

Israel's Messenger

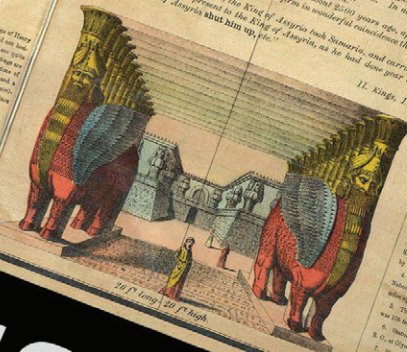
A Ministry of Jewish Awareness Ministries

Publishing Salvation to Zion

Isaiah 52:7



HISTORY IS HIS STORY



- The 7 Wonders of the World.**
1. The Pyramids of Egypt, the largest by Cheops about 1100 B.C. (The Great Pyramid is over 1000 years old.)
 2. The Temple of Artemis, in Constantinople, (or Ephesus) about 600 B.C. (The Temple was destroyed by fire in 356 A.D.)
 3. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, (in Chaldea) about 600 B.C. (The gardens were built by Nebuchadnezzar II for his wife, the Assyrian Queen Semiramis.)
 4. The Colossus of Rhodes, (in Rhodes) about 280 B.C. (The Colossus was a statue of the sun god Helios, and was one of the tallest statues in the world.)
 5. The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, (in Caria) about 350 B.C. (The Mausoleum was a tomb for the satrap Hecatomnus of Caria, and was one of the most magnificent structures in the world.)
 6. The Lighthouse of Alexandria, (in Alexandria) about 280 B.C. (The Lighthouse was one of the tallest structures in the world, and was one of the most important structures in the world.)
 7. The Great Wall of China, (in China) about 200 B.C. (The Great Wall was a series of walls and fortifications built by the Chinese, and was one of the most important structures in the world.)



MAP OF THE WORLD BY PTOLEMY.
 This map of the world, as known to the ancients, is from Ptolemy's Geography, and is one of the most important maps in the world. It shows the known world of the Roman Empire, and is a valuable historical document.



ANNO DOMINI.
 (JESUS CHRISTUS REX JUDAEORUM)
 This illustration shows the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, a central event in Christian history. The scene is set in Jerusalem, and the crucifixion is flanked by two other figures.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLAN OF THE CHART.
 This section provides a detailed explanation of the historical chart, including the names of the various events and figures depicted.



THE BULL OF PHALGOS.
 This illustration shows the Bull of Phalgos, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The bull was a massive creature, and its horns were made of gold.



THE TOWER OF BABEL.
 This illustration shows the Tower of Babel, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The tower was a massive structure, and its construction was a testament to human ingenuity.



THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON.
 This illustration shows the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The gardens were a series of terraces, and they were one of the most beautiful structures in the world.



THE COLOSSEUM.
 This illustration shows the Colosseum, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Colosseum was a massive amphitheater, and it was one of the most important structures in the world.



THE MAUSOLEUM AT HALICARNASSUS.
 This illustration shows the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Mausoleum was a tomb for the satrap Hecatomnus of Caria, and it was one of the most magnificent structures in the world.



THE LIGHTHOUSE OF ALEXANDRIA.
 This illustration shows the Lighthouse of Alexandria, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Lighthouse was one of the tallest structures in the world, and it was one of the most important structures in the world.



THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.
 This illustration shows the Great Wall of China, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Great Wall was a series of walls and fortifications built by the Chinese, and it was one of the most important structures in the world.

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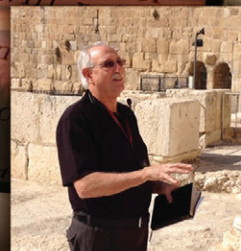
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How Were People Saved in the Tenach?



We are producing these on-line video classes presently. Look for the School of Biblical and Jewish Studies (SBJS) to be available soon. Visit JewishAwareness.org/SBJS for more information.

CONTENTS Israel's Messenger

ISRAEL'S MESSENGER SUMMER 2018



» P.5



» P.10



» P.19



» P.14

5 HISTORY IS HIS STORY

Mark Robinson

10 THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

Dan Bergman

14 THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES

Ken Symes

REGULAR FEATURES

4 FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Mark Robinson

8 SOWING THE SEED... REAPING THE HARVEST

Ken Overby

19 SHADOWS OF THE TRIBULATION

Dan Bergman

MISSION STATEMENT

Israel's Messenger is a quarterly publication of Jewish Awareness Ministries, a Christian ministry proclaiming the Messiah to Jew and Gentile, preaching the Word of God, and praying for Israel.

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Mark Robinson

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Dan Bergman



CORRECTION FROM OUR LAST ISSUE: In the Spring, 2018 issue, page 11, we erroneously stated about Masada that: "It was here in 135 A.D. that it became the last stand for a group of Jewish rebels who chose suicide rather than become slaves of Rome." 135 A.D. was the end of the 2nd Jewish Revolt, also known as the Bar Kochba revolt or war. The end of the revolt at Masada took place in 73-74 A.D.

"History is His Story" is not just a quaint phrase, but a reality that will never be grasped by the secularist/evolutionist. The Bible is His book, and the only source for understanding history – past, present, and future. The cover was put together with a portion of the timeline of history as the background to communicate that God is the author of history. History IS His story.



FROM THE *Director's Desk*

REV. MARK ROBINSON

Shalom in the Messiah!

What in the world is happening?

I remember studying history in my formative school years in secular educational institutions. I learned about world history, European history, United States history, and events such as the civil war, the world wars, and other milestone events. I learned about communism, socialism, democracy, dictatorships. Fact after fact was taught, and required to be remembered, if I wanted to do well on tests

and get a good grade. Yet, I never heard about any integrating factor(s) that brought purpose – rhyme and reason – to the events I was taught. Many years later, after years of studying the Bible, I am well aware that a secular educational institution is in no way capable of explaining the purpose of history. It is impossible without understanding the God of history.

This issue of *Israel's Messenger* will give you a biblical perspective on history. It will not interpret every event, but it will give you the biblical framework of history. It will give you the beginning and the end of history. It will supply you with the knowledge of what God is doing in history. You see, history is His Story. I have written an article with that very title, "History is His Story." I believe there is a "broad" view of understanding history and a "narrow" view of understanding history. I trust your understanding of the word of God and history's purpose crystallize in your heart and mind after reading my article.

Ken Symes has contributed an article on the "Fullness of the Gentiles." Ken's article gives insight into this teaching that is different than almost all takes on what the "Fullness of the Gentiles" is all about. I believe both biblically and contextually, Ken has the correct understanding. This article deals with a span of history as well and I highly recommend you read and consider his understanding.

Dan Bergman has written on the "Times of the Gentiles." This period is different than the "Fullness of the Gentiles" but also covers a span of history and what God is doing.

After reading Dan's article, as well as mine and Ken Symes, you should have a good overview on what God is doing in our world.

Ken Overby shares in the column "Sowing the Seed... Reaping the Harvest" about an ongoing opportunity he has with Ron, a Jewish employee at a Jewish deli. Jewish evangelism takes time. Ken's patient visits with Ron are a challenge to all of us to invest our lives in people so, Lord willing, they might come to the Lord at some time.

Our Journey to Jerusalem tour this year is from October 16 to October 26. We have spots available. Our tour is one of the most reasonably priced tours you will find when you compare all facets – quality of hotels, sites visited, leaving from your domestic city, all expenses except some lunches and personal items covered, etc. Join us. Call us to reserve your spot with a \$500 deposit.

