesis. 17:20), In Christ (Romans 4:16-17, 9:7-8; Galatians 3:7,29).

b) PROMISE *"I will bless thee".*

FULFILLMENT To Abraham (Genesis 13:14-17, 15:18-21. 24:35), To believers in Christ (Genesis 15:6; John 8:56)

c) PROMISE *"And make thy name great.*

FULFILLMENT Abraham is renowned, not only in Christianity but also in Judaism and Islam.

d) PROMISE *"And thou shalt be a blessing.*

FULFILLMENT With the work of fulfilment of Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ, he was a blessing. (Galatians 3:13,14).

e) PROMISE *"And I will bless them that bless thee.*

FULFILLMENT This is seen in the rise of many nations e.g. Britain in the 19th century, the rise of the USA.

f) PROMISE *"And curse him that curseth thee.*

FULFILLMENT The decline of nations such as the Spanish Empire after the Armada, the fall of Nazi Germany, the fall of the Czars of Russia, the decline of Egypt at the Exodus. Scriptural examples:(Deuteronomy 30:7; Isaiah 14:1-2; Joel 3:1-8; Micah 5:7-9; Haggai 2:22; Zechariah 14. 1-3; Matthew 25:40-46).

g) PROMISE *"In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*

FULFILLMENT The whole world can be blessed through Jesus, the son of Abraham. (John 8:56-58; Galatians 3:16).

#### **THE PROMISED LAND – Genesis 13:14-17**

*14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. 16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.*

#### **COMMENT**

We note in verse 15 the land given to Abram [Abraham] and his descendants by God was forever.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This shows that Israel is and has been the rightful owner of the Promised Land for the last 4000 years, and the Arab sons of Abraham are blessed by their association, and have their own lands granted also, as recorded in other scripture passages.

#### **THE SPIRITUAL SEED Genesis 15:1-6**

*1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

#### **COMMENTS**

God tells Abram *"I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward."* The source of all these blessings is God himself. It is not reliant on Abram.

The fact that Abram was a key figure in the Plan of God which had been set in the heavens before the creation of Adam is seen in verse 15.

The word “tell” and “number” are the same word meaning to recount in order and portrays the story of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 6 Abram believed in the Lord and he [God] counted it to him for righteousness.

We note that Paul in Galatians 3:16 stated that the word “seed” in this verse is the Lord Jesus Christ. “16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.”

#### **THE EVERLASTING QUALITY** Genesis 17:5-8

*5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*

#### COMMENTS

In this passage we see that Abram which means ‘Father of high and windy places’ is renamed Abraham meaning ‘the Father of many nations’.

In verses 7 and 8 God makes an everlasting covenant with Israel and the Promised Land an everlasting possession.

#### **BIBLICAL STATEMENT REGARDING COVENANTS** Galatians 3:15

*“Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.”*

#### COMMENT

This passage states that once a covenant has been established no conditions are to be added to it and as the covenant is made by God it is permanent. It is based on the faithfulness of God not on the vagaries of man.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF THE COVENANT** Genesis 15:17-18

*“And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.*

#### COMMENTS

In verse 17 we see the confirmation of the covenant as God passes between the blood sacrifice which in the ancient world was the most solemn promise that could be made. At this time Abram was in a deep sleep.

As a result the covenant between the two parties, God and Abraham was reliant on one party only; God was responsible. One of God’s attributes is being unchangeable therefore the covenant is permanent and sure.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

Does it promise Israel a permanent existence as a nation?” - Yes

Does it promise Israel permanent ownership of the Promised Land? - Yes

Is the covenant conditional or unconditional? The covenant is unconditional.

From the above we can conclude that the Abrahamic Covenant is both unconditional and everlasting and guaranteed by God. It is not founded on the performance of men but according to the Plan of God placed permanently on show to humanity before Adam was created.

Everybody should therefore understand that Israel as a nation is here to stay and that this is absolutely certain.

This permanency is reinforced by the promise to Israel in Jeremiah 30:10-11. *“Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. 11 For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.”*

It is clear that we should support Israel and the Jewish people as it is a sure means of enjoying divine blessing. They have great suffering to go through yet, but will respond to the gospel, and our job is to be part of that “door opening” process. Ezekiel 37-39, Zechariah 12-14.

### REAFFIRMATION OF THE COVENANT

The covenant is reaffirmed regarding Isaac - Genesis 17:19-21

*“And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his seed after him. 20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.”*

### COMMENT

Here it is seen in verses 19 and 21 that the covenant is made with Isaac.

Ishmael the father of some of the Arab races (Esau and Keturah’s sons start others) has been greatly blessed by God as shown in verse 20 and will be great.

However God makes it clear that the primary promise comes down through Isaac not Ishmael.

### CONFIRMATIONS CONTINUE THROUGH HISTORY

With Jacob – Genesis 28:13-17, 35:9-12 48:3-4.

Joseph showed that he believed in the covenant - Genesis 50:24-25.

*“And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.”*

### ABRAHAMIC COVENANT PARTIALLY FULFILLED

God did bless Abram Genesis 24:1,35.

Made him a blessing to others like in the rescue of Lot Genesis 14.

Made his name great as seen in Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

God created many nations, Israel from Isaac and the Arab nations from Ishmael.

God gave the Land to Israel after the Exodus. Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 32:45-52, Joshua 1:1-5, 10-11.

He blessed nations universally through the Lord Jesus Christ and the Jews being the authors of Scripture.

God has blessed nations who are supportive Israel and cursed nations who try to eliminate the Jews.

These have all been fulfilled literally. The rest of the prophecies will be fulfilled literally.

### **THE REST OF THE COVENANT TO BE FULLY FULFILLED**

Israel will survive eternally.

Israel will have the Promised Land in full. This has never been theirs in the past.

### **THE PROMISED LAND**

Some 3,500 years ago the Canaanites inhabited the land that God promised to give to the offspring of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God promised that He would give the land of Israel to the Jewish people as an eternal possession. The promise was unconditional. God confirmed it at least 55 times with an oath and stated at least 12 times that the covenant was everlasting.

God did bring the Israelites into the Promised Land forty years after the Exodus from Egypt. Israel reached the peak of her power some 500 years later under King Solomon.

The area Israel controlled at that time almost matched the boundaries of the land that God had promised. Gaza was not taken from the Philistines in Solomon's day, and the land of the Canaanites promised to Abraham included the coastal strip all the way to Sidon – the city of Canaan's first-born son.

Areas of Moab, Ammon and Edom, east of the Dead Sea, were occupied by King Solomon but were not part of the Promised Land. This is part of modern-day Jordan.

Israel was required to obey the Law of Moses and, when they failed, God thrust them out of the land. However, God's promise that they will inherit the land still stands. We see the Jews being brought back to the Promised Land in our day. We know that God's word will be fulfilled and that they will enter their full inheritance. This will occur at the Second Coming of Christ.

### **SUMMARY OF REAFFIRMATION OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

Permanence of the Abrahamic Covenant in its reaffirmation to Israel's shortcomings.

Abraham - Genesis 22:16-18

Isaac - Genesis 26:3-5

Jacob - Genesis 28:13-15

Joseph - Genesis 50:24-26

Moses - Exodus 2:24, 6:2-8 Deuteronomy 4:25-31

David - I Chronicles 16:15-18, Psalm 105:8-11

New Testament - Luke 1:67-75

After the Cross - Acts 3:12-15, 3:25-26

Before the Dispersion - Hebrews 6:13-18.

God promises he will not destroy Israel are given in Deuteronomy 4:31, Jeremiah 30:11, 46:27-28, Amos 9:8, Romans 11:1-2, 28-29.

The permanent ownership of the Land is given in: Isaiah 60:21, Jeremiah 3:17-18, 16:14-15, 23:5-8, 30:3, 32:37,41, Ezekiel 36:22, Amos 9:15.

### **COMMENTS**

While Israel is back in the Land this is not the final fulfilment of the Abrahamic Covenant as this awaits the final restoration of the Jews from throughout the world. The current restoration is for judgment.

At the time of the fulfilment of the covenant the Jews will be righteous and dwell securely.

Israel has a right to its inheritance with those in the Land considered as squatters. This has been a long but temporary loss of occupancy by the rightful owners, which will come to a complete end on Christ's Return.

## **PALESTINIAN COVENANT**

The Palestinian Covenant deals with the Jews controlling an area of land in the Middle East which was unconditionally given to Abraham. It should be noted that the Jews have never possessed the land as specified, but will do so during the Millennium. (Deuteronomy 30:1-9, Isaiah 11:10-12, Jeremiah 23:3-8, Ezekiel 37:21-25).

It was made by God to Israel whom He later banished from the Land because of Israel's disobedience. Deuteronomy 28:15-68, 29:24-29, 30:1-3.

The covenant involved promises given to a literal nation, Israel, which will be fulfilled literally. God always makes a way for unfaithful Israel to be reconciled to Him Ezekiel 16. God never has nor ever will permanently terminate His special relationship with literal Israel. In the end Israel will return to the Lord Hosea 3:5, Zechariah 12:10, 13:1. This is in the future as noted in Romans 11:25-27, 28-32. He will be merciful, for that is the Character of God. Psalm 103:8-16.

The Palestinian Covenant in Deuteronomy 30:1-9 contains the following

Dispersion for disobedience Deuteronomy 30:1. *"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,"* cf Deuteronomy 28:63-68.

The future repentance of Israel Deuteronomy 30:2. *"And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul";*

The return of the Lord Deuteronomy 30:3. *"That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee."* cf Amos 9:9-14; Acts 15:14-17.

Restoration to the land Deuteronomy 30:5 *"And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers".* cf Isaiah 11:11,12; Jeremiah 23:3-8; Ezekiel 37:21-25.

National conversion Deuteronomy 30:6 *And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.* cf Romans 11:26-27; Joel 2:14-16.

Judgement of Israel's enemies Deuteronomy 30:7 *And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.* cf Joel 3:1 -8.

National prosperity Deuteronomy 30:9. *And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers.* cf Amos 9:11-15.

## COMMENTS

Like the Abrahamic Covenant the Palestinian covenant is unconditional and God will fulfil it.

Israel as a literal nation will control the whole Promised Land on earth in conformity with the Palestinian Covenant.

It is important to clearly see that most of the facets of this Covenant and the complete extent of the Land have not yet been finally fulfilled in history. God has promised it and it will be fulfilled in His time.

**THE EXTENT OF THE LAND**

Scripture indicates that the boundaries of the Promised Land are as follows:

**SOUTH:** - From the Red Sea, in the region of Eilat today, to the Sea of the Philistines which would be the Mediterranean Sea near Gaza. This southern line was to a point called the River of Egypt, or the Wadi of Egypt (which was certainly not the Nile River) on the Great Sea – another name for the Mediterranean. Exodus 23:31, Ezekiel 47:19, Genesis 15:18.

**WEST:** - The coastline of the Mediterranean – called, in those days, the Great Sea Numbers 34:6, Ezekiel 47:20.

**NORTH:** - From the Great Sea, or Western Sea – other names for the Mediterranean – through what is Lebanon and Syria today to the Euphrates River in the north Genesis 15:18, Deuteronomy 11:24, Ezekiel 47:17, Joshua 1:4.

**EAST:** - From the Euphrates River in the north, extending south, past Damascus, along the slopes on the eastern side of the Sea of Kinnereth, what we know as the Golan Heights today. The Kinnereth is also called the Eastern Sea in Scripture and is what we know as the Sea of Galilee. The Jordan River rises in the mountains of Lebanon and runs south to the Sea of Galilee. At the southern end of the Sea of Galilee the Jordan River flows out and along the Jordan Valley to enter the Dead Sea. The eastern side of the Jordan River, south of the Golan Heights, represents the boundary of the Promised Land Numbers 34:11-12, Ezekiel 47:18.

Although some of the geographical reference points mentioned in Scripture are difficult for us to identify, God knows the full area into which He is going to bring Israel. We know enough to be sure that Israel is not in her full inheritance yet.

The Bible refers to significant points that we can identify – the Sea of Kinnereth being the Sea of Galilee; the Salt Sea being the Dead Sea; and places such as Gaza and Sidon, where there is no doubt about the ancient location.

What we can say is that the Promised Land stretches from the Red Sea, around Eilat, as a southern boundary, to the Mediterranean at a point south of Gaza and extending from there up the coastline at least as far north as Sidon in Lebanon, to form the western boundary, then north to the Euphrates River, to form the northern boundary, and down the line of the Jordan River to form the eastern boundary.

This area would encompass the Palestinian territories of the West Bank, also called Judea and Samaria, and Gaza.

Certain world leaders may be looking for the establishment of a Palestinian state separate from Israel, but God's Word makes a different judgment. God says that this is the land that He promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Scripture shows that God has a dispute with those who are involved in "dividing up My land". Joel 3:1-2.

**DAVIDIC COVENANT – 2 Samuel 7:8-16**

2 Samuel 7:8-16 *"Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever."*

This covenant has a specific relevance to a future Kingdom of God. The covenant is seen in 2 Samuel 23:5, 2 Chronicles 7:18, Psalm 89:3-4, 28-29, 34-37, Jeremiah 33:19-26.

God made promises to the nation Israel [v 10-11], Solomon [v12-15] and David [v 16].

The promises were that a descendant of David in the Davidic line would succeed him (v 12), that he will have a kingdom to rule over (v 12), that God will provide a throne (v 13), the throne will be forever (vs 13,16).

It will never cease although it might not function for periods which happened at the Babylonian Captivity. It will however be restored in the future having been rejected after acclamation at the First Advent. Mark 11:10

The covenant had one condition - disobedience will be rewarded with discipline but will not cause the cancellation of the covenant. 2 Samuel 7:15; Psalm 89:20-37

Discipline came with the division of the kingdom under Rehoboam. 1 Kings 12:16-20. It continued with the captivity of Samaria in 721 BC and Judah in 586 BC.

Since then the only King of David crowned in Jerusalem has been crowned with a crown of thorns. (Matthew 27:29). He will reign in the future Isaiah 9:7.

Both genealogies in Matthew and Luke have a common ancestor in David for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Davidic Covenant was confirmed to Mary. Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:29-31.

The Davidic Covenant will be fulfilled at the Second Advent of Christ when He will commence His everlasting rule with the 1,000 year reign of the Millennium. Luke 1:32, Acts 2:29-30, Revelation 20:4-6

**THE THRONE OF DAVID AND THE THRONE OF GOD IN HEAVEN**

The Kingdom will be given in the future at the Second Coming of Christ and will last until time ends, and in some way even "forever" in the eternal world beyond the present space-time one. He comes in triumph not as a baby but on the clouds of heaven. Here he will form a literal political kingdom for 1000 years. If this is not on earth as prophesied it is not David's throne.

He will fulfil Daniel 7:13-14 at the Second Advent cf Matthew 24:30. Jesus Christ was not given His kingdom over which He will reign at the First Advent. The Lord Jesus Christ is not exercising this authoritative rule over the earth in this present age.

He will be King over the whole earth after He arrives at the Mount of Olives Zechariah 14:4,9. He is presently sitting at the right hand of the Father until it is time for His rule on earth Psalm 110:1-2. He will sit on His throne of glory as the Son of Man until the earth is restored to its pre fall condition Matthew 19:28, Romans 8:18-22.

