

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **JOEL - TEETH IN THE WIND**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> edition – including charts & index)*

The book of the prophet Joel is a small book that packs a mighty big punch. Often it is misunderstood or only referred to for certain isolate verses. Yet when it is taken as a whole, Joel is crammed full of hidden treasure that exhorts, builds faith, keeps us watching and gives an insight into the future. The book witnesses to us that God’s prophecies truly come to pass by showing us the fulfillment of past prophecies with precise detail.

Yet the prophet Joel also speaks of prophecies with fulfillments yet to come, as well as giving details that enlarge our understanding of prophecies found other places in the Bible. The picture that emerges from the book of Joel of future conflicts and judgments is full of warning and hope for our generation, the last generation before our Lord’s return. May we take heed to the words of this prophecy so that we are ready with lamps burning to meet the bridegroom upon his return.

### **OVERVIEW:**

The text can be divided into either three or four chapters. The Hebrew Masoretic Text divides the book into four chapters with the extra chapter made up of verses taken from Joel 2:28-32. But in this commentary, we will be using the King James Version (KJV) as the base text, and the usual division into three chapters.

### **OUTLINE OF THE BOOK:**

1:1	Title
1:2-7	Armies - locust metaphor - judgment
1:8-13	Lamentation and ruin
1:2,5,11,13,14	Exhortation to old men, drunkards, husbandmen, priests
1:15	“Day of the LORD”
1:16-20	Reaction and frustration
2:1-11	The LORD'S army
2:12-19	Exhortation to rend hearts, fast, assemble
2:20	The Northern army removed
2:21-27	Rain and restoration
2:28-29	Spirit gifts given out
2:30-32	Wonders before the “great and terrible day of the LORD”
3:1-8	Nations in court
3:9-15	Preparations for war in the valley of decision
3:16-17	Nations judged
3:18-21	Millennium

### JOEL'S MESSAGE:

Joel's message describes an initial devastation that will come on the land which will be followed finally by glory. He tells us that first God's land would be stripped clean, but ultimately would be blessed with peace and prosperity, its mountains pouring down wine and milk. The cyclical nature of God's judgment of army after army attacking the land is aptly symbolized by the succession of plagues of locusts devastating the land. This pattern of the past becomes a blueprint to interpret the future.

### JOEL - PROPHET OF GLOOM, DOOM AND GLORY

- JOEL 1 -- Gloom ---- A Day of the LORD upon Judah
- JOEL 1 -- Doom ---- Invasion of BABYLON
- JOEL 2 -- Gloom ---- A Day of the LORD coming upon Israel
- JOEL 2 -- Doom ---- Invasion by "NORTHERN ARMY"
- JOEL 2 -- Glory ---- Former & Latter RAIN
- JOEL 2 -- Glory ---- SPIRIT GIFTS pour out
- JOEL 3 -- Gloom --- A Day of the LORD coming upon Babylon the Great.
- JOEL 3 -- Doom ---- Sun and Moon DARKENED.
- JOEL 3 -- Glory ---- Hills Flow with MILK

### THE PROPHET JOEL AND HIS TIMES:

Joel gives no historical setting or information on himself other than that he is the son of Pethuel. It is uncertain when Joel was written, but there are some good clues such as the reference in Joel 1:14 to "the house of the LORD". Obviously Solomon's temple still existed (Joel 1:9,14), but the heart of the people was not right, and the gloom of impending judgment was hanging over the land.

Is the impending judgment the Assyrian invasion of the Northern Kingdom of Israel when Samaria was taken and the people exiled? Joel makes no specific mention of the Northern Kingdom. The Assyrians did devastate the territory in the north; however the **fourfold** series of attacks launched by Nebuchadnezzar on the southern kingdom of Judah fit more closely the description of the invasions by **four** waves of locusts in Joel chapter 1:4.

Another clue is found in verses 2 and 3 where the prophet addresses his audience. First, it is the "*old men*" who are the elders, then the inhabitants of the land who are to tell their children and who are to continue passing the message on to the fourth generation. **The phrase, fourth generation, suggests that Joel was written at the beginning of Josiah's reign** because after four generations the exiles returned under Zerubabel. In Matthew the four generations are pointed out:

- *MAT 1:11 And Josias begat Jechonias (1st-2<sup>nd</sup> generation) and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: 12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel (2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> generation); and Salathiel begat Zorobabe (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> generation);*

The "*old men*" would have would have directly heard of the Assyrian invasion of the land. Their ears would have been pricked by Joel's warning, yet this disaster was but a taste of what to come.

# **CONTENTS**

## **JOEL - TEETH IN THE WIND**

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section 1: Setting the Stage .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 2: Answering an Important Question .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Section 3: Reasonably Firm .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Section 4: Establishing the Vision .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Section 5: The Gloom Lifted for a Moment .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Section 6: The Glory at Last .....</b>	<b>65</b>
• Joel's last chapter – Joel chapter 3 ... pages 67 -	
<b>Appendix #1 Partial and Full Fulfillment .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Appendix #2 Where is Mt. Sinai ... in Arabia? .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Appendix #3 Thomas Nest cartoon .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Appendix #4 The World of Herodotus .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Appendix #5 Malachi, Elijah and John the Baptist .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Appendix #6 Jesus' Olivet Prophecy comparison .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Scriptural Index .....</b>	<b>103-109</b>

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## **(Section 1) SETTING THE STAGE:**

Foundations are laid in Joel chapter 1 for the rest of the book. This prophecy is multilayered and has a fuller meaning than the immediate fulfillment. For example, the vivid insects picture in verses 4-7 carry forward as a backdrop to the future prophecies in chapters 2 & 3. Therefore don't skip chapter 1 or you will miss the flavor of this amazing book.

***JOEL 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel <3100> the son of Pethuel <6602>. 2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? 2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? 3 Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.***

*Strong's numbers:*

- 3100 Yôw'êl {yo-ale}; AV - Joel 19x:
- 6602 P<sup>e</sup>thûw'êl {peth-oo-ale'} from 6601 and 410; n pr m
  - 6601 pâthâh {paw-thaw'} (1) to be spacious, be open, be wide
  - 410 'êl {ale} AV - God 213, god 16, power 4, mighty 5, goodly 1, great 1, idols 1

Joel is a compound of two titles of God, "Yahweh" and "El". Pethuel means "to spread out, to open." When both parts are combined, it suggests this prophecy of Yahweh El is to be spread out over time and the focus may not be limited only to the time of Joel. For example, several time periods apply to the graphic but gloomy description, the "*day of the LORD*".

***JOEL 1:2,3*** – see introduction, page 2

***JOEL 1:4 That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.***

Four plagues of insects, one after another – palmerworm, locust, cankerworm and caterpillar! After one such calamity the land is stripped, after four there would be nothing left! This vivid description shows in startlingly graphic terms that the "*day of the LORD*" involves utter destruction far beyond a normal natural disaster. In nature these waves of insects would require significant time periods between each plague for the food source to replenish, but in verse 4 they follow one upon the other.

The distinction between palmerworm and cankerworm or locust and caterpillar, are varied depending on the translation, and so require care in interpretation. In fact in the Septuagint there is a note saying: "It is difficult to assign the exact meaning of the Greek". Couple this with the old age question of what is the difference between a locust and a grasshopper and the homework begins.