We are on track to have our new ministry, our on-line "School of Biblical and Jewish Studies" (SBJS) by the end of the summer. You can go to our website, scroll down to the SBJS page and you can view an introductory video of the school to learn more about it.

Our on-line evangelistic radio station is up and running. You can go to www.ShalomShalom.radio to listen.

You can download an app to your phone or tablet from this website as well. We have business cards we will send you at no charge if you would like some to hand out to people. Contact us about getting some of these cards. The radio station went on-line at the end of 2017. We have done virtually no advertising for the station and yet have had over 400 listeners from 32 countries. When we have over 100 hours of recorded broadcasts we will start advertising the station in different venues.

In Messiah,

Mark Robinson





HISTORY IS HIS STORY

REV. MARK ROBINSON

“History is His Story” has been an oft-used phrase. For the Bible believing Christian with almost any knowledge of the Bible, there is an instantaneous acknowledgement of this truth. For the humanist, and this would include the secular humanist as well as the religious advocate of humanism, the phrase is a quaint play on words but has no basis in reality. The Humanist Manifesto of 2003 stated:

“Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.”¹

Removing God from history leaves one unable to understand the purpose and direction of this world. The events of history become facts without a cohesive explanation. Interpretation will become skewed, understanding impossible, and events just a random interplay of culture. The only hope for a humanist is man.

David Noebel captures the futility of humanism providing a cohesive understanding of history:

“By dethroning God, however, the Humanist removes the most reliable guide for history and must grant this power to some other force. To be consistent with his philosophy, the Humanist should grant it to the environment – but

this creates inescapable problems, and therefore the Humanist falls back upon man as guide. More accurately, Humanists declare man’s dominant emerging ideology to be the real dynamic force in history, and the elite few who embrace it the proper lords of the path to the future. Naturally, Humanists believe the dominant ideology of today is Secular Humanism. Thus, man working within a Humanistic framework becomes the savior of the world.”²

History is God’s story. There is a beginning and an end. The events between these two points take on meaning in light of God’s plan. Herbert Schlossberg put it this way:

“The biblical view is that history had a beginning and will have an end, and that both the beginning and the end are in God’s hands. Therefore, what comes between them is invested with meaning and purpose.... This biblical understanding of history...says without equivocation that history’s creator is outside of history and gives meaning to it.”³

As we consider History as His (God’s) Story, the Scriptures lay out a “broad” view of the world and where everything is going, and a “narrow” view in how God is going to accomplish His purpose and plan for the world – after all, History IS His Story.

THE “BROAD” VIEW OF HISTORY

Most of us are familiar with the creation of Adam and Eve. The story is unfolded for us in the first chapter of Genesis with details in chapter 2. Into the pristine environment of a large “garden” – this “garden” having 4 rivers running through it, Genesis 2:10-14 – Adam and Eve lived with three realities that God gave them.

First, the first married couple lived under a theocracy. Theocracy is “a form of government that is led by God or by a person or persons who claim to rule by divine authority. The word theocracy is a compound word using *theos* (Greek for “God”) and *-cracy* (“rule, strength or government”).”⁴

Adam and Eve lived under the rule of God. God directly communicated with them and instructed them. There were commands to do and commands, only one, not to do. Adam and Eve lived with God as their ruler, He was their “King.”

The second reality was that they had dominion over all things. After the creation of Adam, Scripture says, “*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*”⁵ God gave the care and rule of earth and its inhabitants to man.

The third reality was that Adam and Eve were given the blessing of living in

a perfect environment. After the creation of everything God stated, *“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”*⁶ There was no sin in their environment. They were perfect, as were the animals. No disease, death, or any of the ravages brought about because of sin. Food was easy to grow and plentiful. We can only imagine the quality and taste of the fruit grown in Eden.

THE WORLD'S LOSS

The pride and rebellion of Satan, mentioned in Isaiah 14:12-17, would manifest itself in the lives of Adam and Eve, and, by extension, all mankind and the world, through the events recorded in Genesis 3. The result of Adam and Eve succumbing to the wiles of the diabolical one would be the loss of the three realities of life in “paradise.”

Theocracy, God ruling over all of man, as small as all of humanity was initially, now evaporated. Satan became the god of this world. Ultimately, when nations came into existence Satan would become the ruler of these kingdoms, Luke 4:5-8.

The dominion over the earth given to Adam and Eve and their posterity was also lost with their sin. The “Dominion Mandate,” where God gave man dominion over everything, is often misunderstood and misapplied by Christians. Darek Isaacs succinctly explains the loss of dominion in his excellent article - “Is there a Dominion Mandate?”⁷

“But, as one can see, our observed lack of dominion over the animal kind is confirming to the biblical narrative. The Bible gives us a history of the relationship between man and animal. In the beginning, man had dominion and harmony with the animal kind and all of nature. Neither man nor animal viewed the other as predator or prey and Adam was given the mantle of being ruler over the Creation. Then, the biblical history explains how that changed due to Adam’s sin. Ultimately, God, Himself, significantly changed the relationship between man and all of creation.

To deny that man’s dominion was lost, is to deny Scripture, the effects of the sinful Fall, and the observed evidence of

man and animal interaction today. The only place the Adamic Dominion can find support is within the pride of man, for evidence of it being extant is absent absolutely everywhere else.”

Presently, “dominion” in this world now belongs to Satan. Sinful man follows the *“prince of the power of the air,”* Ephesians 2:1-3, and is under his dominion.

The third reality of a perfect, pristine living environment was demolished with the sin of our original parents. Hurricanes, tornadoes, drought, pollution, disease, and many other “acts of nature” demonstrate that we live in anything but a perfect environment.

Others have taught these same truths using different terminology. John Schmitt and J. Carl Laney identify these three areas as:

- 1) Redeem humanity (Humanity has fallen into sin)
- 2) Reclaim His kingdom (Because of the fall the world has fallen under Satan’s sway)
- 3) Execute Judgment (The earth and it’s inhabitants have been affected by sin and must be purged)

They comment, “...most of biblical history and theology can be viewed as the outworking of one of these aspects of God’s divine program.”⁸

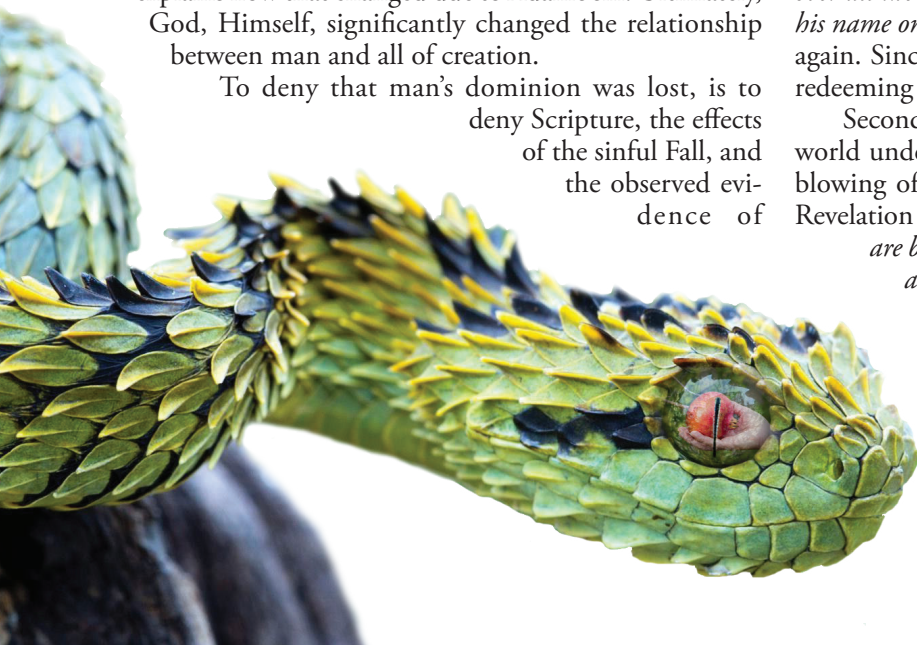
THE WORLD'S GAIN

So, where is history heading? What is God doing through history? It should be obvious. History is leading us to the restoration of the three realities that were lost because of Adam and Eve’s sin.