**THRONE OF DAVID**

Several descendants have sat on David's Throne

David's throne was not established until the time of David

If both the thrones are the same it is unnecessary to name the throne everlasting

David's throne is on earth

Today Jesus is not on David's throne

**THRONE OF GOD IN HEAVEN**

Only the Lord Jesus Christ has sat on the Throne of God in heaven Psalm 110:1

As God is everlasting and Sovereign His throne has always existed

The throne of God in Heaven predated the throne of David

God's throne is in heaven Isaiah 66:1, Psalm 103:19, Acts 7:49 Matthew 5:34, 23:22

Today Jesus is on God's throne in heaven

**PRINCIPLES OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT FROM MICAH 4:1-8**

The Kingdom will be supreme. Micah 4:1 – *“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.”*

The Kingdom will be universal. Micah 4:2 – *“And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*

The Kingdom will be peaceful. Micah 4:3 – *“And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”*

The Kingdom will secure universal prosperity. Micah 4:4-5 – *“But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.”*

The nation of Israel ruled by the Lord for the Kingdom. Micah 4:6-8 – *“In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.”*

**CONCLUSION**

The fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant is still future and will occur on earth after the Lord Jesus Christ returns at His Second Advent

**THE NEW COVENANT**

According to the Old Testament the parties to the New Covenant were God and the nation Israel.

Old Testament statements of the New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31, 50:4-5, Isaiah 59:20-2, Ezekiel 34:25-30, 37:21-28

The New Covenant was with those with whom He established the Mosaic Covenant Jeremiah 31:32. God gave the Mosaic Law to the nation Israel Leviticus 26:46, Deuteronomy 4:8, not the Gentiles Romans 2:14

It was associated with the endless existence of the nation Israel. Jeremiah 31:31-40

**WHAT WAS PROMISED?**

The New Covenant contained Spiritual blessings, Material blessings and Natural blessings.

**SPIRITUAL NEW COVENANT BLESSINGS**

Regeneration - Jeremiah 31:33, 32:39-40, Ezekiel 36:26

Forgiveness of Sins – Jeremiah 31:34, Ezekiel 36:25

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit – Ezekiel 30:27

Universal knowledge of Jehovah in Israel - Jeremiah 31:34

Israel will obey Him with right attitudes forever - Jeremiah 32:39-40, Ezekiel 36:27, 37:23-24

### **OTHER NEW COVENANT BLESSINGS**

[a] The Spirit remains - Isaiah 59:21

[b] Great reputation - Isaiah 61:8-9

[c] Unique relationship - Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:28,

[d] He would do them good - Jeremiah 32:40-42

[e] Eliminate wild beasts from Israel - Ezekiel 34:25-28

[f] Israel to have perfect security - Ezekiel 34:25-28

[g] No more threats to Israel from other nations - Ezekiel 34:28-29

[h] Great abundance of food - Ezekiel 34:27, 29 36:29-30

[i] It would be like the Garden of Eden - Ezekiel 34:29 36:34-35

[j] Reliable rainfall - Ezekiel 34:26

[k] Cities rebuilt - Ezekiel 36:33

[l] Population explosion - Ezekiel 36:37-38, 37:26

[m] The nations would be unified - Ezekiel 36:21-22

[n] To live in their own land forever - Ezekiel 37:25

[o] God will dwell with them - Ezekiel 37:26-28

[p] God will never turn away from the people of Israel - Jeremiah 32:4

### **COMMENTS**

There will be a new Government, spiritual blessings, material blessings and natural blessings

There were no conditions to the New Covenant

It is fulfilled because of Israel's disobedience Ezekiel 36:21-22 cf Ezekiel 36:22

Israel to have a right attitude and obey Jeremiah 32:39-40, 36:27, 37:23-24

God constantly said "I will" Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:37-42, Ezekiel 36:24-37 [36]

It is an everlasting Covenant Isaiah 61:8-9, Jeremiah 32:40 Ezekiel 16:60, 37:26.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is everlasting and unconditional and did not require that Israel be the cause for annulment.

## **THE CHURCH AND THE NEW COVENANT**

The New Covenant was made with Israel and not with the Church

There was no revelation of the Church before the time of the Apostles as seen by Paul's statement in Ephesians 3:2-9 *"If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

The Prophets in the Old Testament were Jewish and declared God's will specifically to Israel.

The New Testament however indicates that the church is somehow related to the New Covenant

We need to recognise that the true church comprises all of the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and is therefore a spiritual body.

### **THE LORD'S TABLE**

In the passage dealing with the Lord's Table in 1 Corinthians 11:25 some versions including the New King James Version translate the words "the new covenant" while in the King James Version the same Greek word "diatheke" is translated as "the new testament".

The New Covenant referred to is therefore not new for the church but goes back to the New Covenant in the Old Testament as delineated above.

The Church being a spiritual group partake of the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant which God provided in the Old Testament but not the physical promises to Israel.

### **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS OF THE NEW COVENANT**

Reviewing the promises of the New Covenant above we see that the Church is related to the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant but not the Physical Promises which will be fulfilled in the future by Israel.

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE NEW COVENANT TO ISRAEL ENJOYED ALSO BY THE CHURCH**

The spiritual blessings from the New Covenant are:-

Regeneration. Titus 3:5

Forgiveness of Sins. Ephesians 1:7, 4:32, Colossians 1:14, I John 2:12

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 6:19

New nature with a favourable attitude to God. Romans 7:22, 2 Corinthians 3:3, 2 Peter 1:4

To function as ministers of the New Covenant. 2 Corinthians 3:6

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The Church benefits from the New Covenant spiritual blessings as an engrafted spiritual group into the New Covenant given to Israel by God for a period of time. Romans 11:13-25

In Romans 11 Paul was talking to Israel in the flesh v1, 14 and dealing with this after the church had come into relationship with God.

At the removal of the Church the responsibility of promoting God's Plan on the earth will return to Israel with the 144,000 Jewish males of Revelation 7 during the seven year period, the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel 9 immediately preceding the return of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent where a believing remnant of Israel together with all believing Gentiles will enter into the Millennium.

Will God keep His Covenants to Israel? Yes. Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, New - all will be fulfilled in the Millennium. Israel has not forfeited relationship with the New Covenant due to the Church appearing.

## **DISPENSATIONS**

Definition: A dispensation is a period of time expressing the viewpoint of God in relation to the history of man. During each dispensation God entrusts the spreading of the Gospel to specific people. Failure to fulfil their responsibility causes God to end a Dispensation and usher in a new one.

Most traditional dispensational layouts are divided into seven segments based on the status of man

- [a] Innocence
- [b] Conscience
- [c] Government
- [d] Promise
- [e] Law
- [f] Church
- [g] Millennium

A better layout of human history is divided biblically into 4 dispensations relating as to who is responsible for evangelism and spiritual leadership – this is only our suggested outline.

- (a) Gentiles. [This covers Innocence, Conscience and Government]. The Jews did not exist during this time.
- (b) Jews. [This covers Promise, Law and Tribulation]
- (c) Church or Grace. [This covers the Church Age from Pentecost to the Rapture]
- (d) Christ or the Millennium. [This 1000 year reign of Christ from the Second Advent to the Last Judgment]

Many of the dispensationalists tack the Seven year Tribulation period onto the end of the Church Age.

This tends to obscure the status of leadership just prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and does not allow for the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel to be completed as it must be for Israel's history.

## **THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL – DANIEL 9:24-27**

The study of this prophecy shows that there is a seven year period which was promised by God to the Jews before the setting up of the Kingdom and at this time this last "week" still has to be fulfilled in the future. This seven year period is called the Tribulation, a time of unmitigated problems and judgments on the earth.

This study also shows the total accuracy of Biblical prophecy where the entry of the Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem to be acclaimed as the King of the Jews occurred exactly on the prophesied day. He was not a day early, nor a day late. [Ref "The Coming Prince" by Sir Robert Anderson]

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

**What is a week?** - In the ancient world both Greek and Latin philosophers knew the week, as the week of years. In this system one week equals 7 years. Thus seventy weeks equal 70 x 7 years = 490 years.

**What Type of Year?** - The year used in scripture of Daniel's time was the year which Abraham had preserved from his Chaldean home. Abraham's year was the lunar year. The period stated gives a total of 176 400 days.

**Who are Involved?** - '**Thy people, thy holy city**' refer to the Jews and Jerusalem or Judea. We therefore have a period of 490 years involving the Jews and Jerusalem.

**When Does this Period End?** - In the second half of verse 24 the end of the period is given by six separate events:

- i) "*to finish the transgression*" - the start of the Millennium at the Second Advent of Christ.
- ii) "*make an end to sins*" - perfect environment starts at the Second Advent of Christ and continues for a thousand years. Romans 8:19-21
- iii) "*make reconciliation*" - since AD 70 the Jews have been dispersed amongst the nations, they will continue to be dispersed until Jesus Christ calls them all back to their land at the Second Advent of Christ to set up the Kingdom.
- iv) "*bring in everlasting righteousness*" - the Millennium starts a period of everlasting righteousness with the reign of Christ, this everlasting righteousness continues into the eternal future. This period starts at the Second Advent of Christ.
- v) "*to seal up the vision and prophecy*" - the Second Advent of Christ fulfills the Abrahamic, Palestinian and Davidic covenant as well as this prophecy.
- vi) "*to anoint the most Holy*" - at the Second Advent of Christ Jesus is anointed King of Israel.

## CONCLUSION

The terminal point in all six statements can therefore be said to be the Second Advent of Christ or the midnight hour of Matthew 25:6. We thus have a period from Daniel 9:24 of 490 Jewish lunar/prophetic years each having 360 days terminating at the Second Advent of Christ.

## DIVISION OF THE 70 WEEKS

In the next three verses the period of 70 weeks is carefully divided into three sections.

Daniel 9:25 "*Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks (49 years) and three score and two weeks (434 years): the streets shall be built again, and the wall even in troubled times.*"

We have therefore three periods into which the 70 weeks is split - 7 weeks + 62 weeks leaving a balance of 1 week. Expressed in years we have 49 years + 434 years + 7 years = 490 years.

## What is the Starting Point?

Daniel wrote this prophecy while in Babylon where the Jews had been held in captivity since 586 BC after the complete destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

The Babylonian Empire fell during the night of Belshazzar's Feast when the writing was seen on the wall. The Medes and Persians who took over were pro-Semitic and issued edicts regarding Jerusalem and the Temple.

There were three edicts issued by Persian rulers dating after the time of Daniel and relating to the Jews returning to their homeland, they were:-

- i) The edict of Cyrus in 538 BC to rebuild the house of the Lord (Temple) Ezra 1.
- ii) The edict of Darius in 520 BC to rebuild the Temple which is found in Ezra 6. Darius' edict was to confirm Cyrus' previous order as the temple works had been stopped after the death of Cyrus by his successor.
- iii) The edict of Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 BC to rebuild the city of Jerusalem Nehemiah 2

**Which Edict?**

Daniel 9:25 shows that the critical commandment which starts the 70 week clock ticking was the order to rebuild Jerusalem. The commencement was therefore the edict of Artaxerxes in 445 BC

The practice of Persian Kings was to issue such orders on their New Years day, the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month of Nisan. Using the services of H B Airy the Astronomer Royal in London, Sir Robert Anderson, was able to determine that the 1<sup>st</sup> Nisan of 445 BC occurred on 14<sup>th</sup> March 445 BC.

We therefore have the following timeline: - 14<sup>th</sup> March 445 BC -- 490 years -- 2nd Advent

It also states that Jerusalem will be rebuilt with its walls completed after 49 years (7 weeks) in difficult circumstances. There is considerable Biblical evidence in the book of Nehemiah that Jerusalem was rebuilt under very difficult circumstances.

**What happens next?**

Daniel 9:26a *"And after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself."*

**Who is the Messiah? – The Lord Jesus Christ!**

In Luke 19:38, on entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday just prior to his crucifixion the crowd welcomed the Lord Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah.

This was the only time in His ministry when he was so called by the general populace of Jerusalem.

**When did this occur?**

According to Luke 3:1 Jesus Christ was baptised in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar. As his ministry was three years in length, the entry into Jerusalem occurred in the 18th year of Tiberius.

Searches of literature including, 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire' by Gibbon, has shown that Tiberius became Caesar in 14 AD. Entrance into Jerusalem was therefore on Palm Sunday 32 AD. Again by computation the date of Palm Sunday 32 AD was 6<sup>th</sup> April AD 32.

If this is correct, we should find correlation between the 483 Jewish years to the cutting off of the Messiah and the time between 14<sup>th</sup> March 445 BC and 6<sup>th</sup> April AD 32.

The time between these two dates in our current calendar years is 476 years and 24 days. The total number of days is therefore as follows:-

476 years x 365 days	173,740
Plus 14/3 to 6/4 =	24
Plus Leap years =	116
TOTAL	<u>173,880 days.</u>

Jewish time: 483 x 360 173,880 days

Our revised timeline now shows: - 14<sup>th</sup> March 445 BC -- 483 years -- 6<sup>th</sup> April 32 AD-- +7 years -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

**The following questions now arise**

- a) Has the Second Advent of Jesus Christ occurred? – Answer – No!  
 b) Is it longer than 7 years since Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem? – Answer Yes!.

**THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION**

As the 70 weeks of Daniel finish at the Second Advent of Christ there must be a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.

Our revised timeline - 445 BC -- 483 years -- 32 AD -- GAP -- 7 years -- 2nd Advent

This "GAP" of nearly 2000 years has been filled in God's view of history by the Church Age.

God does not deal with the Church and Israel at the same time. Daniel's prophecy which we are reviewing is for the Jews. The 70<sup>th</sup> week which is 7 years in length therefore starts after the Church Age and terminates at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These last seven years of the 490 years promised by God to the Jews are the worst 7 years in the history of man. They are called the Tribulation with the second half being called the Great Tribulation or Jacob's Trouble.

**THE 70<sup>TH</sup> WEEK**

The course of this 70<sup>th</sup> week is described in Daniel 9:26b, 27. *"and the people of the prince (the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire) that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary, and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and until the end of the war, desolations are determined. 27 And he (the dictator) shall confirm the covenant (mutual defence pact) with the many (the Jews) for one week (7 years) and in the midst of the week (3 1/2 years) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation [Jewish sacrifices in the Temple] to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, (this refers to the erection of an image of the dictator in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, Revelation 13:11-15) even until the consummation (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent) and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate (the dictator will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire Revelation 19:20)."*

**Finally we thus have Daniel's 70 weeks divided as shown:-**

445 BC -- 483 years -- 32 AD -- CHURCH AGE-- TRIBULATION [7 years] -- 2nd Advent

**CONCLUSION**

It is therefore demonstrated that the Church Age has finished some seven years prior to the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ and the responsibility of the spread of the gospel returned to the Jews.

This fact is clearly seen in the ministry of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists of Revelation 7:1-8 and 14:1 which is dealt with after the period of the Churches in Revelation 2&3 and before the Second Coming of Christ in glory in Revelation 19.

**FEATURES OF THE DISPENSATIONS**

In all cases salvation is the same - faith in Jesus Christ but due to the position of the cross varies in its viewpoint of the sacrifice from prophetic to historic.

- (a) The Gentile and Jewish ages looked forward to the cross by means of animal sacrifices, the Tabernacle and Old Testament scriptures.  
 (b) The Church age looks back at the cross as an accomplished fact in history.

(c) The Millennial Age will look at the present person of Christ on earth.

Greek words related to time.