In 1921 Sir Boris Uvarov discovered that the familiar green grasshoppers of the African and Asian bush are really locusts in disguise. What Sir Boris observed was when thousands of eggs hatch at one time the young grasshoppers would constantly touch one another, which would trigger a change

both in colour and behaviour. The young grasshopper/locusts would seek each others company and turn yellow, black and red, forming the dreaded airborne masses that sweep across the land looking for food. This change in the character of the grasshopper is significant to understanding how Joel's prophecy unfolds.

#### **JOEL 1:4 – FOUR STAGES OF LOCUSTS:**

*v.4 “What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.” (New American Standard - NAS)*

*v.4 “What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.” (New King James Version - NKJV)*

Rather than being descriptive of different varieties of insects the above translations show the words refer to the locust at various stages of its lifecycle. In Hebrew their literal meanings are lopper, multiplier, licker and finisher. Unger’s Bible Dictionary suggests that all four have to do with different developmental stages of locust.

#### **LOCUSTS – SYMBOLIC OF AN INVADING ARMY OF MEN:**

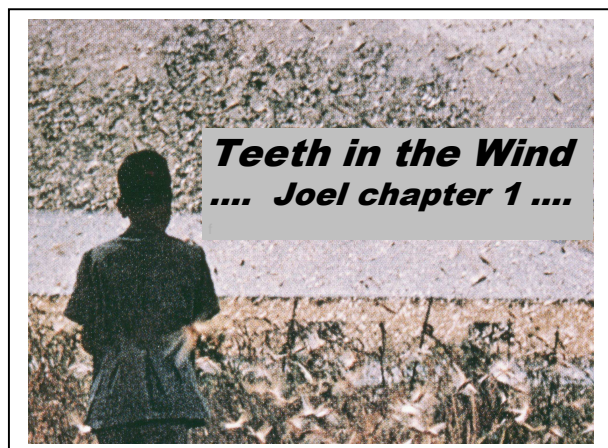
*JOEL 1:6 For a NATION is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose TEETH are the TEETH of a lion, and he hath the cheek TEETH of a great lion.*

The image of locusts is also used in the Revelation to describe an invading army – a different army and another time period, but the locust symbol is an apt representation of this army as well.

- *REV 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of MEN.*

The appropriateness of using the symbol of locusts to represent an invading army is better appreciated by understanding what a plague of locusts is really like. An article from the August 1969 *National Geographic* magazine gives a vivid description. The article is entitled "TEETH of the Wind" and the setting is in the Sudan desert. It reads in part:

“The first stirring was a mile away from Khalil's patch of bulrush millet when he noticed it. 'Sirb!' he called to me in Arabic. Through the glassy waves of heat rising off the Sudanese desert, I could see what he meant. A hint of greyness



slid along the sand, vague as a touch of smoke. Then, as we watched, it gathered into a wisp and began to spill over the dune slopes. Once it reached the stubble of scrub growth below, the wisp quickened and spread in the wind until it became a cloud of locusts, three miles wide that swept straight toward us.

'Yalla!' Khalil shouted. Let's go!' We sprinted across to his dried-mud house. 'My father knew these invaders before me' he said. 'He called them the 'teeth of the wind'.

And with that, the cloud swirled into us. Flying locusts the size of index fingers bounced off my face, tangled in my hair, and grabbed at my shirt with twitchy legs. Wherever I turned, the swarm glinted in the sun in crystalline flecks

that shifted and went from brown to gold to pink like tumbling bits of mica. All around us locusts struggled for room on the plants; they pushed, kicked, and shoved each other, semaphoring furiously with excited antennae. They ravaged the ears on top. They tugged at the leaves. They gnawed at the stems with such frenzy that we could hear the faint sound of thousands of tiny jaws grinding and chewing, as if someone were scraping a carrot.”

There are many similarities between the locust attack in the desert and the description of the invasion of Israel in Joel 2. However it is the exceptions that help identify the invader in Joel 2.

*JOEL 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. 3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. 4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. 5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. 6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. 7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. 9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. 10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: 11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong?*

The "National Geographic Magazine's" description of the locusts struggling for room, of pushing, kicking and shoving each other, semaphoring furiously with excited antennae, are very different from the orderly onslaught described in Joel 2:7,8. These differences are important in determining the identity of the army in Joel 2. Further when interpreting verse 4, the meaning becomes clear when the prophecy is not limited in scope to one time period. Four main waves of locusts do correspond to the four Babylonian incursions as detailed in 2 Kings 24 and 25. But as will be shown in Joel 1:7, there are parallels that also apply to the Assyrian invasion and, as will be shown in Joel chapters 2 and 3, to future invasions.

### **The Babylonians as Locust Invaders:**

2 Kings 24 & 25 give details of four separate invasions by different armies. These four invasions fit well Joel's description in verse 4 of four stages of locusts.

- **INVASION #1 – 2 Kings 24:1**

*"In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him."*

- This event was like the action of the "palmerworm" or "lopper" because in a sense Nebuchadnezzar lopped off the head of Judah when he placed Jehoiakim in subjection.

- **INVASION #2 – 2 Kings 24:2**

*"And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets."*

- These raiders are descriptive of the “locust” (KJV) or "multiplier" which caused increasing devastation with each band.
- **INVASION #3 – 2 Kings 24:10-17**  
*Verse 10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.*
- The result of this campaign was the sacking of the temple, the city, and the cream of the population was deported. The city was licked clean by the "licker"!
- **INVASION #4 – 2 Kings 25:1-28**  
*Verse 4 And it came to pass...that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; 4 And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled.*
- This section describes the final siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of Judah, the "finisher" which completed the project begun in Jehoikim's reign.

### **THE RUIN AND SORROW THE LOCUSTS BRING:**

**JOEL 1:7** *He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.*

Joel shows the devastation by the image of the fig tree being debarked, made white and laid bare by millions of locusts. This image could well describe the land after the Assyrian lion had destroyed the Northern Kingdom and taken its people captive. However, the fourfold sequence of incursions by the Babylonians yet again fits the context of Joel better.

Jeremiah also prophesies of the devastation that the coming invader would bring.

- *JER 5:17 And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees:*
- *JER 5:6 Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them ...*
- *Joel and Jeremiah both prophesied about a lion-like nation that would destroy Judah. (see also Jer. 4:7;6:17)*

The next couple of verses show the tremendous outpouring of sorrow the ruin of the land would cause.

#### **JOEL 1:8-13:**

**8** *Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. 9 The meat offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD's ministers, mourn. 10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. 11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. 12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.*

Many of Jeremiah's prophecies also emphasize the feelings of those that witnessed the ruin of their beloved land.

- *JER 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. 20 Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.*
- *JER 4:23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.*

The words "form" and "void" are "tohuw" (8414) and "bohuw" (922) also found in Gen. 1:2, showing just how destructive this Babylonian lion was in reducing the land to a formless emptiness comparable to the world before our six day creation.

### **A Call to Repentance**

*Joel 1:14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.*

Joel appeals to the people to cry unto the LORD in their time of trouble. There is no one else to turn to but God at a time of such calamity. This appeal suggests that Joel was prophesying near the time when Jeremiah began his ministry because Jeremiah begins by first appealing to the people to repent:

- *JER 3:12 Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever.*

Later in Jeremiah's ministry God told Jeremiah not to pray for the people because they were so entrenched in their evil ways.