First, there will be a return to a theocracy over the entire earth. At the end of the seven-year Tribulation period Jesus returns to earth destroying His enemies, Revelation 19, and sets up His kingdom in Jerusalem, Isaiah 2:2-5. Zechariah 14:9 tells us that at that time, *“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”* One day God will rule over the entire earth again. Since the loss of theocracy in Eden, God has been redeeming people for His kingdom.

Second, the lost dominion of man, with man and his world under the rule of Satan, will be reversed. With the blowing of the seventh Trumpet judgment by the angel, Revelation 11:15, we are told *“... The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”* This final Trumpet judgment opens the final devastating Bowl judgments recorded in Revelation 16. These final judgments culminate in the return of Jesus to earth to set up His kingdom.

Let me pose a question. If the *“kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our*



Lord, and of his Christ” with the sounding of the seventh Trumpet, who did these kingdoms belong to previously? The answer, clearly, is Satan. That is why he could say to Jesus about the kingdoms of the world, Luke 4:6, “All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.” Satan presently has dominion over the kingdoms of this world and sinful humanity. This will end when Jesus returns.

Finally, the earth is going to be restored to its pre-fall state. Acts 3:20-21 state, “And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” Jesus promised to his followers, Matthew 19:28, “... Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The prophets spoke of the time when the “restitution of all things” will occur. When Jesus sits on the throne in Jerusalem there will be a “regeneration” of all things. Both the prophets and Jesus are referring to when the earth will be restored back to its Edenic state. This is during the kingdom reign of Jesus for 1,000 years, Revelation 20:1-6. Passages such as Isaiah 11 and 65:15-25, and Micah 2 are a few of the many scriptures that give us information on the coming kingdom and the reverse of the curse of Genesis 3.

This is the “broad” view of history, when it began and where it is heading. All the events of history, some events having a greater impact than others, are moving us towards God’s restoration of the 3 lost realities that belonged to man in the beginning.

THE “NARROW” VIEW OF HISTORY

God also provides us a “narrow” view of history. The “narrow” view enables us to have a sharper view of what God is doing in the affairs of men throughout history. The “narrow” view centers in one people group and nation. The people are the Jewish people and the nation is Israel. Starting from Genesis 12 to the end of Revelation 22, about 80—85% of Scripture is God’s dealing with Israel and the Jewish people. Consider just a few of the comments God

says about Israel and the Jewish people starting with blessing those who bless them (Israel and Jewish people).

1. “I will bless them that bless thee” – Genesis 12:3
2. “For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth” – Deuteronomy 7:6
3. “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep” – Psalm 121:4
4. “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee” – Psalm 122:6
5. “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me” – Isaiah 49:16
6. “And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God” – Jeremiah 30:22
7. “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” – Jeremiah 31:3
8. “For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye” – Zechariah 2:8
9. “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” – Malachi 3:6
10. “What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God” – Romans 3:1-2
11. “Salvation is of the Jews” – John 4:22
12. “As touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers sakes” – Romans 11:28

God called Abram to leave the area of modern day Iraq, Genesis 11, and go to “a land that I will shew thee.” This command, and ultimately promise, became one of the three foundational promises of God recorded in Genesis 12:1-3. In these three verses, we have the establishment of the unconditional promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.

There are three basic promises in these first verses of Genesis 12. Verse one is the promise that there will be a special land area set aside for Abraham’s descendants (the Jewish people). That land is the land of Israel. When the LORD speaks of “the holy land” in Zechariah 2:12, He is speaking of the land of Israel. “Holy” is a word that means set apart or unique and has an intrinsically spiritual (religious) connotation. “Holy” is never to be used with a secular item or concept. The land of Israel is unique, and, it shouldn’t be separated from the second promise of the Abrahamic Covenant – the people of the Land.

The second promise is that of verse two where God promises, “I will make of thee a great nation.” The nation is Israel. The people of that nation are the Jewish people. As the Scripture unfolds, we see the promise of a great nation continued through Isaac, Jacob and the 12 sons (tribes) that came from the loins of Jacob. Ultimately, we see the promised Messiah of Israel, from the tribe of Judah – Genesis

Continued on page 18.

A close-up photograph of a hand sowing seeds into dark, rich soil. The seeds are arranged in a diagonal line from the top right towards the center. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the soil and the skin of the hand.

*Sowing
the Seed...*

*Reaping
the Harvest*

BY KEN OVERBY

WE EMBRACED IN THE RESTAURANT LOBBY AS OLD FRIENDS.

We picked up where we had left off in spite of the months since we last met. I first became intrigued with him over two years ago in the Jewish Deli where he worked. I had noticed him for several reasons. He was the quintessential store clerk, harried by the complaints of the incessant demands of shoppers wanting this and asking why he didn't still have that. With both my hands gripping the best Pastrami on Rye since my days at Wolfies in South Beach, Miami, I enjoyed watching this bantering waltz with Sol, the owner of the Mom and Pop mini grocery, over the background music of haggling shoppers and clanking shopping carts. He was kvetching (complaining) under the pressure of the hovering scrutiny of Sol. He was oblivious to the chagrin of on-looking customers. He was not having a good day. On a better day I sat enjoying another piled high NY style sandwich, coleslaw and a half sour pickle. Ron, doubling as a waiter, brought me a Dr. Brown's cream soda and a glass of ice. Our first conversation began as I commented on the shirt that he had worn the first day I saw him, the one with a motorcycle logo. His expression brightened and it was like we were instant brothers when I told him that I too was a motorcycle enthusiast. With no one else in the lunchroom on this late afternoon, I gestured for him to sit and we, like two kids in a flurry, one upped the other's best two wheeled trip stories. The voice of Sol came walking in the cool of the day from the back office and like Adam hearing the "Where art thou?" He dashed away but not before we exchanged numbers and promised to continue the discussion. As simple as that, a common

interest connection began a three-year redemptive relationship.

As time went on, I learned Ron's story. Growing up briefly in Egypt as a boy, his family had experienced national anti-Semitism under the new regime of Abdel Nassar Hussein. His father fled the hatred, with the family abandoning a successful paper business. With only a token of their finances and few belongings, they made their way to start all over again in Boston. His late father was never religious and he recalled that when his mother and sister went to synagogue for Friday night Sabbath services he went with his dad to the weekly poker game with uncles and cousins.