(a) Chronos - a succession of events - chronology - a history of Israel. e.g. reign of Saul, reign of David, reign of Solomon.

(b) Kairos - an epoch or period of time which is used for categories of times - dispensations.

(c) Oikonomia - translated dispensation - means to administer an estate, be a responsible steward of an important item.

(d) Aion - age - very similar to Kairos but allows for a break in an epoch such as occurs in the Jewish age with the Tribulation occurring after the Church age.

### **Responsible Agents for the Gospel.**

(a) Gentiles - the head of the family responsible for the gospel.

(b) Jews - a special race based on regeneration responsible for the gospel. The Jews are often called the sons of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, all 'born again' believers.

(c) Church - a spiritual race based on regeneration responsible for the gospel.

(d) Christ - the God/Man himself responsible for the gospel.

### **DISPENSATION OF THE GENTILES OR FAMILY**

1. Scripture: Genesis 1-11

2. Limits: Adam to Abraham.

3. Divided into Three Sections

a) The Age of Innocence (Genesis 1:28-3:22)

b) The Age of Rebellion (Genesis 3:23-8:20)

c) The Age of Nations (Genesis 8:21-11:32)

4. Characteristics

a) One Language. (Genesis 11:6)

b) One race - the Gentiles (Genesis 11:6)

c) No written scripture

d) No missionary agency; every believer responsible for the gospel - particularly the father.

e) Means of salvation - belief in Christ. (Romans 4:3)

f) Time span - approximately 2,000 years

g) Major judgements - Noah (flood) (Genesis 7)

h) At death believers went to Paradise.

i) At death unbelievers went to Torments.

j) Priesthood - specialized - particularly the father.

k) The Law - no Mosaic Law.

l) Holy Spirit - assisted a selected few believers

m) Environment - perfect in the garden, progressively worse after sin (Genesis 1:31, 3:17-18).

n) Satan - In heaven and on earth.

o) Rebellion. Adam and Eve. Tower of Babel. (Genesis 11:1-9)

5. During this Age, God established four institutions for mankind to live by:-

a) Free Will (Genesis 2:16,17)

b) Marriage (Genesis 2:22-24)

c) Family (Genesis 4:1)

d) Human government and Nations (Genesis 9-11)

6. During this Age, Satan attacked these frameworks.
  - a) Free Will (Genesis 3) - the fall of Adam and Eve.
  - b) Marriage and Family (Genesis 6)- the angelic infiltration.
  - c) Nationalism (Genesis 11:1-9) - Internationalism in the tower of Babel.

### **DISPENSATION OF THE AGE OF ISRAEL OR THE JEWS**

1. Scripture: Genesis 12 - Acts.
2. Limits: Abraham to Second Advent.
3. Divided into Three Sections
  - a) The Patriarchs - Abraham - Moses.
  - b) The Law. Moses - Pentecost.
  - c) The Tribulation - Rapture - 2nd Advent.
4. Characteristics
  - a) Length of Age - approximately 2,000 years.
  - b) Means of salvation - faith in Christ (James 2:23)
  - c) Written Scripture - Old Testament completed 425 BC
  - d) Evangelists - The Jews
  - e) Four Unconditional Everlasting Covenants given:-
    - i) Abrahamic (Genesis 12:1-3)
    - ii) Davidic (2 Samuel 7:8-16)
    - iii) Palestinian (Genesis 15:18-21)
    - iv) New (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
 These are fulfilled at the Second Advent, when Jesus, the Messiah returns to earth to reign as King.
  - f) Specific discipline for failure to comply with Divine Direction include:-
    - i) Where a foreign country rules the Jews (e.g. Rome from 60 BC. to 70 AD.)
    - ii) Where the Jews are removed from the land (e.g. Babylonian captivity 586 to 516 BC)
  - g) Major judgements - Babylonian captivity.
  - h) At death believers - Paradise (Abraham's Bosom) (Luke 16:19-31)
  - i) At death unbelievers - Torments (Luke 16:19-31)
  - j) Priesthood - Levitical (Exodus 28-29)
  - k) The Law - given to Moses (Exodus 19-24)
  - l) Holy Spirit - assisted a selected few believers – e.g. Gideon, David, Samson.
  - m) Environment - sinful.
  - n) Satan - in heaven and on earth.
  - o) Rebellion - Idolatry, rejection of the Law of God.
  - p) Many languages - (Genesis 11:9)
  - q) Many races of people (Genesis 11:9)
  - r) Spirituality - resting in the promise of God (Hebrews 11:8-40)

5. The Jewish Age is interrupted at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Daniel 9:26a). Instead of accepting their Messiah, the Jews rejected and crucified Him.

God therefore has temporarily set the Jews aside and ordained the Church as His ambassadors on earth Romans 11:17-25.

When the Church is removed from the earth (known as the Rapture), God will re-institute the Jews as His ambassadors. This will last for a period of seven years (Daniel 9:26b-27), known as the Tribulation, during which time the Jews will repent and call upon their Messiah. The Lord Jesus Christ will then come back to earth at the Second Advent to regather Israel and establish His kingdom on earth.

## **DISPENSATIONS – CHURCH**

1. Limits: Feast of Pentecost to Rapture

2. Characteristics

- a) Length of Age - Unknown - but possibly about 2,000 years.
  - b) Means of Salvation - Faith in Christ. (Acts 16:31)
  - c) Written Scripture - Old Testament - Pre Canon; Whole Bible - Post Canon.
  - d) Evangelists - all believers (Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5:20)
  - e) Major Judgment -- Nil
  - f) At death (believers) - Heaven, face to face with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8)
  - g) At death (unbelievers) - Torments, Hades.
  - h) Priesthood - all believers as priests (1 Peter 2:9)
  - i) The Law - grace, the law having been fulfilled by Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:17)
  - j) Holy Spirit - indwells all believers (John 7:39, 1 Corinthians 6:19)
  - k) Environment - sinful.
  - l) Satan - in Heaven or on earth
  - m) Rebellion - Apostasy (2 Timothy 3:1-6)
  - n) Many languages - (Genesis 11:9)
  - o) Many races of people - (Genesis 11:9)
  - p) Spirituality - filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
  - q) Every believer in union with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
  - r) Every believer indwelt by Christ. (John 14:20)
3. The Church Age is not mentioned in the Old Testament.
- a) The Church was a mystery to Old Testament writers. (Colossians 1:25-26)

b) The Old Testament Scriptures include everything such as the Incarnation, the Cross, the Resurrection, Ascension and Session of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament Scriptures then skip over the Church Age to the Tribulation, Second Advent and Millennium.

c) Examples of scriptures in the Old Testament where the great parenthesis occurs are Daniel 2:40,41, 7:23,24, 9:26a,26b, 11:35,36, Hosea 3:4,5, Isaiah 61:2a,2b

### **THE TRIBULATION OR THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE**

1. The Tribulation is actually the last seven years of the Age of Israel (see above)
2. General Scripture (Revelation 4-19)
3. Limits: Rapture to Second Advent
4. Characteristics:
  - a) Length of Age - 7 years. (Daniel 9:27)
  - b) Means of Salvation - faith in Christ.
  - c) Scripture - completed Canon.
  - d) Evangelists – Primarily 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7). Also angelic evangelists (Revelation 14:6-7)
  - e) Major judgments - a succession of judgments upon the unbelieving world (Matthew 24:21)
  - f) At death believers - Heaven (Revelation 15:12)
  - g) At death unbelievers - Torments, Hades.
  - h) Priesthood - specialised priesthood - Jews.
  - i) The Law - no Law (Matthew 5:17)
  - j) Holy Spirit - assists believers but does not indwell.
  - k) Environment - sinful - Antichrist and Satan rule the whole world.
  - l) Satan - in Heaven or on earth for first 3 1/2 years; cast down to earth for second 3 1/2 years (Revelation 12:9).
  - m) Rebellion - Armageddon, one world political and religious system.
  - n) Spirituality- resting in the promises of God.
  - o) Three sets of Judgements - seals (Revelation 6), trumpets (Revelation 8), judgements (Revelation 15,16).

### **DISPENSATION OF THE MILLENNIUM**

1. General Scripture: Many Old Testament passages, Revelation 20
2. Limits: Second Advent to Great White Throne Judgement
3. Characteristics:
  - a) Length of Age - 1,000 years.
  - b) Means of Salvation - Faith in Christ.

- c) Scripture - the person of Christ.
- d) Evangelists - the person of Christ.
- e) Major Judgments
  - i) Baptism of Fire (Matthew 3:12, 24:36-41)
  - ii) Last Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
  - iii) Destruction of Universe (2 Peter 3:7-13)
- f) Death extremely rare in the Millennium. Extended life span. (Isaiah 65:20)
- g) At death, unbelievers - Torments.
- h) Priesthood - Christ.
- i) The Law - no Law, Jesus Christ has fulfilled the law. (Matthew 5:17)
- j) Holy Spirit - universal indwelling of the believer. (Joel 2:28-29)
- k) Environment - perfect (Isaiah 11:1-9)
- l) Satan - chained in the abyss until the end of the Millennium (Revelation 20:2-3)
- m) Rebellion - unbelievers at the end of the Age. (Revelation 20:7-9)
- n) Spirituality - filling of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28,29)
- o) No human religion - Satan bound - no influence on the earth. (Isaiah 2:3, John 8:44 cf Rev 20:1-3)
- p) Israel -restored (Isaiah 35:3-10)
- q) Universal peace (Psalm 46:9, Hosea 2:18, Micah 4:3)
- r) Perfect government with Christ as King (Isaiah 11:1-5, Zechariah 14:9)
- s) Universal prosperity (Psalm 72:7)
- t) Universal knowledge of God. (Isaiah 11:9)
- u) Radical changes in nature - restored to perfection as in the Garden of Eden
  - i) Mankind loosened from the bondage of sin. (Romans 8:19-22)
  - ii) Sin has no adverse effect on nature (Genesis 3:17-18 cf Isaiah 35:1-2,7)
  - iii) Animals will lose their ferocity (Isaiah 11:6-8, 65:25)
  - iv) Millennium begins with believers only.

### **THE ACCURACY OF BIBLE PROPHECY**

In this present generation, which is facing globalisation and its attendant technological changes on an unprecedented scale there is a need to evaluate Biblically what God has in store for the human race as a whole and the Church in particular. The way to do this is by studying Bible Prophecy.

To evaluate the accuracy of Bible prophecies we need to read them literally confirm what their performance has been in the past in order to give us confidence for those unfulfilled prophecies for the future. Let us now look at the performance of Bible Prophecy in history to see if our confidence in the future is well based.

**50 BIBLICAL PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AT HIS FIRST ADVENT**

<b>PROPHECY</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>FULFILLED BY CHRIST</b>
Jesus born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:5,6
Presented with gifts	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1,11
Massacre of children	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:17,18
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22,23
A Nazarene	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
Speaking in parables	Psalms 78:1,2	Matthew 13:34,35
Healing ministry	Isaiah 35:4-6	Luke 7:22
Come out of Galilee	Isaiah 9:1,2	Matthew 4:13-16
Cleansing of the Temple	Isaiah 56:7	Luke 19:45,46
Prophecy of 1 <sup>st</sup> Advent Ministry	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:16-21
Manner of Teaching	Isaiah 42:1-3	Matthew 12:17-20
Teachings rejected	Isaiah 6:9,10	Acts 28:25-27
Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Hebrews 5:2
Son of Man	Psalms 8:4-6	Hebrews 2:6-9
Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Acts 3:22,23
Priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 7:17-21
King	Psalms 45:6,7	Hebrews 1:8,9
I Am	Exodus 3:14	John 8:58
Saviour	Isaiah 40:6-8	Hebrews 10:5-10
Spirit controlled life	Isaiah 11:1,2	Mark 1:10,11
Meekness	Isaiah 53:7-8	Acts 8:32-35
Creator	Psalms 102:25-27	Hebrews 1:10-12
His Pre-existence	Micah 5:2	John 8:58
Sinlessness	Isaiah 53:9-10	1 Peter 2:21-22
Faithfulness	Lamentations 3:22-23	1 Thessalonians 5:24
The Rejected Stone	Psalms 118:22-23	Acts 4:10-11
Rejected by the Jews	Isaiah 8:14	Romans 9:32-33
Entry into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:4,5
Welcome as the King	Psalms 118:25,26	John 12:12,13
Abandoned by his disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:27
Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18-27
False Witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59-61
Moses lifting up the serpent	Numbers 21:7-9	John 3:14,15
30 pieces of silver & potters field	Zechariah 11:12,13	Matthew 27:3-10
Spit in His face	Isaiah 50:6	Mark 14:65
Silence in front of Accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-14
Cry from the Cross	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
Pierced hands and feet	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35
Convicted with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:28
Sign of Jonah and resurrection	Matthew 12:40	1 Corinthians 15:4
Crown of Thorns	Jonah 2:5	Matthew 27:29
Dividing his garments	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23,24
No bones broken	Exodus 12:46	John 19:31-33, 36
Thirst on the Cross	Psalms 69:21	John 19:28-30
He dies for others	Daniel 9:25-26a	Hebrews 1:3
Darkness at the cross	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
Tomb with the Rich	Isaiah 53:9	Luke 23:50-53
Resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:25-31
Ascension	Psalms 68:18	Ephesians 4:8-10
Session	Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 1:13

**COMMENT**

Looking at 50 prophecies and excluding the virgin birth and resurrection of Christ you find that the chance of Jesus Christ being who He claimed to be is absolute. Scientists generally accept a standard that anything with a probability of less than 1 chance in 10<sup>50</sup> is regarded as totally impossible and discarded from consideration. The chance of an individual in history fulfilling these prophecies and more by chance is far sligher than 1 chance in 10<sup>50</sup>. It is absolute. It would not happen by chance!