- *JER 11:14 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry of prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.*

### **LOCUST ARMIES MARCH THROUGH THE EPOCHS:**

Yet, more relevant for us today, is the prophecy's multilayered meaning which reaches farther into the future than just the immediate fulfillment of the Babylonian invasion. Extending the time frame to encompass a larger picture, Joel also speaks of four separate powers that come from the North, whose armies devastate Israel at different times. History shows there have been three powers that fit. They were the Babylonians, the Grecian king of the North under Antiochus Epiphanies and the Romans. Joel 2:20 describes the fate of a future fourth King of the North whose armies will be driven into a desolate land between the seas. (See Ezekiel 38-39:16)

The first power, the nation in Joel 1:6 can be identified as Babylon. Here the invader is described as having the teeth of a lion and the cheek teeth of a great lion. Babylon is known in Scripture and



secular history as the great lion. The description of the Babylonian conquest as like an army of devouring locusts is most fitting.



In Jeremiah 4:7 there is a parallel prophecy where the lion is used as a symbol of Babylon.

- *JER 4:7 The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.*

This prophecy continues in Jeremiah chapter 5 with the addition of a wolf and a leopard.

- *JER 5:6 Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.*

Family outing at ancient Babylon with a stone lion.

It is interesting to note when comparing several prophecies that relate to these events, that the symbol of the bear is missing in Jeremiah.

<b>EMPIRE --→</b>	<b>BABYLON</b>	<b>PERSIAN</b>	<b>GRECIAN</b>	<b>ROMAN</b>
Dan. 2:31-33	HEAD	BREAST	THIGHS	LEGS
Dan. 7:4-7	LION	BEAR	LEOPARD	BEAST
Jer. 5:6	LION		LEOPARD	WOLF
Rev.13:1,2	LION	BEAR	LEOPARD	BEAST

A brief study of history shows that the reason the bear is missing is that the Persian bear didn't destroy Israel, but, in fact, at the command of Cyrus, rebuilt Jerusalem. But Rome, as a devouring wolf ravaged Jerusalem in AD 70 and again in 135 AD. It is significant that the earliest symbol of the Romans was the wolf, which came from the legend of the founding of Rome by Romulus, who, with his brother Remus was supposedly suckled by a she-wolf in infancy. (*See Unger's Bible Dictionary*)

This historical background helps answer whether the locust imagery applies beyond Babylon. We will be looking at the evidence for this future interpretation in Joel chapters 2 and 3 where the days "of the LORD" will be revealed.

### **"DAYS OF THE LORD" in Joel: Nebuchadnezzar, Armageddon, Babylon the Great**

*Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*

In Joel, five times the phrase "day of the LORD" is mentioned, encompassing at least four different time periods.

- *JOEL 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.*
- *JOEL 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion... for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;*
- *JOEL 2:11 ...for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?*
- *JOEL 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.*
- *JOEL 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

### **TWO FUTURE EVENTS called "THE DAY OF THE LORD"**

- *JOEL 2:3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.*
- *HAB.3:5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. 6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.*

The events described in these verses are future. The question is when. There are actually two possibilities, two "day(s) of the LORD" yet to come. The first is Armageddon and comes after Jesus Christ has returned and after the resurrection and judgment of the responsible. The second is just before the millennium and is called the "*great and terrible day of the LORD*" in Joel 2:31. The order is more important than just to establish a chronological sequence, for before Joel 2:3 occurs Christ's saints will be with him and will participate in causing some of the devastation coming upon this earth! In Joel 2:31, "*the great and terrible day of the LORD*", Christ's power will be manifested throughout the whole earth and nothing will stand in its way. In Joel's final "day of the LORD", the LORD'S anger will be against the rivers of armies, and against the sea of people, and he will go forth in indignation and will thresh the nations in anger! This "*great and terrible day of the LORD*" is further described by the prophet Habakkuk.

- *HAB.3:8 Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the rivers? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation?*
- *HAB.3:12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.*

What would cause God to be so displeased that He would allow His power to be used against the rivers, and the sea, and that He would thresh the people in such anger? Jeremiah 4:19 expresses the pain and despair the action will bring, so why does God allow, and bring to pass again and again, destruction upon destruction?

- *JER 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. 20 Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.*

Jeremiah gives the answer:

- *JER 4:22 For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish (silly) children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.*

In Jeremiah's time the people failed from a lack of knowledge of God. They didn't understand His ways or His prophets. They did not believe, let alone hear and understand Joel's prophecy forecasting either the threatening teeth of destruction or the future glory. They were like foolish, silly children who did as they pleased, had no vision, and they perished. In the future, with the "great and terrible day of the LORD", this foolishness will be compounded by dissolution, rebellion and then direct confrontation as seen in Joel 3.

### **FOREIGN IDOLS IN GOD'S TEMPLE!**

The prophet Ezekiel was given a firsthand glimpse of the corruption of the people when taken by God's angel to Jerusalem in the days prior to the final Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem. The leaders and the people were perversely persistent in worshipping idols, not heeding the escalating prophecies of impending doom, and the promised Day of the Lord to come.

- *EZE.8:9 And he (God's angel) said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. 10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about.*
- *EZE.8:14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.*

Can you imagine God seeing this and not reacting? And this didn't stop here but the next scene involved the gods of Persia as well.

- *EZE.8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.*

- *EZE.8:18 Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.*

Ezekiel makes it clear that that persistent rebellion will provoke God's hot displeasure. In fact, we need to have the same feelings and desire to see justice achieved in the face of the gross immorality, profaning of God's name, and violence in our world. God, however, is great in mercy and gives opportunity to repent, and in Jonah 3:5 the people of Nineveh did repent and the day of the LORD didn't come at that time. Israel, in Joel 1:2,13,14 was similarly warned and given great opportunity, but eventually there comes a point when there is no knowledge, no joy, no justice in the land, and no hope of it ever improving. Then God acts and the "*day of the LORD*" comes. History repeats, bringing the judgments of the "*day of the LORD*" to the people of different eras who do not repent and change when warned by God's prophets.

As there was deliverance for faithful men such as Noah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and many others, so there is a way of escape for the faithful. Escape does not imply that there is no hardship or trial but just as God sustained these men so will He help his faithful. Jesus promises, "*I will never leave thee or forsake thee.*" The righteous must heed God's word, search out the message of His prophets as for hid treasure and obey His commandments. For those that do search, the gloom will be turned to glory.

**The GLOOM will be turned to GLORY!**

- *HAB.2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*
- *JOEL 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.*

Joel's warning of gloom and doom is depressingly stark. But God's messages of darkness in His word do not usually finish in the depths of despair. God's judgments are designed to bring a change of heart that will lead to repentance, salvation and God's glory. God wants to give mankind a reason to hope for the future. The prophecy of Joel concludes with a glorious vision of the future age.

**"The Day of the LORD" – ALL AFFECTED!**

The faithful at Christ's return will witness the last two judgments, and even though glory will finally come, the suffering that first comes will be overwhelming! As happened in 587 BC and AD 70, all will be affected (Joel 1:8,11,20) from the virgin who is just married, to the husbandmen, to the beasts of the field and rivers of waters.

- *JOEL 1:8 LAMENT like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.*
- *JOEL 1:11 Be ye ASHAMED, O ye husbandmen; HOWL, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.*
- *JOEL 1:20 The beasts of the field CRY also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.*

We pray for God's kingdom, but are we prepared for the "*day of the LORD*"? Scripture shows that the saints will be removed, but the exact timing isn't given.