Ron and I had several other lengthy conversations and finally one day as I finished my deliveries of Hanukkah evangelistic gift bags I had one left. Though the deli was all the way across town at rush hour on Friday, I felt strongly impressed to take it to my friend. As I walked in with the gift bag, I realized that they were swamped with pre Sabbath business. I grabbed a bag of chocolate rugelach and quickly got in line to check out. Ron was working the register and I handed him the gift. He thanked me and wouldn't take any money. Two hours later, he called me being overwhelmed at the generosity, thoughtfulness, and especially the timing of my gift. His son Joe, just out of high school, had a serious motorcycle accident a week earlier, but just the day before had amazingly walked out of the hospital with only bruises and scratches. He said he knew God had spared his son and that God had sent me to encourage him. The slow process of redemptive relationships eventually yield golden opportunities in times of crisis. We had lunch a second time away from his work for a change and privacy. He picked me up in his newly restored 67 Corvette Stingray. After a two-hour lunch, with much spiritual discussion, he insisted I get in the driver's seat. If this isn't trust, I don't know what is.

Ron had first moved to Charlotte to live with his widowed mother in her 80's. In an attempt to make up for lost time, she had become super observant with a complete kosher home and religious lifestyle. She is immersed in studies at

the local synagogue and has become quite the Judaic expert among the seniors there. Since we met, his two college aged children, a son and daughter, have followed her influence, visited Israel and recently moved to Jerusalem to study in Yeshivas – Jewish seminaries. Ron is amazed at the situation in which he finds himself. He wasn't raised religious, nor were his kids, yet now he is feeling pressed to be more observant so as not to be the odd man out. He now has a heightened interest in all things spiritual and is full of questions. My love and support for Jewish people and trips to Israel have literally provoked him to jealousy. The Apostle Paul indicated the power that this has with Jewish people.

As we sat with chips and salsa in our fourth lunch and got reacquainted, Ron was so excited to be visiting his kids in Jerusalem for Passover this year. It will be his first trip so he wanted to see pictures from my latest trip. He asked me what I thought about President Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. I told him that I was for it but prayed that the backlash would not cost lives in Jerusalem. I asked what the rabbis thought. He said though they did not like Trump from a political stance, they loved his strong Israel position. They know that God has positioned him to take this historic stand like Cyrus the Persian permitting the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem. Ron said that they knew this was a fulfillment of prophecy as we near the Messiah's coming. On that note, I shared how that an Israeli that I recently met called me a "Notzrim" a gentile messenger/watchman that would announce that the Messiah is soon coming. I showed Ron Jeremiah 31:6-7, that says that Gentiles from the chief of the nations would publish and proclaim the need go to Jerusalem to see the Lord God Messiah. I told him that I believe that Trump was a part of that with his visit to pray at the Western Wall and later, to declare Jerusalem Israel's capital. I told him of how President Putin went to pray at the Western Wall as well and how a religious journalist quoted him saying that Putin was praying for the re-building of the Temple. Ron told me that his rabbi believes that many parents return "to the faith" at the leading of their children was also a sign



Continued on page 13.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

REV. DAN BERGMAN



The disciples likely had a sinking feeling in the pit of their stomachs. The Messiah had just prophesied of the Temple's complete and utter destruction. Things were becoming terribly discouraging. Jesus had already begun to tell them of His coming torturous death at the hands of the Romans.¹ He told them that He would rise from the dead three days after His death, but that thought seems to have been swallowed up in the anxiety and fear that was overcoming the disciples. How would they make it out of this? And the Temple - it would be destroyed? With great dread the disciples enquire of their Master when these things

would happen, and what sign they would have of His coming and of the end of the world.²

In the midst of what is known as Jesus' Olivet Discourse, the Master informs His disciples of some of the events and situations that would precede His return:

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days

of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

- Luke 21:20-24

There is within the above passage an interesting phrase

that we will focus on for the remainder of this article, “*the times of the Gentiles.*”

Jesus said in verse 24 that Jerusalem would be “*trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*” What does this mean?

THE PLACE TRODDEN DOWN

“*Jerusalem shall be trodden down.*”

The times of the Gentiles is not just some nebulous term that deals with a general or broad scenario. It is very specific. Although billions of Gentiles cover every corner of the globe, the words of Jesus bring a sharp focus, like a laser - upon one specific location, the city of Jerusalem. EVERYTHING about the phrase which gives this article its name hinges upon a single, solitary piece of land: Jerusalem. The following has been said regarding the planet’s most important city:

“Jerusalem, by that name alone, is expressly named over eight hundred times in the biblical record, besides its occurrences under various other names. Under one name or another Jerusalem appears in about two-thirds of the books of the Old and almost one-half of the books of the New Testament.”³

THE PERIOD OF TIME INVOLVED

It had been almost 40 years since the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. Life was getting more and more difficult for the Christians in Israel (most of whom were Jewish). The Roman general Vespasian had overcome the Jewish rebels in

the Galilee area. This was 67 A.D. Soon the Roman Emperor Nero would take his own life, and Vespasian would replace him. Vespasian’s eldest son Titus was given the order to overcome all remaining resistance - especially that of Jerusalem. Most of Judea had succumbed to his powerful advances within a single year. Most - but not Jerusalem. It was now 70 A.D. The city was besieged round about. Like a python squeezing the life out of its prey, Titus’ armies slowly, but surely advanced to the Temple Mount itself. The city was utterly devastated. Multitudes were executed. It was said that the streets flowed with blood.⁴ This is the beginning of “*the times of the Gentiles.*”

In the centuries following the siege of 70 A.D., the country would be basically desolate for hundreds of years. After 300 years of Byzantine rule, in 638 the Holy City was placed within Muslim control by Omar Ben Hataf. In 1099, it passed into the hands of the crusaders. It moved from the control of the

Mongols, to the Turks, and then to the British on December 9th, 1917.⁵ That is an amazing story in and of itself, when general Allenby conquered Israel for the British and walked into Jerusalem on foot without a single shot being fired.

On May 14th, 1948 the National Council of Tel-Aviv announced the State of Israel would now be an independent nation among the nations of the world. The very next day, the British relinquished their control over the nation. Soon after, however, war was waged against God’s chosen nation. Arab armies recaptured the old city. It was then taken by Jordan and held until 1967. It was then that the old city was recaptured during the “Six-Day War” by the Israeli army. When this occurred, many Bible students began to believe that the “*times of the Gentiles*” were over!

This, however, was not God’s timing for the fulfillment of the “*times of the Gentiles,*” and Israel’s secular government turned control of the Temple Mount back over to the Muslims. This is the situation Jerusalem finds herself in today. Right now, we are in the “*until*” part of Jesus’ phrase. Ever since the Roman expulsion of the Jews from the Holy City in 70 A.D., Jerusalem has been, and is currently, “*trodden down of the Gentiles.*” To put it plainly, Jerusalem has been under Gentile control from 70 A.D. unto today.

It should also be noted that there are many Bible scholars who believe that the “*times of the Gentiles*” began all the way back in the 6th century B.C. when the Babylonian armies of King Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem. Proponents of this view note the connection with the vision and dream of Daniel chapters 2 and 7, noting that the world powers that began with Babylon will be destroyed at the second coming of Christ. However, there are a few reasons this writer holds to 70 A.D. as the starting point of this time period:

1. The Jews regained full control over the Holy City between 586 B.C., and 70 A.D. This does not line up with the meaning of “*the times of the Gentiles.*”

2. Jesus’ phrase “*Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles*” leads us to believe that He was speaking of a future event that had not yet occurred.

3. There is an undeniable connection between the prophecy in Daniel 9:26 & 27 of Jerusalem’s destruction after the Messiah’s



death, and Titus besieging the city in 70 A.D.