**50 OF MANY BIBLICAL PROPHECIES NOT INVOLVING JESUS CHRIST FULFILLED HISTORICALLY**

<b>PROPHECY</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>
Reuben would be unstable	Genesis 49:3,4	Numbers 26:5-11
Levi would have no land allotted	Genesis 49:5-7	Joshua 21:4-7h
Judah would become the ruler	Genesis 49:8-12	Joshua 15:1
Dan would lead in idolatry	Genesis 49:16-18	Joshua 19:40-48
Gad would be a warrior tribe	Genesis 49:19	1 Chronicles 5:18-20, 12:8
Asher would have rich land	Genesis 49:20	Historic including recent oil
Naphtali would spread good news	Genesis 49:21	Matthew 4:13-15
Joseph would have great blessing	Genesis 49:22-26	Deuteronomy 33:13-17
Benjamin would be ferocious	Genesis 49:27	Judges 19, 20:21-47
Joshua and Caleb enter Land	Number 14:24	Joshua 3:7, 17, 14:6-12
Sisera to be defeated by a woman	Judges 4:9	Judges 4:21
Hophni and Phineas die same day	1 Samuel 2:34	1 Samuel 4:11
Priesthood removed from the Eli line	1 Samuel 2:27-36, 3:11-14	1 Kings 2:26-27
Saul to die in battle on specified day	1 Samuel 28:19	1 Samuel 31:1-6
Solomon not David to build Temple	1Chronicles 17:1-12	1 Kings 7:51
Jezebel to be eaten by wild dogs	1 Kings 21:23	2 Kings 9:30-37
Elisha to receive a double portion	2 Kings 2:9	Twice miracles of Elijah
Naaman to recover from leprosy	2 Kings 5:3, 8, 10	2 Kings 5:14
Joash to defeat the Syrians 3 times	2 Kings 13:18-19	2 Kings 13:25
Sennacherib killed in his own land	Isaiah 37:7	Isaiah 37:37-38
Cyrus to allow Jews to Jerusalem	Isaiah 44:28	Ezra 1:1-2
Coniah's kingly line terminated	Jeremiah 22:28-30	Historical by virgin birth
Nebuchadnezzar given animal mind	Daniel 4:19-27	Daniel 4:28-37
Belshazzar have kingdom removed	Daniel 5:5, 25-28	Daniel 5:30
Alexander the Great world empire	Daniel 2:32-39, 7:6, 8:5-8, 21, 11:3	History
Alexander to defeat the Persians	Daniel 8:5-8	History
Future of the Empire	Daniel 11:4	Four generals out of eleven
North King stronger than the South	Daniel 11:5	Seluchus I and Ptolemy I
Assassination of a Queen	Daniel 11:6	Laodice murders Bernice
Zenith of Power in South	Daniel 11:7	Ptolemy III supreme
Booty retrieved for Egypt	Daniel 11:8	300 yrs after Persian looting
Return of Southern King	Daniel 11:9	Ptolemy III returns to Egypt
Arms race in the North	Daniel 11:10	Seluchus III & Antiochus III
North and South fight	Daniel 11:11	Battle of Raphia 217 BC
Revolts in the South	Daniel 11:12	Ptolemy IV causes trouble
North re-arms and becomes rich	Daniel 11:13	Antiochus III becomes rich
North assisted by the Jews	Daniel 11:14	Conquers Palestine 199 BC
North invades a weak South	Daniel 11:15-16	Antiochus III defeats Egypt
North tries to spy on the South	Daniel 11:17	Unsuccessful
Rome defeats the North	Daniel 11:18	Scipio Asiaticus wins battle
North bankrupted by Rome	Daniel 11:19	Reparations by Rome
North raises high taxes	Daniel 11:20	Reign of taxman short!
Prototype Abomination/Desolation	Daniel 11:21-34	Statue of Zeus in Temple
Zacharias to be mute until birth	Luke 1:20	Luke 1:57-64
Simeon to see Messiah pre death	Luke 2:25-26	Luke 2:28-30
Peter would deny Jesus Christ	John 13:38	John 18:24-27
Peter to die as a martyr	John 21:18-19, 2 Peter 1:12-14	History
Judas to give himself over to Satan	John 6:70	John 13:27
Paul would minister to the Gentiles	Acts 9:15	Romans 11:13
Paul would go to Rome	Acts 23:11	Acts 28:16

**COMMENT**

The historical prophecies that have been fulfilled are shown above. They include 17 prophecies from Daniel chapter 11 written in 538 BC and fulfilled over a three hundred year period starting with the death of Alexander the Great in 331 BC. Daniel is well certified as prophetic truth written well before the events!

Again the chances of all these prophecies being literally fulfilled by random chance is well into the "absurd level" indicating that Bible Prophecy can be totally relied upon as true.

**SOME BIBLE PROPHECIES ABLE TO BE FULFILLED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR GENERATION**

<b>PROPHECY</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>
One World Government	Revelation 13:7	United Nations, Agenda 21
World governed in 10 regions	Daniel 7:23-25	Club of Rome
Syncretism of World Religion	Revelation 17:1-6, 16-17	Parliament of Religions
New Age Philosophy	1 Timothy 4:1-2	Radically Inclusive Churches formed
Global Finance	Revelation 13:16-18	Technically feasible for the first time
Shaking World Economic System	James 5:1-3	Interactive globally and fragile
Marking system in financial activity	Revelation 13:16-17	The cashless society
Working towards global control	Revelation 13:16-18	Electronic control, satellites, cameras
Preparation for Armageddon	Revelation 16:12-16	Now possible with Middle East access
Nation Israel to be born in a day	Isaiah 66:8	Fulfilled 14 May 1948
Israel will be one nation not two	Ezekiel 37:15-22	Fulfilled 14 May 1948
Israel has no king before Jesus Christ	Hosea 3:4-5	It has a head of state but no king
Spiritual Blindness of the Jews	Romans 11:25-26	Current situation, revival later
Jerusalem to be a cup of Trembling	Zechariah 12:2-3	Demonstrated daily
Anti Semitism anticipated	Revelation 12	Demonstrated frequently
Israel will be invincible	Zechariah 12:6-9	Successful in war against the odds
Israel will be prosperous	Ezekiel 38:12-13	Huge gas finds. 35 <sup>th</sup> GDP in the world
Export of Fruit from Israel	Isaiah 24:6	Fulfilled with modern transportation
Reforestation of Israel	Ezekiel 36:8,9	Fulfilled with millions planted
Revival of Hebrew	Jeremiah 21:33	Israel's national language from 1948
Rebuilding of the Temple	Revelation 11:1,2	Preparation at advanced stage
Temple sacrifices to resume	Daniel 12:11	Priests in training
Layout of Jerusalem	Zechariah 14:10	Jerusalem conforms
Eastern Gate Sealed	Ezekiel 44:1-3	It remains sealed after independence
Ethiopian Jews to return	Zephaniah 3:10-11	Completed in 1999
Alignment of the King of the North	Ezekiel 38:1-9	Alignment complies
Birds of Prey to feast	Revelation 19:17-21	Raptors in place for the feast
The King of the south	Daniel 11:40-43	Sheltering mountains secured
Egypt whilst not powerful still exists	Ezekiel 29:14-16	Current status of Egypt
Damascus Destroyed	Isaiah 17:1	Civil war and confrontation with Israel
The Kings of the East	Revelation 16:12-14	Access available
The King of the West	Revelation 17:9-13	In place with Euro zone and NATO
Increase in seismic activity	Matthew 24:7	Observed significant increases
World Wars	Matthew 24:6-7	Fulfilled 1914-18, 1939-45
Preparation for war	Joel 3:9-12	Increasing expenditure on armaments
Nuclear War	Zechariah 14:12	Demonstrated in Japan 1945
Burying of the dead in nuclear war	Ezekiel 39 11-16	Description of a Nuclear cleanup.
Man able to destroy all life	Matthew 24:21-22	Now possible for the first time
Increase in knowledge	Daniel 12:4	Demonstrated since 1950
High level of increase in travel	Daniel 12:4	Demonstrated since 1950
Christian Gospel to all nations	Mark 13:10	Fulfilled in Revelation 14:6-7
Two witnesses seen globally	Revelation 11:9	Now possible by global means
Moral decline	2 Timothy 3:1-4	Demonstrated
Apostasy, False Christs	Matthew 24:3-5	Increase in this area
Drug addiction	Revelation 9:20-21	World awash with drugs
Occultism	1 Timothy 4:1-2	Increase in this area encouraged
Violence against believers	John 16:2	Huge increase in violence
Immorality	Luke 17:26	Increase including "human rights"
Pursuit of pleasure	2 Timothy 3:1-5	Self centred actions widespread
Slavery to continue	Revelation 18:11-13	It has and will continue

In the table above I have summarised the notes previously given in book 125 on 50 prophecies regarding the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amplified details of those events and others are provided in that book which can be downloaded from the EBCWA website, and which is updated every two years.

Applying a statistical test to these trends will clearly show that we are in the generation which will see the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to judge individuals and for many of this generation it means that there is a limited time for an individual to be saved because if they are alive at the time of Christ's return and have not accepted Him as Saviour they are condemned to an eternity separated from God.

## HAVE WE BEEN LEFT IN THE DARK?

The answer is a definitive NO! More than a quarter of the Bible is predictive prophecy. A huge number of the prophecies clearly laid out in the Scriptures have yet to be fulfilled. Many more prophecies have already been fulfilled, not just those that relate to the Lord Jesus Christ's first coming. This gives us added confidence in the unfulfilled ones being literally fulfilled.

It is logical to conclude that if all the fulfilled prophecies were fulfilled literally, then the remaining ones will be also.

Both the Old and New Testaments are full of promises about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent. Over 1,800 references appear in the Bible with seventeen Old Testament books giving prominence to this theme.

Of the 260 chapters in the New Testament, there are more than 300 references to the Lord's Return, which is one out of every thirty verses.

Twenty-three of the twenty-seven New Testament books refer to this great event. Three of the four other books are single-chapter letters written to individuals concerning a particular subject, and the fourth is Galatians, which does involve dealing with Christ's Coming again.

For every prophecy on the First Coming of Christ, there are seven on Christ's Second Coming. There are no prophecies that must be fulfilled (Ezekiel 38-39 may be fulfilled before, but does not require fulfilment before the Church leaves) before the pre tribulation rapture of the Church, so understanding these prophecies is important for the whole human race as those not "in Christ" are going to be involved.

The question to consider is why should an All Knowing, All Powerful, Eternal God give several hundred prophecies to mankind in the Scriptures over many centuries and fulfil them literally with a huge number being fulfilled by His Son the Lord Jesus Christ?

The answer is clearly to give confidence in His ability to keep His Word absolutely to those who trust in Him.

Then why should the same All Knowing, All Powerful, Eternal God then provide 1800 similarly worded prophecies that can be understood by the same people in the same Book but expect that they should be looked at in allegorical form?

The answer of course is very simple. He does not. He is unchangeable and His Plan will be fulfilled in every detail whether man wishes to believe it or not.

What has happened is that people have misread or misinterpreted the Bible and used it to enhance their own agenda often in the form of control. This is particularly true of the nation Israel and its relationship with the Church.

The truth is that the Church, despite all effort will not convert the world to Christ, nor will the 144,000 Jewish evangelists coming from a revival of Israel, but God will finish the job of giving the gospel globally in every language in the future before the Second Advent of Christ. Revelation 14:6-7. *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."*

In the end God has to complete the work set out for Israel and the Church so that He can fulfil His desire in 2 Peter 3:9. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

Now is the time for a thorough teaching of Bible Prophecy as given in such abundance in the Scriptures. There are dark clouds on the horizon and this present generation will see it fulfilled.

We will now examine Israel and the Church.

**THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL**

The Church is different from Israel.

1. The Jewish People (Hebrews/Israelis) started with Abraham Genesis 12:1-3. – The Church started at Pentecost. Acts 2, Galatians 3:26-28. Abraham was James “father in faith”, as he was Jewish, and the church he wrote to was also Jewish! James 2:21.
2. Israel was promised blessings on earth. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 - The Church is promised blessings in heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3, Hebrews 3:1.
3. Israel's relationship to God was based on a Covenant. Genesis 17:7,8 - The Church's relationship to God is based on new birth. John 1:12-13, 1 Peter 1:23.
4. Israel's prophecy is mainly in the Old Testament. - Prophecy relating to the Church is only in the New Testament. Church Age doctrine is called “mystery doctrine”, as it was kept “secret” from the enemy until after Pentecost. Satan was not prepared for what occurred.
5. Israel worshipped at Jerusalem. Psalm 122:1-4 - The Church worships where two or three are gathered together in Christ's name. Matthew 18:20.
6. Israel lived under the law. Ezekiel 20:10-12 - The Church is under grace John 1:17; Romans 6:14.
7. Israel's destiny is with Palestine. Isaiah 60:18-21 - The Church's destiny is heaven. I Thessalonians 4:13-18.
8. Christ is King and Messiah to Israel. - Christ is the Head and Bridegroom to the Church.
9. Israel contained Jews only. - The Church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles.
10. Israel contained believers and unbelievers. - The Church contains believers only.

**CHURCH AGE – INTERCALATION OR INSERTION OF THE CHURCH INTO HISTORY**

1. The CHURCH AGE is not mentioned in the Old Testament. It has been inserted later by God.
2. Since the Church is a mystery it was not revealed to Old Testament writers. Colossians 1:25,26 - *Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:* [cf Ephesians 3:2-9 see page 15 above]

The Old Testament Scriptures include everything such as the Incarnation, the Cross, the Resurrection, Ascension and Session of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament Scriptures then skip over the Church Age to the Tribulation, Second Advent and Millennium.

3. Therefore all doctrine pertinent to the Church Age is intercalated or inserted.
4. Some Scriptures in the Old Testament where the Great Parenthesis occurs are:

**Daniel 2:40 and 41**

*“And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. [Church Age]*

*41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.”*

**Daniel 9:26a and 26b,**

*“24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. [Second Advent Of Christ] 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: [Church Age] and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he [The Antichrist after the removal of the Church] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”*

[For detailed evaluation of this text see pages 23 -26]

**AN EXAMPLE WHERE OUR LORD SHOCKED A CONGREGATION AT A SYNAGOGUE**

Luke 4:16-21. *“16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias [Isaiah 61] And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. [Church Age] 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”*

**THE PASSAGE - Isaiah 61:2a and 2b**

*“1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, [Church Age] and the day of vengeance of our God;[Return of Christ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent as the Judge] to comfort all that mourn;”*

The period of the great parenthesis is a period of the intensified state of the angelic conflict. It was not included in the Old Testament Scriptures because it would have confused believers of that age. They would have been quite probably envious of church age benefits such as the universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit, universal priesthood, indwelling of Christ, etc.

All believers in the period of intercalation, the Church Age, are called into full time Christian service.

**THE VIRGIN BRIDE OF MESSIAH – THE CHURCH**

The relationship between God and the Church is radically different from that between God and Israel. In fact the Church occurs and is completed within the period between the divorce and dispersion and the remarriage of Israel. This occurs in the Time of the Gentiles.

Unlike Israel who was guilty of adultery the Church will be presented as a pure virgin at her wedding to the Messiah. At the feast of Pentecost in 32AD the Church, a new spiritual group, was formed. The basis of the Church is regeneration of its members so that they are all, at the point of salvation, given the righteousness of Christ.

The Church is said to be the Bride of Christ but before the marriage ceremony in order to be presented as a pure virgin. This requires the removal of the sinful nature, the provision of a resurrection body and the removal of good works that have not been done under the power of the Holy Spirit [human good].

This occurs at two points. Firstly at the Rapture of the Church where the Resurrection Body is provided and the Old Sin Nature is removed and secondly at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven where our good works are evaluated, divine good is rewarded and human good removed. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. We are then the pure virgin presented to the Messiah as His Bride.

While the marriage ceremony will take place in Heaven before the return to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ the Marriage feast will take place on the earth after the Second Coming, starting the Millennial reign of Christ in which the Church will co-reign with the Messiah.

The Bride returns in triumph with Christ at the Second Advent. We note that our Lord Jesus Christ returns with all of His saints (Jewish Age period and Church Age). 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

On the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth He is Crowned King of the World. Revelation 19:6.

The Wedding Supper of the Lamb is described in Revelation 19:7-9. The marriage has occurred in heaven but the wedding supper may take place on earth. There are four groups involved in this supper:-

1. **The Groom** - Jesus Christ.
2. **The Friends of the Groom** - Old Testament Saints (John 3:29)
3. **The Bride** - Church Age Believers.
4. **The Friends of the Bride** - Tribulation believers, i.e. those who have known the Bride and become believers after the Rapture of the Church (Matthew 25:1-13)  
The eternal abode of the Bride is the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:9-22:5

## CONCLUSION

It is totally illogical that Jesus Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church would allow members of His beloved virgin bride to be tortured, torn apart and killed during large numbers of deadly Divine judgments, sent by Him onto the earth.

Believers have been treated this way by the enemy, **Hebrews 11:32-12:3**, but the Lord would not send such things directly upon his own people!