**Bible references showing saints removed from various days of the LORD:**

1. Daniel and his three friends – removed (Dan. 1:6).
2. Noah and his family were in the ark 7 days before the flood.
3. Enoch is removed (Gen. 5:24).
4. Lot, family, removed - (Gen.19:17).
5. Righteous taken away - (Isa. 57:1).
6. Disciples taken from the storm - (John 6:21).
7. Counted worthy to escape - (Luke 21:36).

To what extent will the prophetic occurrences prophesied by Joel affect us in the future when Christ returns? We do have examples like Daniel, Noah, Enoch and Lot, which were removed at some point. Isaiah 57:1 says that the "*righteous*" will be taken away. Also there are pointed parallels in the life of Jesus such as John 6:21 where he took his disciples from the storm to Capernaum, "the village of Comfort". More directly, in the Olivet prophecy (Lk.21:36), Jesus speaks of the righteous being counted worthy to escape. The question is where escape fits in the timeline of the events that lead up to the "day of the LORD". Will the meal and drink offering be cut off as in Joel 1:9? Will our vine be dried up, v.12? Will our nation wither because there is no joy in the land?

- *JOEL 1:9 The meat (meal) offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn. (Fellowship - the bread and wine)*
- *JOEL 1:12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.*

The answer may be connected with the identity of the nations represented here by various trees. Obviously, the immediate application was that the real trees in Judah withered from about 600 BC to 587BC, but in the fuller interpretation the trees would represent various nations, perhaps the modern nations of the ten toes in Daniel's image. There is no clear scriptural identification of a nation connected to the maple tree, whereas the vine and fig tree are closely associated with Israel. Could joy wither from our land, and could we, like Judah, lose our vision and enthusiasm for the things of God?

- *HAB.3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 YET I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

Will we, like Habakkuk be able to see our world tumbling down, and still rejoice in the LORD and joy in the God of our salvation? How we react depends greatly on how clearly we see the vision. Habakkuk saw the vision and said: "*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my*

*salvation.*" The vision is there, but do we see it in its fullness with all the parallels of language, types and times? Will our lamps be brightly burning and will we go forth to meet the bridegroom upon his return? Joel's prophecy can be a wonderful help in obtaining the prophetic oil and godly understanding so that we will be ready when the bridegroom returns.

- *Matt.25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

## (Section 2) ANSWERING AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

Joel chapter 2 has to be one of the most interesting, riveting chapters in the Bible. But to understand it, we are challenged to answer an important question.

- The question is in verses 1-11, is this army mortal or immortal?

Before answering this question, there is an important prophetic principle that must be first established. It is known as **partial and full fulfillment**. In order for a prophecy to be completely fulfilled, it must have every detail, every "*jot and tittle*", satisfied by a highly endorsed and reliable secular source. If, after an exhaustive critical examination there is found just one detail in the prophecy that has not come to fruition, then it is categorized as partially fulfilled.

Applying this critical difference correctly and incorrectly can be seen in the following example.

In 1997 in Hamilton, Ontario Canada there was a debate between the Christadelphians and the Church of Christ. The centre piece of the debate came down to a difference in the understanding of Joel 2:28-32. Unfortunately those of Church of Christ could only see the partial fulfillment at Pentecost and did not see the still future full fulfillment of this prophecy, even though history clearly shows that Titus took Jerusalem in AD 70. There was no deliverance in Jerusalem in AD 70 and this is why the apostle Peter by inspiration didn't quote the last part of Joel 2:32.

### PARTIAL (Pentecost) & FULL FULFILLMENT (After Christ's return)

- *JOEL 2:28 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:*
- *JOEL 2:32 ... for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

Partial and Full Fulfillment is a property of many Bible Prophecies, which allows God's prophetic word to be current to several generations. This feature appears in many Bible prophecies and is unique to Bible prophecy. Appreciating it offers hope and enthusiasm for God's word for several generations. It also is important to interpreting the prophecy and providing evidence to support faith.

Because this principle is so important, included are three further examples of Bible prophecies that can be shown to have a partial and full fulfillment. These are included in **Appendix #1**.

The important question is whether the army described in Joel 2:1-11 is immortal or mortal. If it is immortal then by context it fits Christ's saints, who will deliver Israel from the "*northern army*" in Joel 2:20. It is important since we could be part of this immortal army.

**An ARMY matching no other ARMY!**

*Joel 2:2 ... a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*

*verse 3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: ...*

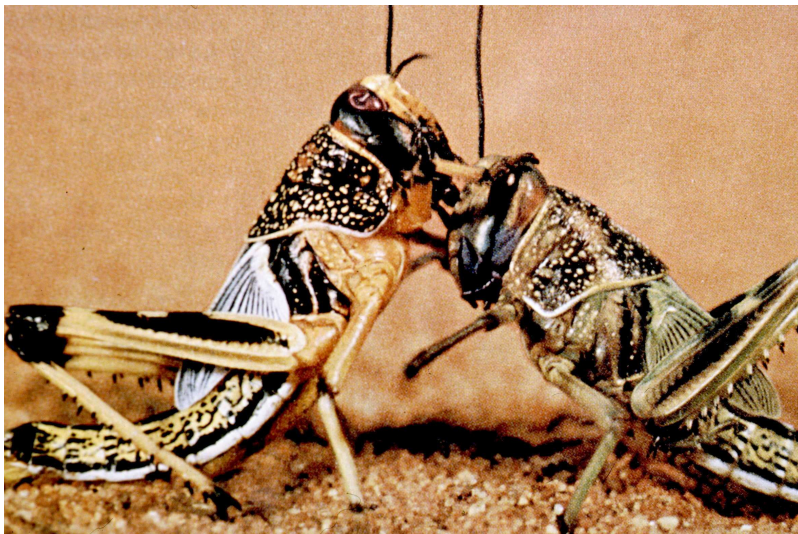
*verse 5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops (7218 “rosh”) of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.*

*verse 7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:*

*verse 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. (YLT “cut off”, NKJV “cut down”)*

*verse 9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.*

This army obviously draws from the earlier analogy of the locusts and their ability to fly, climb and devour. However, there are some major differences in that locusts have no king, and, as previously noted from the "National Geographic Magazine", they struggle for room, they push, kick and shove and do not follow the description in Joel 2:7-9.



The description in verse 8 of falling upon the sword, and not being wounded, suggests that their advance is that of an immortal army as well as an invincible one. A closer look at verses 7 & 9 shows it doesn't match well a human army which usually does not climb up entering through windows. No matter how much poetic license is given this army, it doesn't correspond well to a mortal army of men. In fact, a key

principle when interpreting Scripture is that when you have the correct interpretation, everything fits as a glove and suddenly the vision is there, with no need to force it.

**The “Lord’s army an IMMORTAL army?”**

v.1 "in Zion ... in my holy mountain"

v.1 "day of the Lord"

v.2 "many generations" – (Hebrew = all generations)

v.3 "nothing shall escape"

v.4 "appearance of horses"

v.5 "tops (2<sup>nd</sup> level = 7218 “rosh” also in Eze. 38:2 = saints {the chariots} leap on “rosh” Russian armies) of mountains (armies) shall they leap". This results as seen in Eze. 39:1-16.



v.5 "devour stubble"

v.5 "people set in battle array"

In Joel 2:1 -- The "shophar" is blown to sound the alarm of the "*day of the LORD*". The difficulty is **which** "*day of the LORD*" and what type of army is this that makes all to "*tremble*"?