“And after three-score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

The Roman armies are the “people of the prince that shall come,” and the Anti-christ is “the prince that shall come” as seen in verse 27: “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week...”

THE PEOPLE TREADING ON JERUSALEM

“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The above passage is telling us that the non-Jewish peoples of the world will retain some form of control over at least a portion of the Holy City, until “the times of the Gentiles” are complete.

Currently, the Islamic *Waqf* (which is entirely controlled and funded by the Jordanian government) has full control over the Temple mount complex (pictured on page 10). One cannot visit the old city of Jerusalem for very long

without hearing the Muslim call to prayer being sounded 5 times a day from the many minarets in

“To put it plainly, Jerusalem has been under Gentile control from 70 A.D. unto today.”

Jerusalem (there are four surrounding the Temple mount alone). In Islam, the structure of the minaret is not only built for a functional purpose, but is also a symbol of dominance and conquest, as they “...represent a declaration of the supremacy of the Islamic creed. Five times a day the muezzin in deafening noise pollution proclaims that Islam is in power and calls to the infidels to submit to Islam.”⁶

The beginning of the Tribulation period draws closer, and the rapture of the church (which precedes it) is imminent. This 7-year period also known as “Daniel’s 70th week” will begin with the signing of a peace treaty orchestrated by the Anti-christ. We know that the Temple will be standing by the middle of the Tribulation for the Anti-christ to enter in, cause the sacrifices to cease, desecrate it, and claim himself to be God. This **does not** mean that “the times of the Gentiles” would then end with the signing of the peace treaty, the building of the third temple, or with the occurrence of the rapture. The Luke passage at the beginning of this article has been erroneously applied to the timing of the rapture of the church.

The culmination of this time period is not the rapture, but rather the second coming of Jesus.

At the time of the signing of the peace treaty, Jerusalem will be passing control from a group of Gentiles to a

specific Gentile, namely the control of the Anti-christ.

THE PROPHETIC TIME TABLE

Revelation 11:2 will help us to understand more fully how and when “the times of the Gentiles” will be fulfilled:

“...the holy city shall they [the Gentiles] tread under foot forty and two months.”

This is speaking of the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation period. Those 42 prophetic months also constitute 1,260 days, or 3½ years. This is the same 42 months that we read about in Revelation 13:5, which tells us that the Anti-christ has power to continue in his wickedness for 42 months.

When will those 3½ years come to an end? When will the “times of the Gentiles” be over?

When Jesus the Messiah returns to earth at the end of the 7-year Tribulation period. He vanquishes the Anti-christ and the armies that have set themselves against Jerusalem, and sets up His millennial kingdom on this earth. *Then “the times of the Gentiles” will finally be fulfilled!* 🌸

END NOTES

1. Matthew 16:21
2. Matthew 24:3
3. Harold Foos, “Jerusalem in Biblical Prophecy,” *Dictionary of Premillennial Theology*, ed. Mal Couch (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1996), p. 207
4. David Clifford, *The Two Jerusalems in Prophecy*, (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers 1978), p. 53
5. Ibid. p. 54
6. <http://www.israelandyou.com/minarets/>



“THE ARCH OF TITUS” IN ROME DEPICTS THE ROMAN ARMIES CARRYING

AWAY TEMPLE ARTIFACTS AFTER THE SIEGE OF 70 A.D.

BY REV. DAN BERGMAN


Campus Ministries Director Jewish Awareness Ministries



of the last days before the Messiah's return. Ron shared the belief among the ultra-orthodox that the Messiah will return before the Jewish year 6000 preceding a Sabbath Millennium to conclude the 7000 years, like God concluded six days of creation with a seventh day of rest and peace. This is now year 5778 on their calendar.

Ron asked, "So you believe this is his second coming?" "Yes", I replied "but the origin of that belief is not in the Christian Scriptures of the New Testament but rather in the Jewish Scriptures." I quickly referenced on my smart phone Bible the prophecies of Zechariah that just before Israel's annihilation at the hands of Gentile nations, the Messiah would come from heaven to save them, but that Israel would weep and mourn instead of rejoicing because they would *"look on Him whom they pierced."* The next chapter says they would ask where he got the *"wounds in His hands."* I then went to Isaiah 53, which predicted the Messiah's death. I told him that it was a Jewish believer in Jesus that first taught me that the main sign that identified the Messiah would be that he would be rejected as Messiah by Israel at his first coming, die for the sins of his people and rise from the dead, and return as King Messiah later in history.

I went on to tell him, "Ron, I don't want to put fear in your heart because you have a son and a daughter in Jerusalem but Zechariah goes on to say that two-thirds of the inhabitants in Israel will die in the coming seven-year tribulation prior to Messiah." I told him of the Anti-christ, a false messiah who would deceive Israel by allowing the rebuilding of the Temple, and enforce a seven-year peace treaty. I explained how that the "Anti-Christ" would be a world hero/savior in sheep's clothing. I told Ron that when I am in Jerusalem I like to speak with off duty soldiers and ask them about these things. One time I asked three of them, "which two of you will not survive and which one will survive to see Messiah?" I then said, "Ron, hundreds of identifying prophecies of the Messiah are given in the Jewish Scriptures that line up with Jesus and rule out false Messiah's claims." I encouraged him to study those and realize that "Christians" did not make this up but got it from their Scriptures.

We talked for some time in the parking lot, shook hands, and wished each other Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas and planned to meet again soon. A redemptive relationship may be slow and gradual, and sometimes even come to a standstill, but keeping the connection alive with love, prayer and investing our time is the only hope that the relationship with our lost friends will continue into eternity with our Lord Jesus. 



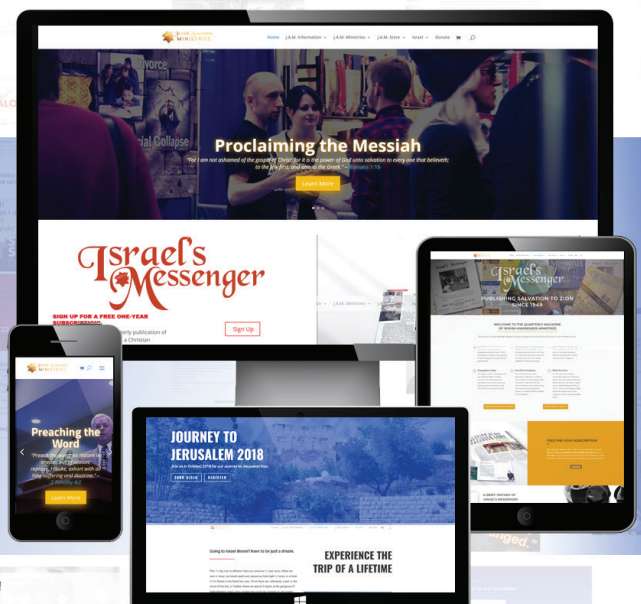
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THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES

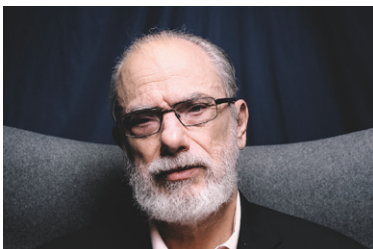
REV. KEN SYMES



THE TRADITIONAL VIEW

"The term 'the fullness of the Gentiles' refers to the present age in which Gentiles predominate in the church and far exceed Israel in present spiritual blessing... the fullness of the Gentiles will be completed when God's present task of winning Jew and Gentile to Christ is completed."