The purpose of the judgments is to challenge and give maximum time for rejecting mankind to come to a saving knowledge of Him not to destroy his Bride. This is shown by the provision of grace before judgment.

This does not mean that the Church will not come under testing in time as clearly and increasingly this is the case but these testing are not divine judgments sent to the earth by God but satanic attack.

The assault on the Church is from sinful man and the Prince of this world. These assaults are being restrained by the Holy Spirit as seen in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 before the Holy Spirit returns to his ministry under the Age of Israel after translation of the Church at the Rapture.

## ISRAEL THE WIFE OF JEHOVAH

Israel was not in the original table of nations. Because of the failure of man at the Flood and then again at Babel God created a special group through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The relationship between God and Israel is in six distinct stages.

- 1 **The Marriage Contract** - God entered into a marriage contract with Israel at Mt Sinai with those who were present at this time. Such a covenant was always recognised as a marriage contract by Jewish prophets. Deuteronomy 5:1-3. Israel is warned against following other gods which would result in being subject to the anger of God. Exodus 20:1-6, Deuteronomy 6:13-15. Israel is again described as the one chosen by God Deuteronomy 7:6. Later in the chapter God shows His faithfulness and generosity to his wife. Deuteronomy 7:9-11
- 2 **The Adultery** - Israel however failed and did not only commit adultery with one lover but was guilty of promiscuity with many lovers. Adultery meant that the marriage contract was now null and void. Jeremiah 3:1. In Ezekiel 16 the prophet details the adultery which was with the gods of Egypt, Assyria and Chaldea. The stupidity of these actions is that Israel willingly gave herself to the gods of these nations who did the most to hurt her. She had turned away from the husband who had faithfully provided for her to those who would just use her.

- 3 **The Separation** - Because of this adultery a separation took place between God and Israel in the times of Isaiah. Rather than divorce, a separation which lasted around a century took place. The separation involved the removal of blessings which were to be received by Israel if she remained faithful. Isaiah 50:1
- 4 **The Divorce** - In the days of Jeremiah Israel was divorced by God. Jeremiah 3:6-10. The century of separation had failed to produce repentance in Israel so that the divorce was made on the basis of Israel's adultery. Samaria, the ten tribes had already been taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722 BC and only a remnant returned as part of the southern group. The southern kingdom of Judah had had some response to the Lord under Josiah but it was short lived and they went into captivity to the Chaldeans under Nebuchadnezzar in a series of action completed in 586 BC. We now entered into the "Time of the Gentiles".
- 5 **The Punishment** - The punishment of God is mentioned in a number of passages. In Ezekiel 16:35-43 after stating the need of punishment due to adultery, the use of former lovers is seen as the means of punishment, Egypt, Assyria and Chaldea. The purpose of the punishment was to cause Israel to stop sinning. In verses 58-59 it is seen that the punishment is because she has broken the marriage contract. God constantly calls on Israel to stop sinning but they continue to do so. This call is given in **Jeremiah 3:11-18**. However to date Israel is still under punishment as shown by her worldwide dispersion and the persecutions of the Jews around the world.
- 6 **The Remarriage** - However the sixth stage which is yet to come was foretold by the Jewish prophets. After the divorce this would require a new marriage contract. This is the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31:31-34. This time, unlike the Mosaic Covenant, which was conditional, the new marriage contract will be unconditional and everlasting. The times of the Gentiles will finish. Israel's land will be restored. In the future, after the acceptance of the Messiah by Israel in the time of the Tribulation, Israel and Jehovah will be re-married with all her blessings restored.

## TWO WORLDWIDE REGATHERINGS OF ISRAEL

The Bible states that there are going to be two worldwide gatherings of the Jewish people. The first is a worldwide regathering in unbelief in preparation of judgment, specifically the judgment of the Tribulation.

The second will be the worldwide regathering in faith in preparation for blessing, specifically in the Millennium. This two stage sequence is well illustrated in the Dry Bones passage of Ezekiel 37. The great invasion described in Ezekiel 38-39 would appear from its context to occur after the gathering in unbelief, with Zechariah 12:10ff indicating that the transition to faith occurs at a later stage. The description of the Millennial Temple and Political blessing of Israel in Ezekiel 40ff indicates that certain expectation follows.

## THE REGATHERING OF ISRAEL FOR JUDGMENT

The present status of Israel is that the Jews are in a portion of the Promised Land but in unbelief. In Ezekiel 20:33-38 Ezekiel draws an analogy between wilderness generation which God brought out of Egypt.

It is of interest that PM Netanyahu on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 called for European Jews to return en masse to Israel, their home, and Vice President Biden less than seven days later warned all Jews in America that their only protection would be in Israel, not the USA.

The Exodus Jews arrived close to the Promised Land early in their wanderings but due to rebellion they were in the wilderness for 40 years and were subject to judgment. God states that He will draw out the Jews worldwide a first time but it will be for the purging of the nation.

## WHEN IS THE FIRST REGATHERING?

Zephaniah 1:7-18 describes the situation in the Tribulation period. The first two verses in chapter 2 indicate that this gathering together will be before the Tribulation period. We are seeing this happen in our day and age where Israel is receiving people worldwide in a state of unbelief to settle in the Land after nearly two millennia. The second regathering will be when the King of the Jews calls the dispersed believing Jews back at the setting up of the thousand year kingdom.

## THE NEED FOR ISRAEL TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE LAND

Until 1948 Israel had not been a country since 70 AD when they were dispersed. There are a number of reasons why the physical reestablishment of Israel was necessary prior to the Millennium in the Plan of God.

Firstly in order for the Tribulation to commence there needs to be a significant nation of Israel for the Antichrist to sign a seven year agreement with. The start of the Tribulation is not at the Rapture of the Church but occurs by the signing of a covenant between Israel and the Antichrist. Daniel 9:27

Secondly there needs to be an operating Temple for the sacrifices offered by the Levitical priests to be terminated half way through the Tribulation. Daniel 9:27a. This in itself requires the Temple Mount to be under the control of Israel. This did not occur until 1967. Even so the administration of Temple Mount has been under Jordanian Islamic control since that time. The nation is re-gathered initially as “dry bones”, Ezekiel 37, and that is as a nation that is religious but lacks spiritual power. This sets the stage for the next stage, the temple rebuilding – still in unbelief.

Thirdly the Invasion of Ezekiel 38 and 39 requires a State of Israel to be in place for the northern confederation to attack and be destroyed on the mountains of Israel. Ezekiel 39:1-4. Again from 1948 to 1967 the mountains which form the backbone of the country were not under Israeli control. In the 1967 war they were added to be under Israel's administration allowing for them to be designated the mountains of Israel. Also we need to remember that the “mountains of Israel” under David and Solomon, and under the expectation of Ezekiel for the Millennium, include vast areas of present Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Fourthly there needs to be an incentive for the Northern confederation to invade. Ezekiel 38:3-4a. The very recent large gas and oil deposit discoveries may well be the incentive to invade as hydrocarbons have caused conflicts in the past.

Fifthly there needs to be an established nation of Israel for the Lord Jesus Christ to come back and defend at Jerusalem but also to relieve the beleaguered Jews and believing Arabs at Petra at His Second Advent as seen in Zechariah 12:7. Remember the Lord backs Daniel's words, urging the believers of those days to flee into Jordan and the southern mountains of Judah. Matthew 24:9-28.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the modern state of Israel is totally compatible with the significant unbelieving country described in Scripture, and it is in place as the first worldwide focus of re-gathering prior to the Tribulation. The fact of the existence of the Jews at all as a special group has impressed thinking people over the years as their retention of a national status and culture over two millennia is unique. Here are a couple of quotes prior to the establishment of Israel.

Sir Winston Churchill said, “Some people like the Jews, and some do not. But no thoughtful man can deny the fact that they are, beyond any question, the most formidable and the most remarkable race which has appeared in the world.”

Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany asked Bismarck, “Can you prove the existence of God?” Bismarck replies, “The Jews, your majesty, The Jews.” This group of people should not have survived, others facing lesser hatred and malice have not survived, but Israel has.

## PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION

The main purpose of the Tribulation I believe is God's desire that man should repent and enjoy a permanent relationship with Him through Christ. 2 Peter 3:9. It is great judgment upon the determinedly unsaved and haters of God, but it is the greatest time of evangelism and salvation in the history of the world. The Church, made up of believers already has that relationship with Jesus. They have repented and are in union with His Son who He loves with an Infinite Love.

There are however myriads of people who do not have that relationship at this time and the Tribulation is the time of “sudden death playoff” that many need to focus their minds and repent, when in the days of the Church they dithered and distracted themselves.

Apart from the Church there are two categories of humanity on earth, the Jews and the Gentiles. While it is God's desire that all should be saved there is a requirement for Jews en masse to be saved so that the remarriage of God and Israel can take place. Zechariah 12:10ff. They at long last will recognise Jesus Christ as the Messiah subsequent to which He will set up His Kingdom and reign as the King of Jews.

### **EVANGELISM IN THE TRIBULATION**

A literal and straight forward reading of the Bible leads directly to an expectation of a series of dramatic events after the Church is removed from the earth, or even with it left behind (all views of tribulation prophecies, pre/mid/post see that much of prophetic truth remains unfulfilled at present). In the Tribulation period after the removal of the Church new means will be used by God to bring men to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible makes it clear that there will be four major waves of evangelism in the Tribulation period.

1. The 144,000 Jewish evangelists from 12 of the 13 tribes of Israel. Revelation 7:1-8
2. Gentile converts of these 144,000 Jews. Revelation 7:9-15
3. The Two Witnesses - Moses and Elijah who broadcast worldwide from Jerusalem. Revelation 11:3-13
4. Angelic evangelism. Revelation 14:6-7 [see above]

In the last case the structure of the word "flying" means constantly flying about while that for "preach" means that it is God's purpose that everyone will hear the good news of the gospel. This is the period where everyone in the world is preached to as God is not willing that any should be lost and universal judgment is just round the corner.

This angel circles the earth proclaiming the "eternal gospel." The Lord Jesus Christ is the key to the "good news" of God. This gospel has never changed. It is always faith in Jesus Christ as the means of eternal salvation, and it is God's desire that all men hear the word of hope, even in the worst of times, 2 Peter 3:9. This is as unchanging as Christ Himself (Hebrews 13:8).

Here we have the challenge to the whole world to worship the Lord who is the Creator. The angel calls on men to "fear God" because "the reverential fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7). The three imperatives:- fear, give glory, and worship, recognise the urgency of the hour! In those chaotic days the primary truth that God is the Creator of all, the visible and the invisible, has been lost sight of by the great delusion after the removal of the church. 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Man will have usurped the place of God: and the claim of the Creator to be worshipped by the creature will be all but erased from the minds of men. Thus, the moment is opportune, for every true thought of the Creator has been almost banished from the earth. All worship the beast except the godly remnant, which, appears to be a feeble minority. Here again we see the grace of God before judgement

The good news is news of the impending judgement of the wicked that have persecuted the believers. Nahum 1:15. If they do not comply with the imperatives or commands they will be lost for all time.

### **THE SECOND REGATHERING OF ISRAEL FOR BLESSING**

The regeneration of the nation due to the Tribulation judgments will create a second group which will be called to move into the Land under the King Messiah at His Second Advent. In Ezekiel 22:17-22, Ezekiel focuses on the city of Jerusalem which becomes the furnace of affliction, a place of judgment.

The fact of two regatherings of Israel is recognized in Isaiah 11:11-12:6, which speaks of the second worldwide regathering, this time in faith for blessing." This movement cannot be confused with the return from Babylon as many worldwide locations are cited which were not fulfilled in 535 BC when the exiles returned, or even when Ezra around 440 BC brings more back.

### **EZEKIEL 37 – THE PROPHECY REGARDING ISRAEL'S FUTURE**

Israel is unique in the fact that no other nation in history has ever come back having been destroyed as a nation nearly 1900 years before.

The return is shown in verses 1-10 to stages from dead dry bones to a full live being.

The dry bones are shown as the total desolated nation of Israel verse 11 *Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.* This occurred about 100 years after the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Israel lost hope and the Jews were not allowed to live in the Land.

God promises in verses 12 to 14 that this is going to occur in the future. God calls the group “my people” Israel and tells them that this will occur.

The First Stage in verses 7 and 8 is of the dead bones coming together and sinews, flesh and skin but no breath in the bodies. This appears to be the current status of Israel at the moment post 1948 where Israel is in the Land but not as a spiritually alive nation in relation to God.

The Second Stage in verses 9 and 10 where the breath comes into the body and it stands up as a great nation. This is the future status of Israel where the nation has a spiritual revival so that the nation renews its relationship with God. This is again confirmed in verses 12-14.

In verses 16 to 17 we see both Judah, the southern country and Ephraim the northern country who went into captivity some 120 years apart with only Judah returning to the Land being joined together as one nation which occurred in 1948

In verses 19 to 21 God says that He will bring them back from worldwide dispersion as a single nation and they will be in His hand showing an intimate and secure relationship between God and Israel.

In verse 22 we are told *“And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.* The one King reigning over a unified Israel is the Lord Jesus Christ in the Millennium”.

In verse 23 the close relationship between God and Israel is seen. The absence of idols and other detractions indicates that Satanic activity is removed at this time which conforms with the fact that Satan is incarcerated in the abyss in the Millennium.

In verses 24-28 God strongly summarises the reign of the King, the possession of the Promised Land, the eternal nature of the peaceful relationship between the King and Israel. God also says that He will make the centre of His relationship with man in Israel.

## CONCLUSION

Ezekiel 37 was written during the Babylonian captivity during which the last king to reign over Judah had died and around 150 years after the permanent removal of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria.

Here God clearly states that the King will reign in purity over a unified Israel which has been brought back to life from a hopeless dispersion of nearly two millennia. This shows clearly that there is going to be a literal reign of the Lord Jesus Christ over Israel on the earth in the future, the Millennium.

This chapter speaks clearly that replacement theology is erroneous.

## BRIDEGROOM AND KING - KINGDOM NOW

The relationship between God with the Church and God with Israel has become unclear in a number of areas. One is the fact that Christ is the Bridegroom and the Head of the Church [His virgin Bride] while to Israel He is predominantly the King of the Jews. This of course does not downplay the fact that He is All Powerful and Sovereign King of kings and Lord of lords.

However the personal relationship between Christ with the two groups is different. It is noted that especially in the area of songs and hymns the King of kings aspect has all but drowned out the Bridegroom and Bride relationship between Christ and His Body the Church.

Many people clearly see that we are entering into a time of great stress. Some Bible students are also aware of the numerous trends of Bible Prophecy that are now able to be fulfilled in our post World War II generation. Our post War generation has seen the stage been set for all else to be literally fulfilled.

The time of great problems for Israel is well defined as the Great Tribulation, a series of Divine Judgments on the earth with the majority of unsaved people dying before its end.

Many Christians say that the Church will go through this terrible period. In this paper it will be proposed that the Church will not but will be removed before the Divine Judgments occur.

### TESTING TIMES FOR THE CHURCH

Any student of Church History knows all too well of the oppression and persecution of the Church over the centuries. We need only to think of the great persecution by the Roman Emperors prior to Constantine, the terrible affliction of the Inquisition, and massive persecution nowadays, amid many other examples, to know that our brethren over the centuries have been tortured and killed because of their faith.