### **Another ARMY like this? -- NO!**

***JOEL 2:2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of MANY generations.***

- As devastating as Babylon's or Rome's armies were, Joel sees an even more powerful army, for it will have no equal! To support this conclusion, the translation of the last part of v. 2 requires clarification as to whether, after many generations, there will be an even more powerful invasion of Jerusalem than has happened already. The KJV seems to say this but modern translations, i.e. NKJV, NRSV, and NIV do not. Further the Hebrew for the word "*many*" is the same Hebrew word translated "*generation*" a couple of words later. The point is that an immortal army would cause ALL to "*tremble*" making this "*day of the LORD*" more terrifying and causing the prophet to say "*their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.*" (NRSV)
  - (See also Psalm 72:5 where in the Hebrew language, the word "*generation*" is repeated and translated "*throughout all generations*".)
  - Hebrew = even to the years of generations and generations. (Psalms 72:5; 100:5; 145:13)

***JOEL 2:2 (NRSV) "a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come."***

- This "*day of the Lord*" is unique because of the power of the invading army. However, this is NOT the "*northern army*" in Joel 2:20 and Ezekiel 38, 39, which God destroys. When we compare these two prophecies and see how Ezekiel describes God's fury against the "*northern army*", it becomes quite apparent that this "*northern army*" isn't the army in Joel 2:1-11.
- Further, the texts says "His" army (v.11) which does not sit well with the description of the "*stink*", the "*ill savour*" of the "*northern army*" coming up, and seen by the passengers who come up to Jerusalem to worship after Jesus' return, (Joel 2:20).

### **Prophecies that are parallel:**

- *Joel 2:20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.*
- *Ezekiel 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog. 12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them that they may cleanse the land.*

If this army in Joel 2:1 is an immortal army, the question is why so great a devastation as seen in Joel 2:3?

***Joel 2:3. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.***

Yes, there are the obvious parallels to the devastation caused by plagues of locust. It sometimes makes sense for human armies (i.e. General Sherman in the American civil war, to scorched the earth, as he marched through the southern states) to utterly destroy, but what would be the purpose of an immortal army doing this?

The answer is best illustrated by asking another question. What would cause the greater outcry, having the Dome of the Rock destroyed at Armageddon or destroyed later by Israel when Jesus sits upon David's throne? The answer is obvious, and especially as we apply this to the whole area described in Ezekiel chapter 45, including the holy portion for the sons of Zadox, the Levites and the possession of the city. Yes, with the great earthquake noted in Zech. 14:4,5 and having Jesus Christ and the saints clear this area at Armageddon with the inhabitants fleeing through fear fits like a glove and this is described in v. 6.

#### **Joel 2:6 – TWO MODERN TRANSLATIONS:**

***v.6 Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of colour. (NKJV)***

***v.6 Before them peoples are in anguish, all faces grow pale. (NRSV)***

The preceding verses, Joel 2:4 & 5 draw from chapter 1, where locust, in feeding make the sound of rushing flames, driven by wind or as described in Jer.8:16, as snorting horses which devoured land and people, **BUT the outcome is different** in Joel 2, for in v.18, God will be jealous for HIS land and pity HIS people in that day.

- *JER 8:16 The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.*
- *JOEL 2:18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.*

#### **Joel chapter 2 – THE LORD'S ARMY!**

Joel 2:7-9 matches amazingly, when descriptive of an immortal army, which can move as the locust, leaping from mountaintop to mountaintop. In fact, the next couple of verses are far easier to equate to an immortal army as compared to a mortal one. This army, unlike locust and human armies, will "not break ranks" or "thrust another" or be wounded, but be as the angels. Here the saints will "run to and fro" (cp Isa.33:4) and gravity will have no effect. No wonder in verse 10, the earth and heavens will tremble (Isaiah 1:2 & 10 = people, rulers) for the people and the rulers will be confounded at this army, which moves with the spirit wind, and cannot be destroyed with the weapons of war. Who is this army? **Verse 11 says it is the LORD'S army.**

***Joel 2:11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for ("ki") his camp is very great: for ("ki") he is strong that executeth his word: for ("ki") the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?***

Again this doesn't prove an immortal army, but notice in the Hebrew the three key sentences are all introduced by the Hebrew word ("ki"). "*FOR* ("ki") *His camp is great, FOR* ("ki") *strong is he who does His word, FOR* ("ki") *great is the day of God*". "Ki" is for emphasis so notice the middle phrase: "*FOR he is strong that executeth HIS word*" - which corresponds well with Christ and not well with "Gog, the commander of "northern army" in v.20. So the question is WHY NOT AN IMMORTAL ARMY?

### **Why not an IMMORTAL army?**

- v.7 "run, climb the wall like men of war"
- v.7 "not break ranks"
- v.8 "neither shall one thrust another"
- v.8 "sword, shall not be wounded"
- v.9 "run to and fro"
- v.9 "run upon the wall"
- v.9 "enter at the windows"
- v10 "earth, heavens tremble"

But first do we really care - is this that important, or just a point of interest? Well, if it is an immortal army, we could be part of it and the more real the prophetic word becomes, the more impact it will have on us. For example the following questions just naturally arise.

- What will be the role of this army?
- Is it one of clearing, destroying -- teaching?
- Doesn't God use the natural elements to destroy the Goggian confederacy?
- What about the inhabitants that are left?
- What of the one third that has survived the Goggian confederacy?
- What will be the role of God's saints at this time?

Scripture shows force will be used to bring about God's will upon earth when Jesus is revealed: as the "*lightning ... out of the east*" (Mt.24:27), with "*feet ... in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east*" (Zech.14:4), "*in flaming fire*" (2Thess.1:8), and "*glorified in his saints*" (1Thess.1:10). This multitudinous Christ will "*execute vengeance upon the heathen*" (Psa.149:7) and involved are not only the natural elements (Eze.38:22) but as seen in modern warfare, ground troops are still required. These troops are described in Joel 2:1-11 and those that survive will be given a wonderful opportunity to accept Jesus (Zec.13:8,9; Joel 2:23) as he makes Jerusalem his capital and rules upon the throne of his father David, Luke 1:32).

### **The saints like their commander – NO LONGER PASSIVE!**

- *2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*
  - *Psa.149: 7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; 8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute upon them the*

*judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.*

This militant role of Jesus and his saints many today have difficulty with. What however usually is not seen is the full picture including the problem of changing human hearts. The example of Pharaoh in the exodus is a good one for his heart became so hard he couldn't see. Here the context is the "northern army" (Joel 2:20) which has just wiped out two thirds of Israel and a passive Jesus would have little effect on it. This army is beyond changing but the third left in Israel will see the intervention of Christ and be converted, (Zec.12:10;13:6,8). This role of Jesus with his saints is further detailed in Joel chapters 2 and 3 but before proceeding, another important question arises which is:

### **How dogmatic does one need to be concerning Bible prophecies which are still future?**

In the May 1898 issue of the "Christadelphian Magazine" there is an article by R.Roberts entitled: "True Principles and Uncertain Details" which says:

"There are general principles as to which there can be no compromise: but there are also unrevealed applications of these principles in detail which cannot be determined with certainty, and which every man must be allowed to judge for himself without any challenge of his right to fellowship. To insist on uniformity of opinion on those uncertain details is excess of zeal which may be forgiven, but which meanwhile inflicts harm and distress without just cause... It may help discernment if we consider some examples unaffected by uncertain details."

#### **"The Judgment Seat"**

- *"The General Truth* – That Christ will call the living and the dead before his judgment at his coming."
- *"Uncertain Detail* – Where will he set it up? Will it be in Palestine, or Egypt, or the solitudes of Sinai, in Arabia? We cannot be sure."