Dr. John Walvoord, "The Times of the Gentiles".
Bib Sac Vol 125. Issue 497. Page 9, 1968



A GROWING VIEW

"The... view held by a number of Messianic and other evangelical believers sees the fullness of the Gentiles as referring to the faithfulness of Gentile believers... Thus the fullness of the Gentiles means Gentile believers will be faithful to fulfill their calling toward Israel: to make Israel jealous."

Sam Nadler, *The Fullness of the Gentiles: What it Really Means*, <http://messianicassociation.org/ezine16-sn.fullness.htm>



ANOTHER POSSIBLE VIEW (THE VIEW OF THIS ARTICLE)

"The 'fullness of the Gentiles' is when their (the predominantly Gentile church) disobedience has reached its pinnacle in not sharing the gospel with Jewish people, and God removes them from the earth (through the rapture) and returns to working through Israel."

Rev. Mark Robinson,
Executive Director
of Jewish Awareness
Ministries, and Editor
of Israel's Messenger

The phrase "The fullness of the Gentiles" is found only in Romans 11:25. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."

If we are to correctly understand this verse we must first understand the context. Paul is writing to a very specific predominantly Gentile church (cf. verse 13), the church in Rome. Lest they become "high-minded" (Romans 11:20) or "wise in their own conceits," (Romans 11:25) Paul reminds them that God is not yet finished with Israel (the nation). The whole thought here is related to how God is, in this age, dealing with Israel. Remember God's dealings up to this point with the Jewish people have been national. Israel, during the Church age, is set aside nationally while God speaks to both Jew and Gentile individually. The "blindness" of which Paul speaks in this verse is the blindness of national Israel that is the result of their national



“ THE GENTILES, WHO HAVE BEEN PROFESSED FOLLOWERS OF ISRAEL'S MESSIAH, THE LORD JESUS, HAVE ALSO FAILED BY NEGLECTING TO KEEP GOD'S COMMAND TO TAKE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE BACK TO THE JEW!”

sins of idolatry and rebellion. God spoke of this national blindness to Isaiah when He sent him to proclaim His message to Israel (cf. Isa. 6:9, 10). This was a national blindness as is clearly indicated in Isaiah 6: 11, 12. *“Then said I, Lord, how long? And He answered, until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.”* The context is clear. These verses are talking about national Israel, not individuals. Jesus Himself confirmed this as it is recorded in John 12:37- 41. But notice John 12:42. *“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him.”* The blindness is national, not individual. Their rejection of the Messiahship of Yeshua was a national (political) act. God then set Israel, nationally, aside in order that the gospel, which they were to receive and then share with the entire world, might go to the Gentiles. *“I say then, have they [the Jew] stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their [the Jew's] fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles for to provoke them [the Jews] to jealousy.”* (Romans 11:11). Thus God's purpose in setting aside Israel nationally was so that the gospel could be delivered to the Gentiles in order that they in turn could take it to individual Jews. *“For as ye [Gentiles] in times past have not believed*

God, yet have now obtained mercy through their [the Jew's] unbelief: even so have these [the Jews] also not believed, that through your [Gentiles'] mercy they [the Jews] also may obtain mercy.” (Romans 11:30, 31). So the blindness is national (political) with a very positive Divine purpose for reaching the Jew first and also the Greek through the Gentiles who are saved by God's grace as a direct result of Israel's national blindness.

The issue, then, in Romans 11:25 is the mystery that obviously relates to national Israel and not the church. A Biblical mystery is a truth previously unrevealed in Old Testament times that is now being revealed (Ephesians 3:1-5). The conclusion of Israel's national blindness is the mystery that is here being revealed. It relates to what is to be understood as the meaning of the phrase *“the fullness of the Gentiles.”*

God's purpose in calling Abraham and his seed was that through Israel He would be glorified among all nations. God chose Israel for several reasons: to be the repository of His revelation; to preserve that revelation; to share that revelation; and thus glorify Himself. Israel did receive and, thank God, preserve the revelation. But they did not share the revelation. The penalty for failure was a temporary expulsion from the land. This included giving the land over into Gentile hands until such time as they would return to God. And

fail they did. They refused to go among the Gentiles and share the revelation. The attitude of the prophet Jonah was typical of the Jewish attitude regarding the sharing of God's revelation with those who were not Jews. Thus, by the time of Jesus, this was an attitude that went back at least seven centuries. For this, Jesus denounced the Jews in scathing terms (cf. Matthew 23:13-39). And for this, they rejected Him. Their rejection resulted in their national ejection from the land by the Romans in 70A.D. with the land given over into Gentile hands.

The Abrahamic Covenant, dealing with the possession of the land, was then set aside *“until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in,”* that is, until the day of the Gentiles' testing shall be finished. One of the reasons why God chose Israel was that they might be a praise unto Him. *“This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise.”* (Isaiah 43:21). It is interesting that the word “Jew” literally means “praise or praiser of God.” That thought follows through regarding the divine purpose in salvation as stated by Paul to the Ephesians: *“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”* (Ephesians 2:12). Then speaking to Gentiles he goes on to state in the next verse; *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.”* If you read Romans 11:11, 30, 31 carefully, you will see that the reason why God brought salvation to the Gentiles was that through the Gentiles He might win back Abraham's seed to Himself by causing the Gentiles to provoke them, the Jews, to jealousy. In other words, God is calling out Gentiles to become members of the church, His body, in order that these

same Gentiles would share the gospel with the Jews, bringing many back to their Messiah in order that God would be praised, as He had originally planned, through the salvation of both Jew and Gentile!

Why has this not happened? First, it has not happened because Gentiles have become “highminded”. They began to believe that they are superior to the Jews. Thus they fell into the very trap of which Paul warned them (Romans 11:18-21). Second, these Gentiles whom God called out to be partakers with the Jews in the spiritual blessings of the church have essentially done the same thing that the Jews did. In turning the blessings in upon themselves they thus refused to obediently share those blessings with the Jews.

This presents a third phase of Gentile failure. Not only has the Christ-rejecting world powers abused the Jews and blasphemed God in the treading down of His Holy City, Jerusalem, but the Gentiles, who have been professed followers of Israel’s Messiah, the Lord Jesus, have also failed by neglecting to keep God’s command to take the gospel message back to the Jew! Therefore, soon, the prophecy of Revelation 3:16, “*I will spue thee out of my mouth*” will be fulfilled. Why was Israel driven from her land? Was it not, among other reasons, because she refused to testify to the Gentiles? (cf. Isaiah 49:6). Thus shall God also spue backslidden Christendom out of His mouth because of their refusal to testify to the Jews. Is this not Paul’s message recorded in Romans 11:20-22? “*Because of unbelief they [the Jews] were broken off, and thou [Gentile believers] standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.*”

It now becomes clear that “*the fullness of the Gentiles*” is not an allusion to a number in God’s mind of those



It now becomes clear that ‘*the fullness of the Gentiles*’ is not an allusion to a number in God’s mind of those Gentiles that must be saved before Israel’s blindness is removed.”

fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” In other words, God gave the Amorites a full opportunity, so that when He passed judgment upon them their iniquity was “full.” Consider also Daniel 8:23. “*And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*” Again, we have the expression “full” meaning the full measure of sins.