One may ask, why therefore should not then the Church be subject to the Tribulation judgments?

We need to understand that the major difference between the Tribulation and the other persecutions is that the Tribulation judgements are judgments specifically sent on humanity as a whole by God Himself.

The general persecution of the Church is caused by one part of humanity inflicting oppression, which is sometimes satanic, on another group for its own purpose. This is generally caused by power and money concerns/lusts of the oppressors.

God has never abused his Church, and does not abuse his children. The present sees persecution by evil forces due largely to Satan knowing we are on the last leg of the journey towards his incarceration at the Second Advent. However we also see protection by the Lord of His own in all periods.

In the Tribulation period the Lord is actively testing with Divine judgments rejecting mankind, as He is not willing that any should perish. **2 Peter 3:9**. This period of the Tribulation is however the last period before He judges all at the Second Advent. Revelation 19-20. Obedient Believers in that time are also protected, but face things that the world has not seen before – this is a time like no other.

### GRACE BEFORE JUDGMENT

Over the history of mankind God has provided Grace before Judgement. According to the Bible there are three universal judgments by God on humanity as a whole. The first was the universal Flood where warning by the Holy Spirit was given before judgment came - Genesis 6:3. The second is the time in which we now live before the return of His Son - Matthew 25:31-46 and the third is at the end of the Millennium when the final judgment will take place. God does not condemn believers He protects them! Romans 8:1.

### DANIEL'S 70<sup>TH</sup> WEEK

A study of Daniel's 70 weeks of years shows that the 69<sup>th</sup> week of years terminated with Christ being "cut off" for the sins of the world at the Cross two millennia ago. This leaves a period of 7 years yet to run. The 70<sup>th</sup> week terminates with the start of the thousand year reign as shown in Daniel 9:24. As it is longer than seven years since Christ rode into Jerusalem there clearly is a gap in the 70 weeks of years allotted to Israel.

### PRINCIPLE

Not only is there a long gap in Israel's relationship with God but the relationship will be restored before Christ returns to set up everlasting righteousness and five other features of His reign. Israel therefore has a future in God's plan. As God does not deal with Israel and the Church at the same time it implies that the church which had been inserted into God's plan has been removed before these events occur.

## **THE KING AND THE KINGDOM**

### **JESUS THE KING**

Firstly we need to remember that Jesus was born a Jew from the Tribe of Judah legally inheriting his regal line from Joseph [Matthew 1:1-16] and His physical line from Mary.[Luke 23-38] He was truly born King of the Jews.

Herod the Great, an Arab who had been ruling as King of the Jews for nearly 40 years, on hearing from the Wise Men regarding the birth of the legitimate King responded violently as seen in *Matthew 2:16-18*, “*Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.*”

Early in His Ministry, as part of the model prayer Jesus the King taught His disciples to pray, “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*” *Matthew 6:10.*

Whilst it is often prayed in churches technically this is a prayer which we cannot pray today as the “Kingdom” will not be set up until the Tribulation period and the balance of the Church Age is completed. It is therefore an absolute minimum of seven years away.

This prayer however was valid in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ’s ministry on earth and it was possible that the Kingdom of God would be set up in the very near future. This was dependant on Israel accepting Jesus Christ as King at the First Advent. Currently the King of the Jews is in heaven in a resurrection body waiting for Israel to call on Him.

The Greek is literally “*Come thy kingdom*”. The word Come is in the imperative mood thus this part of the prayer is in the form of a petition. The King is now in heaven. It is patently clear that the will of God is certainly not being done on earth as it is in heaven. This will only occur in the Millennium when Satan is incarcerated in the bottomless pit and the King is ruling globally on the earth with a rod of iron.

### **PALM SUNDAY**

Some may say, “What about Palm Sunday?” Evaluation of the events on Palm Sunday shows that the people in Jerusalem were using a passage which relates to the Second Coming and setting up of the Millennium expecting Him to free them from the Romans and ignoring that the, “Cross had to come before the Crown”.

To understand this passage it is necessary to first of all examine Psalm 118:22-26, which is divided into two discrete sections verses 22-23, “*The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes*”, dealing with the first advent.

Verses 24-26. “*This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD*”, refer to the Second Advent and the setting up of the Millennial Kingdom

Psalm 118 was sung at two feasts in the Jewish calendar, firstly at the Passover, which relates to the death of Christ and secondly at the Feast of Tabernacles which relates to the Millennial reign of Christ. These feasts were the first and last of the seven feasts of Israel.

The word for “save now” in verse 25 is Hosanna. Sometimes they transliterate the word, here in Psalm 118 they translate it. It should be noted that the song of the reception crowds consisted of part of verse 25 and 26. In the entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem the crowd’s response therefore relates to the Second Advent, however as stated above God’s plan requires the cross to come before the crown.

In Mark 11:8-11, it says, “*And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 10 Blessed be the kingdom of our father*

*David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest. 11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve."*

Here we have a large crowd with various elements and they see him coming into the city in the traditional way that the early kings used. They cut down the branches and spread their garments so that the colt would not walk on the road surface. They were bypassing the cross and seeking the crown. Peter also did this when he told the Lord that He would not die to which the Lord replied, "*get thee behind me Satan*". Mark 8:33.

The crowds are looking for the removal of the Roman yoke and the restoration of an independent state. They did not want personal salvation; they wanted a political solution.

In verses 9, 10 the amplified shouts include the cry to save now to the uttermost parts or Hosanna in the highest. The highest is represented by Pilate the Roman procurator and the Chief Priests Caiaphas and Annas. The crowd is speaking in veiled language.

These people are demanding revolution - they are also quoting or alluding to Psalm 118. This is the Passover hymn where God answers the needs of man. The Psalm looks beyond the rejection of the Stone [Christ] to His final exaltation in the kingdom. The Romans are afflicting the Jews at this time.

Psalm 118 Verses 1-16 is ignored by the crowd. Their salvation is in the hands of the Lord. They ignore God's timetable and say "Save now, save now". It is seen that the Lord has given ample warning here not to interpret this as the crowd has taken it.

Read on in Psalm 118, verses 21- 24 and following we see the stone that is rejected. They are going to reject Him. This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day the Lord took away your sins. We can see what the crowd is quoting and what they are not quoting. In verse 25 they are saying save now O Lord and send us prosperity.

The palms represent prosperity. Blessed (prosperity and blessing) is he that comes in the name of the Lord but they then add in, blessed be the King of Israel. They combine this with Zechariah, and the two texts do belong together but not in the way that the crowd combines them.

This shows that if you get your theology wrong you are in serious trouble. We need to rightly divide the Word of Truth, not deciding in advance what we will accept or reject according to our theology. We need to take a straight road through the Scriptures. We must see and follow what God is saying not go along with what man is thinking. Rather than allowing the Lord to speak to them they are telling the Lord what to do.

In verse 27 it says that the sacrifice will be bound to the altar. In a very similar way the Lord is going to be nailed to the Cross. Here is an excellent example of the foreknowledge of God. You have Palm Sunday in one verse and then a couple of verses later we have the Cross portrayed.

Psalm 118 Verses 28-29 - now, the crowd was not saying this to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what should have been said and John and the other apostles recognised that later. The crowd is quoting from verses 25 and part of 26 indicating in advance what would happen. This crowd is maladjusted to the plan of God. People take a verse out of context and quote it to justify why they are doing certain things, rather than seeing the verses in their context and truly seeing what the Lord's plan is.

## **THE KINGDOM IN THE MILLENNIUM**

The Kingdom is the Millennium, the first 1,000 years of Jesus' eternal reign. It will be after the Second Advent, on the old earth. (*Revelation 20:4-6*). "*And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."*

## THE COURSE OF THE KINGDOM

**Promised** to Israel (2 Samuel 7:8-17, Psalm 89:20-33).

**Propheesied** in Isaiah 2:1-5, 2:11, 12, 35, 55, 56, 62:11.

**Presented** in Matthew, Mark, Luke to Israel before the Church came into existence.

The Kingdom was announced as at hand Matthew 4:17. *“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”.*

**Postponed** because of the rejection of Israel of their King - the Epistles of New Testament (for church age).

The King was rejected by the Jews both from a moral *Matthew 11:20, “Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not”,* and official viewpoint. *Matthew 21:42-43. “Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof”.* As a result the King was crowned with thorns.

**Proclaimed** in the future in Revelation 10 (Angelic herald) and Revelation 11:1-14 (Human heralds).

**Plagiarized** by the Antichrist in the Tribulation who sets himself up as God in the Temple (Revelation 13).

**Perfected** - Revelation 11:15. *“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”*

The seventh trumpet in verse 15 is the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. The seventh trumpet contains the seven bowl judgments in a similar way to the seventh seal containing the seven trumpet judgments. The trumpets were always blown on the accession of an Israelite king - 1 Kings 1:34.

The Greek word translated “are become” is “ginomai” which means to have become something that they were not before. The aorist active indicative of ginomai refers to a point in time, the Second Advent, when God makes the change whilst the indicative mood shows the reality of the Millennial Kingdom.

“He shall reign” is a future of logical progression in that logically from His Second Advent the Lord Jesus Christ will reign from that time on.

The Lord Jesus Christ will destroy all opposition on his return. The Lord will inherit the one world kingdom from the Antichrist. The sounding of the seventh trumpet does not mark the Rapture of the Church but marks the coming of Israel’s rightful King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Millennium is the greatest demonstration in history that regeneration not perfect environment is the solution of man’s problem. The Lord Jesus Christ will walk on the earth and take over immediately. The Lord will walk into chaos, snap his finger and bring order out of chaos.

## ISSUES RELATING TO THE KINGDOM

**THE CHARACTER OF GOD - will He keep His word to Israel?** Yes, of course He will. Jesus Christ will reign. God is unchangeable! What He says He will do.

If we examine the character of God and His relationship with man we can see that his lavish supply of prophecy in His Word is of great importance.

**God is Sovereign** and is the King of kings. He is not willing that any should perish. 2 Peter 3:9.

**God is Totally Righteous** and all His ways are perfect. It is totally impossible for Him not to be perfect.

**God is Totally Just** – no one will ever be able to accuse God of being unfair

The combination of His Righteousness and Justice is **God's Holiness**, which no human is able to achieve. As man is imperfect all fall short of His Perfection and are not acceptable to Him by what we do. We are separated from God who wants us to be saved. God through Grace has provided a way in Jesus Christ.

**God is Total Love** – Only one perfect person existed and by dying on the Cross Jesus Christ paid the penalty for all members of the human race. John 3:16. This allows God to Love man through Jesus Christ.

**God is Eternal Life** – God has always existed and by trusting in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ we receive Everlasting life. However if we do not accept God's way His judgment remains on us. John 3:36.

**God is All Powerful** – No one can ever succeed in going against God's will. God always wins!

**God is Everywhere** – He is not restricted as we are but is Everywhere at all times.

**God is All Knowing** – Nothing ever surprises him. He knows everything from Eternity Past onwards.

**God is Unchangeable** – He is the same yesterday, today and forever allowing Him to make prophecy millennia before it is perfectly fulfilled. This applies to Biblical Prophecy, Promises and all Scripture.

**God is Absolute Truth** – this gives total reliability to His Word of Truth.

## DISPERSION OF ISRAEL

**Will He recover them again?** Yes at the Second Advent. We have seen the progression of the recovery from dispersion of Israel occurring in two stages as seen in Ezekiel 37:1-14 above. Here the nation of Israel is seen as dead bones being reconstructed as a single nation and a large living army.

**Will He return to earth at the worst period in history?** Yes, He will at the end of the Tribulation to save repentant Israel from inevitable destruction.

**Millennial - The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is eternal, why the emphasis on the first 1,000 years?** Jesus will do what Satan has been trying to do for 6,000 years; He will create perfect environment in an instant, as a demonstration to prove as stated above that perfect environment is not the answer; regeneration is.

## SECOND ADVENT

At the Second Advent Jesus Christ will come as King, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. 1 Timothy 6:14,15. *"That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"*

**His Kingdom** - On earth Jeremiah 23:5, *"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."* and Revelation 19:11-16. His kingdom is called the kingdom of heaven, because of its heavenly character, but it is clearly on earth.

**His Capital** - Jerusalem Psalm 2:6, *"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."*

**Its Extent** - The whole world.- there are a number of passages including

Isaiah 2:2-3 *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem"* and

Zechariah 8:20-23 *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: 21 And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. 22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. 23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all*

*languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."*

**When** - He will regather believing Israel after the Great Tribulation and will reign on earth for 1,000 years. Revelation 19:11-16, 20:4-6 and Zechariah 14:1-4, 9. *"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."*

## **END OF THE EARTHLY KINGDOM**

Christ's rule on earth will terminate with the Great White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:11-15). He then delivers the kingdom to the Father, 1 Corinthians 15:23-25. *"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet"*, thus commencing the eternal rule of Christ.

## **THE ETERNAL THRONE**

The eternal throne is of God and the Lamb. Revelation 22:1. *"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb"*.

This is in contrast with the throne of David as seen in the promise of Isaiah 9:6-7. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."*

What will conditions be like when the Messiah sits on the throne of David? At that time the earth's government will be upon His shoulders (Isaiah 9:6) and the earth will enjoy peace as the Prince of Peace sits upon David's throne. Such conditions are certainly not found during this present church age.

Jeremiah 23:5-6. *"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."*

When will the Messiah be upon David's throne? This will take place when Messiah the King reigns and executes justice in the earth. At this time Israel will dwell safely. This can only mean that Christ will sit on David's throne during His Millennial reign and not before.

## **FEASTS OF ISRAEL**

1. In the Jewish calendar seven feasts were ordained by God for the Jews to follow and to be a sign to all believers.

2. In order the feasts were:-

- a) Passover
- b) Unleavened Bread
- c) First Fruits
- d) Pentecost
- e) Trumpets
- f) Atonement

## g) Tabernacles

## 3. THE PASSOVER (Deuteronomy 16:1-8, Leviticus 23:5)

**Historically**

- a) This feast originated on the night when the angel of the Lord passed over the land of Egypt immediately prior to the children of Israel leaving their bondage under Moses.
- b) A male lamb without blemish was killed on the 14th Nisan having been brought into the house 4 days before, great care being taken that not a bone in its body was broken. (Exodus 12:1-6)
- c) The lamb was roasted, eaten with bitter herbs and any portion left was burnt. (Exodus 12:7-10)
- d) In the original Passover the blood of the Lamb was daubed on the doorposts and lintels, any such house being spared from the last plague against Egypt. (Exodus 12:21-28) All plagues were against the gods of Egypt.
- e) The Passover was on the anniversary of the promise to Abraham. (Exodus 12:41)

**Fulfilment**

- a) The sacrificial lamb represents the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 5:7)
  - b) Christ died on the 14th Nisan on the cross having entered Jerusalem, the Holy city 4 days before on the 10th Nisan.
  - c) When the Roman soldiers broke the legs of the thieves they found Jesus dead so no bone in His body was broken. (John 19:32, 33)
  - d) The roasting of the lamb represents judgment, the bitter herbs representing sins or failures.
  - e) The eating of the lamb represents faith in the work of Christ i.e. eating and drinking at the communion table.)
  - f) By faith in Christ we are protected from the final judgment of God. (Romans 8:1)
- Currently
- a) Each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper we are looking back to the cross and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
  - b) This could also represent salvation to the believer.