This important observation being said, when it comes to Joel and our question: "How dogmatic does one need to be concerning Bible prophecies which are still future?" The following chapter has been entitled: "reasonable firm".

### **(Section 3) REASONABLY FIRM**

Have you ever tried to be reasonably firm without being dogmatic? I mean regarding a subject you are enthused about and feel is important? This needed balance in interpreting God prophetic word was well stated in the December 1991 "Christadelphian Magazine". The title is "THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME" by F.Pearce.

### **"The shape of things to come"**

*"There is no intention to be dogmatic about this, --- though it may appear so -- one has to be reasonable firm in stating the case, otherwise no impact is made. But the opposite, that we do not and cannot know anything definite, is equally unacceptable. The Scriptures do make certain positive statements and we should be prepared to accept them as valid."*

Being reasonably firm without being dogmatic is helpful, as we cover this amazing prophecy in Joel. Joel's vision can help keep us watching, which today is especially important, remembering Jesus' warning which is in his last chapter of his greatest prophecy:

### **"Behold, I come quickly"**

- *REV 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*
- *REV 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*
- *REV 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

We, the last generation, are about to experience the suddenness with which Jesus will come, and the quickness of the events that follow will amaze us. Today, however this warning has lost its newness, and because people and whole religious groups have made inaccurate, and just plain wrong interpretations, this vision with its warning isn't understood.

Further the arrogance of some take the prophetic word too far and predict the date of Jesus' return has made many Christians lukewarm when it comes to Bible prophecy. What is astounding is that Jesus said in Mat.24:36,37 that neither he nor the angels in heaven knew the day and hour of his return. Yet, in spite of these words, many have made predictions that Jesus would return at such and such a date. The arrogance and ignorance of men when it comes to the prophetic word must astonish God's angels in view of Dan.2:21.

### **"God CHANGES the "times and seasons"!"**

*Mat. 24:3 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

- 2250 hemera {hay-mer'-ah} AV - day 355, daily 15, time 3, misc 16
- 5610 hora {ho'-rah} AV - hour 89, time 11, season 3, misc 5; 108

*DAN 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

So God CHANGES the "times and the seasons" when there is true repentance in the land, therefore - the angels don't know the day or hour, let alone we. Yes there may be a basis that the "evil steward" will reason that Christ's delays his coming, (Mat. 24:48) and Paul in Hebrews 10:37 does say: "for yet a little while", and it may seem our Lord does "tarry" for he is not willing that any should perish" (2Pe.3:9) but "the Lord is not slack" and he will "suddenly come" (Mal. 3:1) as "a thief in the night" (Rev. 16:15)!

### **Christ's 2<sup>ND</sup> coming:**

- *Mt.24:48 "... My Lord delayeth his coming;"*
- *HEB 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*
- *2PE 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.*
- *MAL 3:1 "... and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple,... he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." (see Appendix #5)*
- *REV 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

We need to be so careful in interpreting Bible prophecy and this especially applies with Christ's return. This point is well illustrated in Christ's parable of the "fig tree" and the interpretation that the "fig tree" is the Israeli nation which put forth leaves in 1948 and the generation that saw this, will still be alive when Jesus returns. Therefore it is concluded that Christ's return CAN'T be far away! This interpretation is probably correct, but we must not be dogmatic for scripture is carefully designed that each generation would think that Christ could come in their lifetime. And as for the "fig tree" parable, there could be a scientific break through in the aging process and the generation that witnessed Israel's birth as a nation could live longer. So we can only be reasonable firm in stating the life span of the generation that witnessed Israel becomes a nation.

### **Reasonable Firm but not Dogmatic!**

*Mt.24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled .*

Hopefully we can be "reasonable firm in stating the many Bible prophecies" without being dogmatic.

We need the oil within our lamps, but for our lamps to be brightly shining, the oil must first be beaten out, then made pure, and then used! Fortunately obtaining this oil is becoming much easier for the bridegroom is almost here, and the early morning rays of the "sun of righteousness" are lighting up the prophetic word.

### **Prophetic mountain ranges lightened by the "sun of righteousness"**

*Song of Solomon 2:8 The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. 9 My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice. 10 My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. 11 For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;*

Christ's bride (the ecclesia) has risen and today is looking through the lattice and seeing the tops of

the mountain ranges of God's prophetic word light up, one after another, like a bounding deer, for the rays of the “sun of righteousness” are bouncing from one range to another. Yes, the lattice is like looking through a dark glass, and we must be careful describing what we see, but we also must not lose the hope, effect and inspiration that comes from God’s prophetic word. Have you even seen a bounding deer in full flight? There is seemingly an effortless flow of energy and movement that is both thrilling and inspiring. This excitement as the prophetic mountain ranges bound into view like the bounding deer is so needed to counter our busy material world. Yes we must not be dogmatic, but there is a vision in Joel and today it needs to be seen.

Coming back to Joel 2:20 when the “northern army” is destroyed between the seas, there is then a wonderful vision of hope.

### **The “northern army” - GONE!**

- *Joel 2:20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, ...*
- *EZE 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.*

*Looking east from Mt. Olivet with Dead Sea reflecting  
The mountain ranges can be seen beyond the road to Jericho.*



Yes, there still is the potential for a partial fulfillment as there was in Joel’s time when hearts could be rent, rather than garments and the evil day is put off. Certainly the appeal of our loving heavenly Father couldn't be better worded.

### **Rend HEARTS and not garments!**

- *JOEL 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for*  
*he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*
- *EXO 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 ... and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*

This exhortation and warning is to all Ages, but the prime context in Joel 2:20-32 is after Jesus returns. For example, as seen in v.26, “my people shall never be ashamed”. Further today we don't

have a Josiah in our land, a leader who tries with all his might to turn hearts to God, (2Kings 23:25). No, there is no Josiah today and human hearts have been hardened by violence, materialism and the sins of the fathers have affected the children. Also the Sodomite is in our land which God hates.

### **King Josiah REALLY TRIED to change hearts!**

*2KI 23:25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.*

- 2Ki 23:4 - the vessels of Baal in God's temple destroyed
- 2Ki 23:5 - Baal worship around about Jerusalem prohibited
- 2Ki 23:7 - Sodomite houses next to God's house broken down
- 2Ki 23:10- Topheth, Molech, sun worship destroyed
- 2Ki 23:13- Ashtoreth, Chemosh, Milcom destroyed
- 2Ki 23:21- Passover kept

Our Judeo-Christian heritage has been replaced by the vessels of Baal -- not that we bow down to these gods of wood and stone, but we do bow down to their modern day counterparts and evil is called good. And even though lip service is given to condemning the injustice and violence in our land, hearts are not really rent. In fact, life goes on and the wicked prosper.

### **The HEART of man!**

- *Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
- *Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
- *Gen. 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

No, - A good king like Josiah wouldn't make much of a difference in our land. People would just continue to rend garments over the violence, terrorism and injustice, but few hearts would be turned to God, in fact we must ask the question, what would it take to rend the hearts of the people in our day and age? For example, if Jesus came, as he did the first time, meek and humble, would he be able to rend hearts? What does it take to rend hearts? The prophet Zechariah tells us what it will take to rend hearts:

### **What it will take to REND HEARTS?**

- *ZEC 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*
- *ZEC 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him ...*

Two thirds of the people of Israel being destroyed is a terrifying picture of what it will take to rend Israeli hearts! Knowing the human heart first hand, deep down we know it takes a catastrophe and for most, it must be experienced first hand.