It has been suggested that the Greek word “pleroma” translated “fullness,” is used in scripture only in connection with blessing and not with judgment. But a careful investigation will easily prove this assumption false. In addition to the references we have already quoted above consider its use in Galatians 4:4 where we read, “*But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son.*” There was no fullness of blessing either historically for the Jew or in the status of the Gentile world. The world was in fact in a state of corruption. As for Israel, she had reached her lowest ebb of spiritual and material decline. Obviously, “pleroma” does not mean “fullness of blessing” in this case. It simply means that Jesus came right on time according to God’s sovereign schedule.

The essence of Paul’s message in Romans 11:25 is that national Israel’s spiritual blindness will end when the Gentiles’ cup of iniquity is full. Therefore, this has nothing to do with a number in God’s mind of Gentiles that must be saved before Christ may return!

“*And so all Israel shall be saved.*” (Romans 11:26). This speaks of the restoration of the nation of Israel both into the land and to His favor as necessitated by the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34). When this takes place the church will be gone. Both the earthly and spiritual promises given to Israel will be fulfilled at once! Consider Isaiah 66:7-9, “*Before she travailed, she brought forth; before*

her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.” Verse seven is a prediction of the first coming




Gentiles that must be saved before Israel’s blindness is removed. It simply means that when the measure of Gentile iniquity and opportunity is full, God will again turn to the Jewish nation to carry out through them His program for this world’s destiny. Consider Genesis 15:16. “*But in the*

INTRODUCING

Dr. David Pennington Capital Stewardship Facilitator

of Israel's Messiah. The following verses predict the day when the Jewish people, as a nation, will go through a period of great travail (Daniel's 70th week), come to a place where they will recognize both their national sin of rebellion and who is their true Messiah (Zechariah 12: 10), repent of their sin, and receive Him as their Messiah/King. Then the nation will be re-born, that is re-established both physically and spiritually, in a moment (cf. Zechariah 13:8,9). This becomes clear in Romans 11:27. "For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Thus it is predicted that God will go back to His covenant relation with Israel, which means a restored national relation, a re-gathering to their own land and the re-establishment of the Throne of David.

So, the phrase "The fullness of the Gentiles" is not predicting a number in God's mind of Gentile conversions that, when reached, will cause Him to rapture away the church. Nor does it speak of a Gentile Church Age. This phrase speaks of the time when the institutional church will have reached the pinnacle of their failure of not sharing the gospel with Jewish people which will result in God removing the true believing church (the rapture) in preparation for His final judgment of the unbelieving world.¹ 

ENDNOTES

1. This article was excerpted from Ken Symes' book *Jews, Gentiles and the Church Age* with minor modifications. One of the modifications, suggested by the author, was to change the last two sentences in the book (which is not what the author intended to say), "This phrase speaks of judgment for the Gentile nations that will occur when their cup of iniquity is full. Thus, the teaching of a Gentile Church or Gentile Church Age is false and is no more than an excuse to not obediently evangelize the Jewish people," to what you read in the final 2 sentences of this article. If the author reprints the book this change will be made in future editions.

BY REV. KEN SYMES 
National Field
Representative
Jewish Awareness Ministries



Dr. David Pennington grew up in central Florida. He and his wife, Cindi, have been married 38 years, have 7 adult children, and several grandchildren. David bases out of Charlotte, NC and comes to Jewish Awareness Ministries with over 30 years of ministry experience. He has served as an assistant pastor, an administrative pastor, a school administrator, a church planter, and a lead pastor.



Dave has thirty years of management experience and expertise in the non-profit and educational arenas. He serves on several boards of national or international organizations, and knows the challenges of hiring qualified personnel, managing cash-flow, budgeting, and casting and sustaining visionary leadership.

He holds a PhD from Bob Jones University in Old Testament Interpretation. He has made numerous trips to Israel, has a great love for the Jewish people, and a burden to help raise the necessary funds to expand ministry opportunities of Jewish Awareness Ministries.

As Capital Stewardship Facilitator, Dave will be assisting our supporters in whatever area of need they may have. Advice on wills, trusts, end of life planning are some of the areas Dave can help and direct your concerns.

Dave is heading up a new area of ministry for Jewish Awareness Ministries. And, we consider this, first and foremost, a ministry to help God's people. Because of this, if you would like Dave to visit there is no cost to you. Certainly, any recommendations you implement, such as speaking with an estate attorney, may have costs associated with it.

Dave is available to speak in churches as well and you will see articles by him in future issues of *Israel's Messenger*. He will also be teaching some of the classes in our online *School of Biblical and Jewish Studies*.

49:10 and the family of David, Isaiah 9:6, in the person of Jesus, the greatest son of Israel.

The intrinsic nature of the land of Israel and the Jewish people is captured in the following quote:

“The land of Israel is central to Judaism. A substantial portion of Jewish law is tied to the land of Israel, and can only be performed there. Some rabbis have declared that it is a mitzvah (commandment) to take possession of Israel and to live in it (relying on Numbers 33:53). The Talmud indicates that the land itself is so holy that merely walking in it can gain you a place in the World to Come. Prayers for a return to Israel and Jerusalem are included in daily prayers as well as many holiday observances and special events.

Living outside of Israel is viewed as an unnatural state for a Jew. The world outside of Israel is often referred to as “galut,” which is usually translated as “diaspora” (dispersion), but a more literal translation would be “exile” or “captivity.” When we live outside of Israel, we are living in exile from our land.”⁹

The third promise in verse three is that *“in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* Through the people of Israel, the Jewish people, blessings would flow to all families of the world. The greatest blessing from the Jewish people is the spiritual blessing. Through them, we have the Bible that has blessed hundreds of millions of people through the centuries. The pinnacle of all blessings, the Savior, would come from the Jewish people and through Him, countless numbers have found forgiveness of sins and a personal relationship with God.

The Abrahamic Covenant is the most important of the Covenants for understanding the Bible. The rest of the Bible, from Genesis 12:4 through Revelation 22:21, is, in essence, commentary on how God brings to pass the three basic promises of the Abrahamic Covenant. The promises of the Abrahamic Covenant can be developed through the rest of the Scriptures in God’s dealing with the Land of Israel, the Jewish people and the Messiah, and the salvation of Jews and Gentiles. Three other major covenants with Israel - Land, Davidic, and New - expand on the three basic promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.

HISTORY IS HIS STORY

It is impossible for secularists, atheistic academicians, Bible denying religious people and others who reject the Bible as God’s word, to put together any reasonable explanation for history, its purpose, and its direction. Only through God and His Word, the Holy Scriptures, does history make any sense.

The “broad” view of history – the loss of theocracy, dominion and perfect environment – begins in Genesis and ends in Revelation with the restoration of all three of these things when Jesus returns to earth.

It is through the “narrow” view of history, which gives us much clearer detail and understanding, that we can see God

working out His purpose for the three “broad” view realities. It is when we primarily focus on Israel and the Jewish people – their place in the plan of God, God’s dealing with them in Scripture, what happens with them throughout history – that we can begin to understand what God is doing in history. How nations and individuals relate to Israel and Jewish people is an integral part in understanding His Story.

I close with a quote from Nikolai Berdyaev who lived from 1874-1948. He was a Russian Marxist who broke with the movement after the Russian Revolution and its aftermath, identifying with the Russian Orthodox Church of Christendom. He wrote a book titled, The Meaning of History. The reason why he left Marxism? It was the history of the Jewish people.