## 4. UNLEAVENED BREAD (Leviticus 23:6-8)

- a) This feast lasted for seven days starting on the 15th Nisan and portrays the provision and fellowship with God.
- b) The bread was unleavened due to the need to leave Egypt with utmost haste. In addition the wine was without leaven or alcohol - the wine being boiled during this feast. This has been found in Chaldean army instructions when it was feared that the Jews could revolt during the time of unleavened bread if they were served with alcoholic Chaldean beer.
- c) As God can have nothing to do with sin God's provision is without leaven as leaven represents evil in the scriptures.
- d) There are various forms of leaven in the Bible:-
  - i) Leaven of the Sadducees - human viewpoint (Matthew 16:6)
  - ii) Leaven of the Pharisees - ritualism (Mark 8:15)
  - iii) Leaven of Herod - worldliness (Mark 8:15)
  - iv) Leaven of the Corinthians - wantonness (1 Corinthians 5:6, 7)
  - v) Leaven of the Galatians - legalism (Galatians 5:9).
- e) Bread made without leaven shows the perfection of Christ (Leviticus 2:11).
- f) This could represent the Christian walk for the believer.
- g) The unleavened bread was cooked on a griddle which caused the bread to have stripes. It also had holes. By his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5) They will look upon him whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10).

## 5. FIRST FRUITS (Leviticus 23:9-14)

- a) This feast always occurred on a Sunday and was celebrated on the 17th Nisan.
- b) This feast portrayed the resurrection of Christ and occurred half-way through the feast of Unleavened Bread.
- c) Christ is said to be the first fruits of them that sleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- d) Christ rose 3 days after his death on the Passover.
- e) The Jews crossed the Red Sea 3 days after leaving bondage.
- f) The ark rested on Ararat on this very day after the flood. (Genesis 8:4)
- g) This could represent the resurrection body for the believer.

6. PENTECOST (Leviticus 23:15-21)

- a) Pente - fifty - this occurred always on a Sunday 50 days or a week of weeks after the first fruits, generally in May or June. (Leviticus 23:15)
- b) It represents the dispersion of the Jews which occurred historically in AD 70 and there followed a long gap to the next feast representing the long time the Jews would be out of the land.
- c) Pentecost in the year of the crucifixion was the day on which the Church age started with the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. (Acts 2:1-4).
- d) At Pentecost, 3,000 were born again; at the giving of the law, 3,000 were killed.

7. TRUMPETS (Leviticus 23:23, 24)

- a) This occurred in September, the blowing of the trumpets representing the coming of the king. It is the Jewish New Year Day.
- b) This represents the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for his Church at the Rapture. The Jews recognise this as the day on which God would again have a relationship with the Jews.

8. ATONEMENT (Leviticus 23:26-32)

- a) This occurred ten days after the feast of trumpets. It represents the fact that believing Jews only enter into the Millennium.
- b) From evaluation of (Daniel 12:11 & 12) and parallel passages it is apparent that there is a period of judgment at the second advent of some 45 days. This is a period of the wheat and tares, the sheep and the goats. The unbelievers are baptised with fire. (Matthew 3:11,12.) The believers enter the Millennium.
- c) This was the only day of the year that the high priest was able to enter the Holy of Holies bringing a bowl of blood, once for himself and once for the nation. (Hebrews 9:6-7). His entry represents the sacrifice of Christ.
- d) Christ's sacrifice is the fulfilment of this ritual. Christ only had to make one offering, as he was sinless, for the sins of the world. (Hebrews 9:11-14) On the feast of Atonement red wool, the Atonement Lot, was tied to the temple pillar. After the blood was spilt the lot turned white until the time of the cross. Afterwards it stayed red. This sign showed Christ's once and for all sacrifice.

9. TABERNACLES (Leviticus 23:33-36)

This occurred five days after the feast of Atonement and lasted a week. It represents the Millennial Reign of Christ and the perfect provision and environment provided. (Deuteronomy 16:13-15, Romans 8:19-22)

The Fulfilment - The Messianic kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ fulfils this feast as shown in Zechariah 14:16-19. In the Messianic kingdom all the Gentile nations will be obligated to keep this feast by sending a delegation to Jerusalem which contrasts with the obligations under the Mosaic law which made it mandatory for Israel only. Any Gentile nation which refuses to send a delegation will be disciplined by drought.

The Feast of Atonement which is fulfilled by the Great Tribulation is followed by the feast of Tabernacles which is fulfilled by the great rejoicing of the Millennial Kingdom. The tribulation is clearly stated in Zechariah 12-14:15 and is followed by the kingdom. This is also the case in the book of the Revelation where the extensive Tribulation passage in chapters 6-19 is seen to precede the Millennial reign.

10. It is of interest that the two feasts that speak of God's perfect provision - Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles - were a week duration whilst the others were for a day, speaking of a point in time occurrence such as the crucifixion, resurrection or rapture of the Church.

11. SUMMARY

- a) PASSOVER fulfilled at The Crucifixion on Passover AD 32
- b) UNLEAVENED BREAD fulfilled at Burial of Christ on Unleavened Bread AD 32
- c) FIRST-FRUITS fulfilled at Resurrection of Christ on First-Fruits AD 32
- d) PENTECOST fulfilled at End of Jewish Age on Pentecost AD 32
- e) TRUMPETS to be fulfilled at Rapture of Church
- f) ATONEMENT to be fulfilled at Second Advent of Christ
- g) TABERNACLES to be fulfilled at Millennial reign of Christ

12. As Paul had seen the literal fulfilment of the first four feasts in some 8 weeks in AD 32 it is hardly surprising that he would expect to be in the "rapture generation" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1)

### **SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM:**

**Duration of the Kingdom** - 1000 Years

**Means of Salvation** - Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Scripture** - the person of Christ – Isaiah 11:9 *"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."*

### **MAJOR JUDGEMENTS**

**THE BAPTISM OF FIRE** occurs prior to the start of the Millennium Matthew 25:41-46. *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."*

**THE LAST JUDGEMENT** occurs at the end of the Millennium Revelation 20:11-15. *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

### **OTHER CHARACTERISTICS**

**A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH** will occur after the Last Judgment 2 Peter 3:7-13. *"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."*

**DEATH EXTREMELY RARE** in the Millennium. Extended life span. Isaiah 65:20. *"There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed."* From this verse it is clear that people born at the start of the Millennium will live longer than Methuselah! .

**THE LAW** - no Law, Jesus Christ has fulfilled the law. Matthew 5:17. *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."*

**MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** - universal indwelling of the believer. Joel 2:28-29. *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."*

**THE ENVIRONMENT** – will be perfect Isaiah 11:1-9. “ 1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den .9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

**SATAN - CHAINED IN THE ABYSS** until the end of the Millennium Revelation 20:1-3. “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

The release of Satan in Revelation 20:7-9 allows the testing of the unbelievers at the end of the Millennium to rebel against God and be killed and for Satan to be cast permanently into the Lake of Fire.

**SPIRITUALITY** - filling of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28,29 – see above)

**NO HUMAN RELIGION** - Satan bound - no influence on the earth. Isaiah 2:3, “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”

**ISRAEL –RESTORED** - Isaiah 35:3-10. “Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. 4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. 8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. 9 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

**UNIVERSAL PEACE** Psalm 46:9, “He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Hosea 2:18, 18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.”

Micah 4:3. “And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

**HUMAN REBELLION** – Sadly unbelievers at the end of the Millennial Age. Revelation 20:7-9. “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed

*the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."*

**PERFECT GOVERNMENT** with Christ as King - Isaiah 11:1-5 see above and Zechariah 14:9. "*And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*"

**UNIVERSAL PROSPERITY** Psalm 72:7. "*In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.*"

**UPLIFTING OF THE UNDER PRIVILEGED** Psalm 72:2-4,12-14. "*He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. 3 The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. 4 He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. 12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. 13 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. 14 He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.*"

**UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.** Isaiah 11:9 – see above

**RADICAL CHANGES IN NATURE** - restored to perfection as in the Garden of Eden

**CREATION LOOSENED FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.** Romans 8:19-22. "*For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*"

**SIN HAS NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON NATURE** (Genesis 3:17-18 cf Isaiah 35:1-2,7). "*1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. 2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.*"

**ANIMALS WILL LOSE THEIR FEROCITY** Isaiah 11:6-8, 65:25. "*The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*"

## COMMENTS

There can be no man-made Millennium since there can be no Kingdom without the King. The Bible knows nothing of a hope for the world apart from the coming of the Lord.

## REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY

Replacement theology is the view that the international Church has superseded for all times national Israel as the institution for the administration of divine blessing to the world. This means that they consider the Church is the new or true Israel that has permanently replaced or superseded Israel as the people of God.

Replacement theology has been the fuel that has energized Mediaeval anti-Semitism, Eastern European pogroms, the Holocaust and contemporary disdain for the modern state of Israel. It may also influence how one views the modern state of Israel and events in the Middle East. Wherever replacement theology has flourished it has been bad news for the Jewish people.

We believe that the church is the current instrument through which God is working in this age, but God has a future time in which He will spiritually revive national Israel for around seven years as the institution for the administration of divine blessing to the world.

### **THE IMPACT OF REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY**

The doctrine of replacement theology reflects a wide range of Christian thinking, from aggressive anti-Jewish hatred to simple misunderstanding and misapplication of biblical texts. Since Israel is a subject found on just about every page of the Old and New Testaments, to get that subject wrong can only lead to a massive distortion of Scripture. This has indeed been the case throughout the history of the church.

Paul says in *Romans 11:7-8*, "*But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.*"

Yet, this view of most during the church age has been an attitude of arrogance toward God's wayward, chosen people-Israel in the form of anti-Semitism. Such an attitude of arrogance has led to a distortion of so many biblical teachings.

The church often allegorizes many portions of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, in order to teach that since the time of Christ Israel has no claim to the land of Israel. However while the church is said to be a partaker in Israel's promises in the New Testament, nowhere is she said to take over Israel's promises.

The church often allegorizes many portions of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, in order to teach that since the time of Christ Israel has no claim to the land of Israel. However while the church is said to be a partaker in Israel's promises in the New Testament, nowhere is she said to be a taker over of Israel's promises.

### **PRINCIPLES**

It is said that replacement theology is bad news for both the Church and Israel as it fails to see how the Bible distinguishes between God's plan for Israel and His plan for the Church. Replacement theology also requires the spiritualising of large sections of the Bible rather than taking the Bible simply as the literal viewpoint allows.

Strangely most of Christendom views the gospels, fulfilled prophecy of the First Advent and most of the Bible literally but look at future prophecy as an allegory.

A number of books of the Bible such as Daniel, Zechariah and Revelation are considered in large measure allegorical rather than literal. This causes prophecies of the future to be ignored as well as a trend towards denying the Millennium as a physical 1000 year reign of Christ as the King of the Jews from Jerusalem.

In many cases the Church believes that by human achievement they will succeed where Israel failed and fail to discern that in the end the Church will fail.

The unscriptural notion that God has permanently cast off His people Israel and simply replaced it by the Christian Church is denied in the three chapters by Paul [Romans 9-11] which emphatically forbid us to speak of the Church as having once and for all taken the place of the Jewish people. Yet, today, even some evangelicals, are attempting to develop new reasons to replace Israel with the church.

### **CONCEPTS OF THE MILLENNIUM IN CHURCH HISTORY**

Those who reject the idea of an earthly kingdom as being a false hope, exult in the fact that Augustine is supposed to have laid to rest "the ghost of pre-millenarianism." However the so-called "ghost" has appeared rather convincingly from time to time and is enjoying a renaissance in the light of the development of post war events relating to Bible Prophecy. Also be very careful of Augustine's theology as the "fruit" of his life and his views does not endure scrutiny.

## EARLY ESCHATOLOGY

The early church during the 300 years up to the time of Constantine treated Eschatology as Pre Millennial. The writings of the early Church Fathers from the second and third centuries indicate that the predominant view held by the Church during that period of time was that there would be a literal kingdom of 1000 years over which Christ would reign after His second coming.

In his History of the Christian Church Schaff stated: "The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age [before 325 AD] is the prominence of Chiliasm, the belief of a visible reign of Christ on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years. It was indeed a widely current opinion of distinguished teachers such as Barnabas, Papias, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Methodius and Lactantius".

Replacement theology received great impetus in an early political-ecclesiastical alliance forged between Eusebius Pamphilius and the Emperor Constantine. Constantine, regarding himself as God's representative in his role as emperor, gathered all the bishops together on the day of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his reign, an event which he saw as the foreshadowing of the future Messianic banquet. The results of that meeting, in Eusebius' mind, made it unnecessary to distinguish any longer between the Church and the Empire, for they appeared to merge into one fulfilled kingdom of God on earth in the present time.

This viewpoint was built upon by Augustine of Hippo's work "The City of God" which was written around 410 AD after the sack of Rome that created a challenge to existing theology. Such a move in viewpoint thus removed the role and the significance of the Jewish people in any future kingdom considerations. By this time the Church had become overwhelmingly Gentile reinforcing their belief that the Jews have no role in future events.

The theological conclusions drawn by key church leaders in this time period is a salutary reminder that we must be very careful of interpreting scripture through our observations about our time.

## ALLEGORICAL METHOD

The allegorical method began in the Alexandrian School of Clement and Origen. They were heavily influenced by Philo (BC20-50AD), an Alexandrian Jew who used allegory to interpret the Old Testament. The Alexandrians employed allegory as their principle method of interpreting both the Old and New Testaments; they sought to understand Scripture by imagining what God would want to communicate. According to David A Hubbard, Origen devoted his monumental talent to allegorising the OT, and "where the literal sense seemed absurd, unworthy, or immoral, he virtually disowned it in favour of the spiritual." Origen thought the book of Revelation one big allegory and most Amillennial teachers follow this approach.

Generally, the apostolic and early church fathers favoured the literal approach to interpretation until the fifth century, when Augustine developed a complete eschatology based on allegorising Scripture. This unfortunately led to the doctrine of replacement theology, whereby the Church replaces Israel, the Church is spiritual Israel.

The allegorical approach then spread through the Western church in the Middle Ages, and for almost a thousand years much of the literal and historical meaning of Bible passages was obscured with mystical interpretations. Allegorists always had their critics, and there were those who were openly opposed, but it wasn't until the reformation (sixteenth century) that this method of interpretation was seriously challenged.

## THE LEGACY OF AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

It is of interest that Augustine had not always held to the a-millennial position. He once held the pre-millennial position view that Christ would return to establish a literal kingdom for a thousand years.

It was the sacking of Rome by the Goths that caused him to adopt an A-millennial position and interpret the Millennium as a "spiritual" kingdom established in the Catholic Church. He illustrates the danger of coming to the scriptures with a complete theology that allows for no revision or review in light of scriptural truth.

The year was 410 AD. It was some 620 years from the time of Hannibal and the empire had seen no invaders outside Rome. Alaric the Visigoth besieged the city. The sack of Rome sent a shock wave through the entire world. Why had it happened, said Augustine. Was the end of the world at hand? In the light of this Augustine wrote his biggest and most influential book, "The City of God".

Sadly, in his mind the Roman Church was the fulfillment of all of God's Plan, and outside of it he could conceive of no salvation or even purpose in the Plan of God for mankind. He did not allow Daniel and Revelation to interpret events, rather he ignored biblical prophecy, having wrongly concluded that all must be concluded in the Roman Church.