Coupled with this catastrophe, Israel will witness first hand the intervention of God's army, which



will destroy the Goggian “northern army”. Catastrophes have a way of having people take stock and it is only when God’s judgments are in the earth that the world will learn righteousness.

### **What it takes to rend Israeli hearts!**

- *Zech.13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.*

Upon seeing this in conjunction with their catastrophe (Zec.13:8), Israel will recognize their MESSIAH and finally rend both garments AND HEARTS, to “mourn” their messiah the Lord Jesus Christ. Upon this a trumpet will be blown in Zion, and a solemn fast will be held, and God will again be jealous for His people and His land.

### **Israel rends garments and hearts!**

- ZEC.12:10 And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn
- JOEL 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:
- JOEL 2:18 Then was the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. (RV)
- JOEL 2:20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army

The result of this as outlined by the Prophet Joel 2:19 is that Israel will no longer fear being made a reproach by the nations again, for Jesus Christ will be set up in Zion and the “northern army” will be destroyed. The devastation also will be reversed, v.25 that which the locust, cankerworm, caterpillar and palmerworm had eaten.

Notice the last phrase in v.25 - “my great army which I sent among you”. Yes God sent these plagues of insects AGAINST Israel, and yes God does call foreign armies, “His army”, but the CONTEXT in v.25 is to “restore” – how? V.25 says with “my great army AMONG you”. This army can’t be the “northern army” since it is destroyed BY God. This didn't happen with the Babylonian armies the Grecian or Roman armies, when they came against Israel. No the “northern army” is not God's army but Gog's army which is destroyed by God.

- *Ezekiel 38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. [22] And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.*

### **After God destroys the “NORTHERN” army:**

- *JOEL 2:19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:*
- *2:20 But I will remove far off from you the NORTHERN army, ...*
- *2:25 And I will RESTORE to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent AMONG you.*

Since insects in Joel 2:25 symbolize armies, is it possible to interpret which insect describes which army, and then, answer why the "palmerworm" comes LAST in Joel 2:25, and FIRST in the sequence in Joel 1:4?

Difficulty one is that the precise meaning of the four Hebrew words used for locust is uncertain. This can be seen by the differences of translation where even the newer translations do not agree.

<b>KJV</b>	<b>HEBREW</b>	<b>NAS</b>	<b>NKJV</b>	<b>NIV</b>
Palmerworm	"gazan"	gnawing	swarming	locust swarm
Locust	"arbelim"	swarming	crawling	great locust
cankerworm	"yalek"	creeping	consuming	young locust
caterpillar	"chesil"	stripping	chewing	other locust

Locusts have different stages but their metamorphosis is more simply than that of the butterfly or beetle.



The locust is thought to pass through three main stages, after emerging from the egg. The eggs are deposited in April and May and hatched in June. Immediately after the locust are hatched, they are in the larva stage, having no wings but being able to move in compact bodies by hopping to find and devour food. After about three weeks time their fourth molt brings them to the pupa stage in which their wings are partially developed, but enclosed. In another month they cast this pupa skin off and as soon as their wings are dry and expanded they ascend into the air.

Some have tried to parallel the different stages of locust with the four Hebrew words in Joel. Yet, this does not give a consistency of interpretation. In the July 1975 "Christadelphian Magazine", Bro. F. Pearce showed by adding the numerical value to consonants of the four Hebrew words used in Joel 1:4 these insects could be links to Daniel. Bro. Peter Islip includes the historical dates.

<b>JOEL 1:4</b>	<b>HEBREW</b>	<b>NUMERICAL</b>	<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
palmerworm	"gazan"	50	Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus – 588-538 BC	50
Locust	"arbeh"	208	Cyrus to Alexander 538-330 BC	208
cankerworm	"yaleq"	140	Alexander 330-190 to the Maccabees	140
caterpillar	"chaciyl"	108	Rome about 38 BC-70AD	108

This article said that the Babylonian desolation of Jerusalem and its temple lasted from 588 BC to 538 BC, the year that Cyrus took Babylon, which was 50 years in total. He then showed that the

Persian domination lasted from 538 to 330 BC, the year of the victory of Alexander the Great which was 208 years, and that the period of Seleucid Greek domination lasted from 330 BC to their defeat by the Romans at the battle of Magnesia in 190 BC giving 140 years; then followed the period of the Maccabees and liberty, to be followed in its turn by Roman domination and annihilation from about 38 BC to 70 AD., a period of 108 years. The locust figures therefore are a further composite designation for the "*kingdoms of men*" of which Daniel's image and the beasts in Daniel chapter 7 and 8 describe.

This linkage using Hebrew numerical value and history is an interesting one, but caution is needed. To illustrate, Bro. Fred Pearce was quoted to begin this chapter, but not from his 1976 "Christadelphian Magazine" article, but from an article he wrote 15 years later that appeared in 1991 "Christadelphian Magazine" entitled "The Shape of Things to Come".

*"There is no intention to be dogmatic about this, --- though it may appear so -- one has to be reasonable firm in stating the case, otherwise no impact is made. But the opposite, that we do not and cannot know anything definite, is equally unacceptable." Yes, there still are some questions and the exact dates of when these empires were directly involved with Judah and Jerusalem do vary, however, to not be reasonable firm and miss the impact is equally unacceptable."*

This quote is repeated to show its importance. Spiritual discernment when it comes to Bible prophecy takes time and comparing articles written by spiritual brethren that are separated by years bears this out. Therefore "being reasonably firm" as to why the insect order changes in Joel 2:25 is unwise since we are not sure of the meaning of the Hebrew words translated "*palmer worm*", "*locust*", "*cankerworm*" and "*caterpillar*", nor can the interpretation be checked by history for v.25 is future. We therefore can't be reasonable firm as to why the insect order changes. Continuing, the prophetic picture clears for the gloom is gone and "the LORD will do great things."

**"Be glad and rejoice", the gloom is gone!**

**JOEL 2:22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do ring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former <4175> rain, and the latter rain in the first month.**

- "beast"/"trees" = nations - Dan.8:20;4:20,22
- "fig tree"/ "vine" = Israel - Hos.10:1
- "former"/"latter" rains = God word - Psa.72:6
- 4175 "mowreh" = autumn rain but AV margin & (TWOT) = teacher

Prophetically these double symbols of rain show great abundance. The fig tree and vine describe the nation of Israel, which is doubly blessed with both former and latter rains. There is both literal and spiritual abundance in the land for Almighty God through His dear son has taken direct control, ruling from Mount Zion. Zion's glad morning has come, her gloom is gone, for her messiah, her "teacher" of righteousness has returned, causing joy and gladness throughout the land.

The prophetic symbolism employed to describe this wondrous change is both graphic and really amazing. Rain is such a fitting symbol of God's spirit word that comes down softening the earth, so fruit might grow. The Psalmist captures this picture in Psalm 72, with the rain coming down upon the "mown grass", however, the setting isn't quite the same, for Psalm 72 describes the millennial age when the grass (people) are "mown" showing shape and discipline. Unfortunately Joel 2:31 shows still a further harvest entitled the "*great and terrible day of the Lord*", therefore the people in Joel 2 are not described as mown grass.