“I remember how the materialist interpretation of history, when I attempted in my youth to verify it by applying it to the destinies of peoples, broke down in the case of the Jews, where destiny seemed absolutely inexplicable from the materialistic standpoint... Its survival is a mysterious and wonderful phenomenon demonstrating that the life of this people is governed by a special predetermination, transcending the processes of adaptation expounded by the materialistic interpretation of history. The survival of the Jews, their resistance to destruction, their endurance under absolutely peculiar conditions and the fateful role played by them in history: all these point to the particular and mysterious foundations of their destiny.”

The “particular and mysterious foundations of their destiny” is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ✨

END NOTES

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7. Darek Isaacs, Is there a Dominion Mandate?, Answers in Genesis, January 9, 2013, <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/stewardship/is-there-a-dominion-mandate/>
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9. Judaism 101 website, The Land of Israel, <http://www.jewfaq.org/israel.htm>

BY REV. MARK ROBINSON

Executive Director

Jewish Awareness Ministries



SHADOWS OF THE TRIBULATION

REV. DAN BERGMAN

“Every other president really lied, because they campaigned on it, that was always a big part of the campaign. Then they got into office, they never did it.” - President Trump, February 23, 2018

THE MOVE

In 1995, a law was passed by the U.S. Congress that officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and required the president to move the U.S. embassy there. Every single president since then has invoked a six-month waiver of applying the law. They then have reissued the waiver every six months on grounds of “national security.” Below is the actual declaration and timetable from the “*Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995*.”

SEC. 3. TIMETABLE.

(a) STATEMENT OF THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES

- (1) Jerusalem should remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected;
- (2) Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel; and
- (3) the United States Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999¹

It was announced by the Trump administration on February 23rd that the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem would open in May to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel declaring its independence.

This is a historic occurrence that should not be understated. Much of what we read about in the Scriptures regarding the end-times revolves around the city of Jerusalem. In our last issue, we discussed the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as the official capital of Israel. What he has done now, has solidified that recognition. This was one of his major campaign promises. It was also a campaign promise of every U.S. president since 1995.

“This is nothing more or less than a recognition of reality,” Trump said upon his announcement. “It is also the right thing to do. It is something that has to be done.”²

THE MINT

Pictured at the top of this page is a very special coin. It is being minted by an Israeli educational center called the *Mikdash Educational Center*. It commemorates both the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, as well as the

relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. The “*Temple Coin*” as it is called, features Trump next to King Cyrus of Persia, who made it possible for the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem from Babylon 2,500 years ago.³

THE MESSIAH?

Due to the previously mentioned historic events, and the connections that have been drawn by many Israelis between said events and rabbinic literature, messianic expectations in Israel are through the roof! The nation of Israel and the Jewish people are ripe for a charismatic would-be messiah type figure to take the stage. In this column (and this magazine) we refrain from spreading hear-say and sensationalistic speculation. This writer is not attempting to educate you as to the “*who, where, and when*” of end-time prophecy, but rather to show you that the stage *is* being set, and it’s only a matter of time before the players begin to show up. Take Rabbi Yosef Berger (the head rabbi over King David’s Tomb on Mount Zion, and the son of a greatly respected Hasidic leader) as an example of this heightened messianism. He was recently quoted as saying:

“No leader in history has recognized Jerusalem as the capital of the Jews and Israel. [Trump] has already created a great tikkun (reparation) ...through his unprecedented relationship with Jerusalem. Trump is the representative of Edom that will perform that final historic reparation for his entire nation by building the Temple.”⁴

I don’t want any of our readers to misunderstand me, I am **not** saying that I believe that Donald Trump will build the third Temple. What I am saying, is that widely respected leaders within Judaism are earnestly looking for a man to solve all of their problems, to build the third Temple, and to bring peace to the region. As a result of President Trump’s actions, that desire and expectation has sky-rocketed. When the “*Man of Sin*” steps up to the plate, you can be sure that the people of Israel will be waiting for him with open arms. They are ready. I believe we are close. 🌟

END NOTES

1. www.congress.gov/104/plaws/publ45/PLAW-104publ45.pdf
2. www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/02/23/us-embassy-in-jerusalem-to-open-in-may-2018.html
3. www.newsweek.com/trumpcoin-israeli-group-mints-new-coin-honor-us-embassy-move-823981
4. www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/33685/Default.aspx

“The Temple Coin” is pictured above, which places Donald Trump next to King Cyrus.



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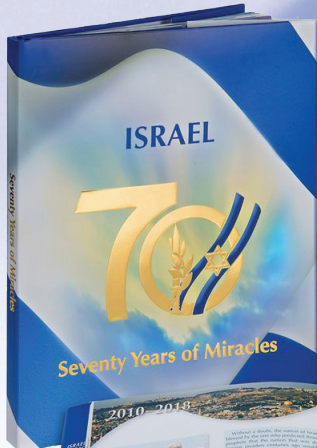
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Seventy Years of Miracles

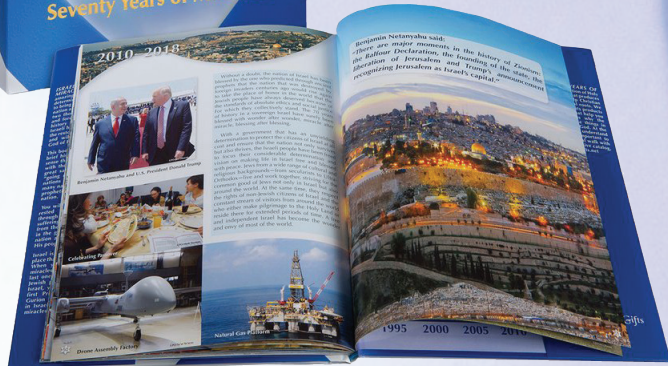
We mark the 70th Anniversary of Israeli Independence in 2018. This is a unique book that celebrates Israel's rebirth, Seventy Years of Miracles. This 56 page, hard-covered, limited-edition book chronicles the restoration of the Jewish nation and captures the inspirational story of God's redemptive work.

The book includes photos from the early days of Israeli independence up through the modern day, and a story line that follows the miraculous transformation of a people that rose from the ashes of the holocaust to being a world leader in culture and industry (water purification, sustainable energy,

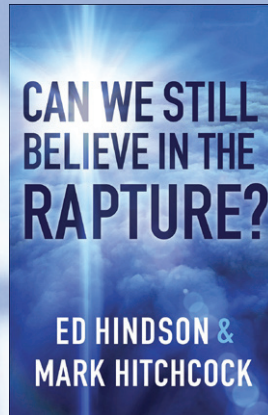
auto-driven automobiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles). This is an amazing opportunity to show your support of Israel within a beautiful book commemorating Israeli independence.



\$20.00



Can We Still Believe in the Rapture?



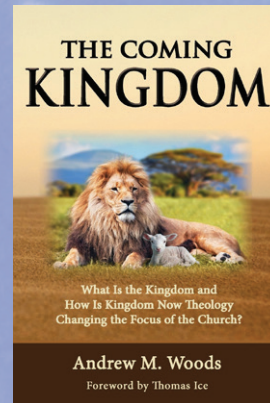
Today, the hope that all believers on earth will be "caught up" to heaven is being challenged in new waves of criticism. Is the rapture really taught in the Bible? Can we really expect Jesus to gather up His followers before the Antichrist is revealed?

In this well-reasoned and thorough defense, prophecy authors Mark Hitchcock and Ed Hindson examine the concept, context, and consequences of the important and long-expected event known as the rapture.

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the biblical truth of God's glorious kingdom, while exalting the coming King and edifying the soul of the reader with its constant appeal to God's Word.

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