## THE REFORMERS

The reformers such as Luther and Calvin correctly interpreted the major doctrines regarding salvation but neither reviewed Augustine's legacy regarding prophetic truth, thus A-Millennialism continued for another 200 years unchallenged within mainline churches. Given world events and priorities at the time a strong prophetic viewpoint was unnecessary – although men like Sir Isaac Newton saw it and spoke of it.

Those who referred back to the Millennial prophetic words in the scripture sadly were cultic groups like the Munster Commune and other extreme Anabaptist groups, and so the ancient position of the Early Church was mocked by its reformation adherents. Their "fruit" was way worse than Augustine's had been in spiritual powerlessness, and in addition they went into satanic craziness.

## THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

After some 1300 years of basically A-Millennial teaching from the Church of Rome and the Reformation the "ghost" was resuscitated/rediscovered by the Moravians in the Evangelical Era from the 1700s to the beginning of the last century. Serious students of prophetic truth begin to re-read Daniel and ask where they were in the prophetic scheme that the Lord revealed to that great prophet. There is a growing sense that Daniel and John in Revelation provide the prophetic "bookends" for understanding our place in history. After centuries where learning had stagnated and fossilized into the study of the ancients, suddenly new discoveries are made and written up every year. World travel begins and exploration opens up the entire globe. Wise people opened Daniel and read his words in Daniel 12:4-10, and saw the obvious conclusion – God's prophetic words are still relevant and the greatest events may still be to come.

## ADVANCES SINCE THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL

Review of eschatology has also become very much more intense since the unexpected return of Israel to the Land which a few had believed prior to this time as it was Biblical. The literal fulfillments of numerous Biblical prophecies regarding the Nation Israel are now seen to be increasingly viable, with an associated expectance of the return, the Second Advent of Christ.

In view of this literal fulfilment of prophecies the relevance of a literal Millennium is now back in focus seeing that the concept of the world being converted to Christianity by the Church as advocated by the A-millennial group is seen as increasingly impossible due to the demise of spiritual power within Western Christianity.

## CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH BRINGING IN THE MILLENNIUM

Whilst the Church over the years has made tremendous efforts in global evangelism over the years they will not succeed in reaching all. This lack of success is seen in the fact that God has to take up the slack of the universal preaching of the gospel. Revelation 14:6-7. *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."*

## COMMENT

The bringing in of the Kingdom is therefore seen as a complete impossibility as man is imperfect and is totally unable to complete the Plan of God and the details of it in his own strength.

Man can do works of lasting spiritual good which will be rewarded but 144,000 selected and sealed Jewish evangelists let alone a fragmented and often confused church cannot do the work.

In the end it will be the return of the Lord Jesus Christ himself at a time of great crisis who will bring in total victory over evil. Matthew 24:21-22. *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”*

This is after the mighty angel gives proclaims to the whole world the Gospel in Revelation 14:6-7. *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”*

## **CONCLUSION**

### **APPENDIX A – 66 ARGUMENTS FOR PRE-TRIBULATIONAL REMOVAL OF THE CHURCH**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

The term pre-tribulation indicates that the removal of the Church takes place prior to the Tribulation

The term mid –tribulation indicates the removal of the Church occurring half way through the Tribulation

The term post – tribulation indicates the removal of the Church at the end of the Tribulation

The term rapture or translation is used for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church

The term second coming refers to His coming to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

#### **ARGUMENTS**

##### **A - Historical**

1. While post-tribulation appeared as early as we see in the Thessalonian church, 2 Thessalonians 2 many in the early church believed in the imminent return of the Lord which is the essential doctrine of the pre - tribulation position.
2. The detailed development of the pre tribulation position in the last two centuries does not prove that the doctrine is new or novel. Its development is similar to that of other major doctrines in the history of the church which were revived after many years of obscurity. We should expect this truth to emerge to prominence only in the last years of the church.

##### **B – Text Interpretation**

3. Pre tribulation is the only view that allows literal interpretation of all Old and New Testament passages on the Great Tribulation.
4. Pre tribulation clearly distinguishes between Israel and the church and their respective programmes in the plan of God. This is shown in the doctrine of kenosis.

##### **C – The Nature of the Tribulation**

5. Pre tribulation maintains the scriptural distinction between the Great Tribulation and problems for believers in general in the ages that precede it.
6. The Great Tribulation is properly interpreted by pre tribulation as a time of preparation for Israel’s restoration Deuteronomy 4:29-30, Jeremiah 30:4-11. There are two worldwide returns of Israel to the Land, firstly in general unbelief in the Messiah.

Due to events in the Great Tribulation there is a massive conversion of Israel to believe in Jesus Christ as their Messiah which is followed by a second worldwide return.

In contrast, the church, which is the virgin bride of Christ, does not require the Tribulation to prepare the church for glory. The church going through the tribulation would reflect very poorly on the bridegroom who told her not to worry and that He would return for her.

7. None of the Old Testament passages on the Tribulation imply any mention of the church. Deuteronomy 4:29-30, Jeremiah 30:4-11, Daniel 8:24-27, 12:1-2.
8. None of the New Testament passages on the Tribulation mention the church. Matthew 13:30, 39-42, 48-50, 24:15-31, Thessalonians 1:9-10, 5:4-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11, Revelation chapters 4 to 18.
9. Pre tribulation provides an adequate explanation that the removal of the church occurs before the Great Tribulation of Revelation 6.

In fact it is seen in heaven in Revelation chapters 4 and 5 with the opening of chapter 4 beginning "After these things" i.e. After the Church Age. Mid tribulation however refutes the plain teaching of Scripture that the Great Tribulation begins long before the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11. We believe they have picked the wrong trumpet.

10. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians advised that the translation would occur at the last trumpet which is the technical term for the last trumpet call of the Feast of Trumpets. The Corinthians would know about the Feasts of Israel and probably would be aware that three of the previous feasts had been fulfilled to the very day by our Lord Jesus Christ at the First Advent as he died at Passover as the Lamb of God and rose on First fruits and had predicted the commencement of the church on the next feast Pentecost.  
  
The sequence would therefore logically continue to the next feast Trumpets. The Corinthians would have no knowledge of the last trumpet judgment in Revelation 11 as the Apostle John would not write that book for around another 40 years.
11. The unity of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week is maintained by pre – tribulation whereas both mid and post tribulation destroy that unity and confuse Israel's programme with that of the church.

#### **D – The Nature of the Church**

12. The translation of the church is never mentioned in any passage dealing with the second coming of Christ after the Tribulation.
13. The church is not appointed to wrath Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 5:9. The church therefore cannot enter "the great day of their wrath" Revelation 6:17.
14. The church will not be overtaken by the Day of the Lord 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9 which includes the Tribulation.
15. The possibility of a believer escaping the Tribulation is mentioned in Luke 21:36.
16. The church of Philadelphia was promised deliverance from "the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. Revelation 3:10.
17. God delivers believers before a divine judgment is inflicted as illustrated by the deliverance of Noah, Lot, Rahab and others. 2 Peter 2:5-9.
18. At the time of the translation of the church all believers go to heaven for their evaluation at the judgment seat of Christ 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and return to the earth seven years later.

19. Pre tribulation does not divide the body of Christ at the rapture on the basis of works. The teaching of a partial rapture is based on the false doctrine that the translation of the church is a reward for good works. It is in fact the climax of salvation by grace of the entire body of Christ.
20. The Scriptures clearly teach that all, not part of the church will be removed at the coming of Christ for His church. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:17.
21. As opposed to a view of a partial rapture pre tribulation is founded on the definite teaching of Scripture that the death of Christ frees us from all condemnation Romans 8:1-2.
22. The godly remnant of the Tribulation are pictured as Israelites in Revelation 7, not members of the church as maintained by post tribulation.
23. The pre tribulation view, unlike the post tribulation does not confuse general terms like "elect" and "saints" which apply to the saved of all ages with specific terms like "church" and "in Christ" which refer to believers in this age.

#### **E – The Doctrine of Imminent Return of Christ**

24. The pre tribulation interpretation teaches that the coming of Christ is actually imminent thus requiring no prophecy to be fulfilled before He returns for His church.
25. The exhortation to be comforted by the coming of the Lord in 1 Thessalonians 4:18 is very significant in the pre tribulation view and is contradicted by most post tribulation teaching. It would be cold comfort to suffer this if the Church is subject to Divine judgments.
26. The exhortation to look for "the glorious appearing" of Christ to his own, Titus 2:13, loses its significance if the Tribulation must intervene first. Believers in that case should look for signs.
27. The exhortation to purify ourselves in view of the Lord's return has most significance if His coming is imminent. 1 John 3:2-3
28. The church is uniformly exhorted to look for the coming of the Lord, while believers in the Tribulation are directed to look for signs, reverting back to the Age of Israel format.

#### **F – The Work of the Holy Spirit**

29. The Holy Spirit as the restrainer of evil cannot be taken out of the world unless all the church age believers, which the Spirit individually indwells, is translated at the same time. The Tribulation cannot start until the restraint is lifted. The hindrance of Holy Spirit filled believers is lifted in a second when all leave, and only over time do believers emerge again and the Holy Spirit can empower them as he did for Israel. The Holy Spirit operates then in His role as it was in the Age of Israel.
30. The Holy Spirit as the total restrainer (1 John 4:4) must be taken out of the world before the "lawless one", who dominates the Tribulation period, can be revealed. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8
31. If the expression "except there come a falling away first" in the King James Version is translated literally "except the departure come first" it would plainly show the necessity of the Rapture taking place before the beginning of the Tribulation.

#### **G – The Necessity of an Interval between the Rapture and the Second Coming**

32. According to 2 Corinthians 5:10 all believers in this age must appear before the judgment seat of Christ in heaven, an event never mentioned in the detailed accounts associated with the Second Coming of Christ to the earth.
33. If the twenty four elders of Revelation chapters 4 and 5 are representative of the church as many expositors believe, it would necessitate the rapture and rewards of the church before the Tribulation. It is noted that the elders represent royal priests which are a characteristic of all church age priests.

34. The coming of Christ for His bride [the church] must take place before the Second Coming to the earth for the wedding feast Revelation 19:7-10.
35. Tribulational saints who survive the Tribulation are not translated at the second coming of Christ but carry on ordinary occupations such as farming and building houses and will have children on earth. Isaiah 65:20-25. This would be impossible if all the saints are translated at the Second Advent as is the post tribulation view.
36. The judgment of the Gentiles followed by the Second Coming, Matthew 25:31-46, indicates that both saved and unsaved are still in their natural bodies. This would be impossible if the translation had taken place at the Second Coming.
37. If the translation took place in connection with the Second Coming to the earth, there would be no need of separating the sheep from the goats at a subsequent judgment as the separation would have taken place in the very act of the translation of the believers before Christ actually sets up His throne on earth. Matthew 25:31
38. The judgment of Israel, Ezekiel 20:34-38 which occurs subsequent to the Second Coming indicates the necessity of regathering Israel. The separation of the saved from the unsaved in this judgment obviously takes place sometime after the Second Coming and would be unnecessary if the saved had previously been separated from the unsaved at translation.

#### **H – Contrasts between the Rapture and the Second Coming.**

39. At the time of the Rapture the saints meet Christ in the air, while at the Second Coming Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the saints on the earth.
40. At the time of the Rapture the Mount of Olives is unchanged while at the Second Coming it divides and a valley is formed to the east of Jerusalem Zechariah 14:4-5.
41. At the Rapture living saints are translated while no saints are translated in connection with the second coming of Christ to the earth.
42. At the Rapture the saints are translated to heaven while unbelievers stay on earth while at the Second Coming the saints remain on earth without translation and it is the unbelievers that are removed.
43. At the time of the Rapture the world is not judged and continues in sin while at the Second Coming the world is judged and righteousness is established on the earth. Daniel 9:24
44. The translation of the church is pictured as deliverance before the day of wrath, while the Second Coming is followed by the deliverance of those who have believed in Christ during the Tribulation.
45. The Rapture is described as imminent while the Second Coming is preceded by numerous definite signs.
46. The translation of a group of living believers is a truth revealed only in the New Testament while the Second Coming with its attendant events is a prominent doctrine of both Testaments.
47. The Rapture concerns only the saved while the Second Coming deals with both saved and unsaved.
48. At the Rapture Satan is not bound while at the Second Coming Satan is bound and cast into the abyss.
49. No unfulfilled prophecy stands between the church and the Rapture while many prophecies and signs must be fulfilled before the Second Coming.
50. No passage dealing with the resurrection of the saints at the Second Coming ever mentions translation of living saints at the same time.

**I – Biblical Pictures from Here to Eternity**

51. The Book of the Revelation shows in sequence the person of Christ [chapter 1], the Church on Earth [chapters 2-3], the Church in Heaven [chapters 4-5], the Tribulation [chapters 6-18], the Second Coming [chapter 19], The Millennial Reign [chapter 20] and Eternity Future [chapters 21-22].
52. The split in Daniel's 70 weeks into three portions, firstly 7 weeks of years involving the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem followed immediately by 62 weeks of years ending with the death of Jesus Christ making 69 weeks of years. The remaining one week of 7 years is still unfulfilled and ends with the setting up of the Millennial Kingdom at the end of the Tribulation. The gap in between is the present age which terminates before the Tribulation.
53. The Feasts of Israel have a harvest time between the Feast of Pentecost, the day on which the Church started and the Feast of Trumpets when Israel returns as the witness to God's plan.
54. The Jewish wedding ceremony where having paid the dowry for the bride the bridegroom returns to His Father's house [heaven] to prepare a place for his bride [the church]. In the future He returns to his bride's home [the earth] and takes her to the prepared place [heaven] for the dressing of the bride and the wedding ceremony.
55. The lack of the words "what the Spirit says to the churches" that are found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 compared with Revelation 13:9 which says, "If anyone has an ear let him hear" indicating no mention of the Church. Quite different to the first three chapters where the Church is directly mentioned.

**J – The Church and Israel Contrasted**

56. The Church is different from Israel and God deals with both groups separately.
57. The Hebrews started with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).  
The Church started at Pentecost. (Acts 2; Galatians 3:26-28)
58. Israel was promised blessings on earth. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)  
The Church is promised blessings in heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3; Hebrews 3:1)
59. Israel's relationship to God was based on a Covenant. (Genesis 17:7,8)  
The Church's relationship to God is based on new birth. (John 1:12;13; 1 Peter 1:23)
60. Israel's prophecy is mainly in the Old Testament.  
Prophecy of the Church is only in the New Testament.
61. Israel worshipped at Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:1-4)  
The Church worships where ever two or three are gathered together in Christ's name. (Matthew 18:20)
62. Israel lived under the Mosaic Law. (Ezekiel 20:10-12)  
The Church is under grace (John 1:17; Romans 6:14).
63. Israel's destiny is with Palestine. (Isaiah 60:18-21)  
The Church will be removed from the earth. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 21-22)
64. Christ is King and Messiah to Israel.  
Christ is Head and Bridegroom to the Church.
65. Israel in the Scriptures involve Jews only.  
The Church is made up of both Jews and Gentiles.
66. Israel was the wife of Jehovah (Deuteronomy 5:1-3) but committed adultery (Jeremiah 3:1), was in separation (Isaiah 50:1) and eventually divorced (Jeremiah 3:6-10). The church is the virgin bride of Christ. After the removal of the church there is a great repentance of Israel and the remarriage with Jehovah. (Jeremiah 31:31-34). That Israel is not finished is also seen in (Zechariah 12:7-9)