### **The marvel of Bible symbolism**

- *PSA 72:6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. 7 In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.*
- *DEU 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*

In comparing scripture with scripture, it is possible to show that Jesus Christ with his saints will be directly involved in spreading the rain (doctrine) not only upon Israel but throughout the world.

### **The TEACHER of righteousness**

***JOEL 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the FORMER (4174 "mo-reh = teacher) rain MODERATELY (6666 "tzedakah" = righteousness), and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.***

- 4175 "mowreh" { mo-reh' } = autumn rain but AV margin = teacher
- 6666 "tzedakah" (tsed-aw-kaw) translated righteousness, 2Sam 22:21,25; 1Kings 8:32; 2 Chron. 6:23 Faith in the Last Days, Dr. J. Thomas translates v.23 - "... for he hath given to you the Teacher of Righteousness, and he shall cause to descend for you a rain ..."

The Hebrew word translated "former" interestingly also has the meaning "teacher" as noted in the K.J. margin and the Hebrew word for "moderately" is also translated "righteousness". Dr. Thomas seeing this, translated verse 23 "*... for he hath given to you the Teacher of Righteousness, and he shall cause to descend for you a rain; a teacher and a latter rain in the first month.*" What is happening with the differences of translation, is the literal and spiritual meaning of v.23, is overlapping.

This "rain" is symbolic of the millennial gospel revealed in God's word which fortunately will not stop with Israel but will go forth to water the whole world as described in Rev. 14:6.

### **The gospel preached to all nations!**

***REV 14:6 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***

- Angel = "rainbow" angel of Rev. 10:1 = multitudinous Christ as messenger.
- Christ's authority, not yet over the whole world therefore the "*midst of heaven*".
  - *Revelation 14:6 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.

The timing is after Armageddon and before the “*great and terrible day*” of God in Joel 2:31. Before we can really appreciate what is described, the sequence of events from Jesus’ return to the beginning of the millennium needs to be further developed and established. This will be done in the next chapter. Before establishing this sequence it would seem reasonable that Jesus’ brethren and sisters who have been made immortal will be directly involved in preaching this “*everlasting gospel*” to the world. This preaching effort will be led by Jesus Christ, that great “*teacher of righteousness*” and “*every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people*” will have opportunity to accept Jesus as messiah.

There is here a special exhortation to those who are alive when Jesus returns and are blessed as his brethren and sisters, for likely they would have opportunity during this period of good news to come to help educate those they would have known and who have lived through Armageddon. Therefore there is added importance to this group of believers just before Jesus’ return to conducting themselves wisely.

The apostle Paul noted to Timothy the important to “*have a good report of them which are without*” that is outside the ecclesia of God.

**The faithful and wise servant:**

- *1TI 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

This dimension of maybe being able in the future, to sit down with our earthly boss, and show that Jesus has returned and is going to usher in the Kingdom Age can help us now in being careful in what we say and do. You can imagine, if we have not been faithful or undermined our earthly boss, how much more difficult it will be for us to assist, in bringing in this new age. This applies to neighbors, to those who may work for us. In fact the exhortation goes on and on. God’s prophetic word, not only gives vision and hope, but incentive to walk with integrity, “*having a good report of them which are without*”, making sure our light is brightly shining, for who knows, how God will use us today or in the future.

**(Section 4) ESTABLISHING THE VISION**

In section 3 we started to move past the gloom and doom to the glory. This included the destruction of the “*northern army*”(Joel 2:20), the establishment of Christ and his saints in Jerusalem and the area of Holy Oblation, to the preaching of the age lasting gospel seen as the former and latter rain in Joel 2:23.

Between the former and latter rains there are a number of major events including:

1. Cleansing the temple site - Dan. 8:14
2. Construction of Ezekiel's temple - Psa.48:2,12
3. 10 tribes gathered - Ezekiel 20:33-38
4. Israel greatly blessed - Joel 2:23-26
5. Nations confounded - Micah 7:16
6. Holy Spirit poured out - Joel 2:28

Before this vision in Joel can be clearly seen, it is necessary to first establish the sequence of events from Jesus' return to when his millennial reign begins. This involves so many Bible prophecies that it is needful to place them in chronological sequence.

#### **Keys to establishing this SEQUENCE:**

1. How Christ's 2nd coming is described both as a "*thief in the night*" and as "*lightning that shineth from one end of heaven to the other*".
2. That there is BOTH a **grain** and **grape** harvest upon Christ's return.
3. The "*Marriage of the Lamb*", the "*Marriage Supper*" and the "*Supper of the Great God*".

Establishing these keys is not as involved as one might think, and once done, many Bible prophecies of the future can be sequenced to fit like pieces to a puzzle.

Seven times one is warned in the New Testament that Jesus returns as a THIEF. In Matthew and Luke, it is Jesus who warns, in 1 Thessalonians it is Paul the apostle, in 1Peter 3 it is the apostle Peter and the apostle John warns twice in the Revelation.

#### **SEVEN TIMES – Jesus returns as a THIEF!**

1. Matt.24:43 --- "*What watch the THIEF come*"
2. Luke 12:39 --- "*What hour the THIEF come*"
3. 1Thes.5:2 -----"*Lord so cometh as a THIEF*"
4. 1Thes.5:4 -----"*Day should overtake as a THIEF*"
5. 1Pe.3:10 -----"*Watch, I will come as a THIEF*"
6. Rev.3:3 -----"*Watch, I will come ... as a THIEF*"
7. Rev.16:15 ----"*Behold, I come as a THIEF*"

Scripture is clear, Jesus will return as a “*thief*”, but there is still confusion, for Jesus' words in his Olivet prophecy seem to contradict, showing his return is dramatic as lightning.

#### **Jesus appears to the world as LIGHTNING!**

- MAT 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall

also the coming of the Son of man be.

- ISA 30:30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.
- JOEL 2:2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong;

The answer is when Jesus returns from heaven, he returns as a "thief" to gather the responsible to judgment. It is AFTER this, at Armageddon he appears to the world as "lightning" and with his saints who are symbolized as the "clouds of heaven" (Mt. 24:30; Mk.14:62).

**The SAINTS, a great cloud of witnesses:**

- Rev. 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.
- Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

The second key is to establish upon Jesus' return there are **two harvests** that correspond to **two different judgments** that occur at **two different times**. These two different harvests are easily seen in Rev. 14:15-18:

**TWO HARVESTS: (1) The GRAIN harvest and (2) The GRAPE harvest.**

- REV 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.
- REV 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

This reaping is described in more detail in Rev. 16 by the last **two** Vial judgments poured out by **two** separate angels. The 6<sup>th</sup> vial includes and **ends** with Armageddon. The 7<sup>th</sup> vial is poured upon "Babylon the Great". It is important to note that each of the seals, trumpets and vials are specific and defined to a period of time. The same is true with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> vial and to not confuse Armageddon with the destruction of "Babylon the Great". In Revelation 16, there are seven vials that correspond to seven judgments poured out, one after the other. Armageddon concludes the 6th vial judgment and then ANOTHER angel pours out his vial upon "Babylon the Great".

This separation between the 6th and 7th vial is confirmed for "Armageddon" means in the "HEBREW" tongue, heap of sheaves, NOT heap of grapes. Therefore it is tied with the grain harvest and not the grape harvest. The grape harvest is described in the 7th vial as the "wine of the fierceness of God's wrath".

**TWO separate judgments upon Jesus' return:**

- God's 6<sup>th</sup> vial judgement:

- *REV 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial ...*
- *REV 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon <717>*
- 717 Armageddon {ar-mag-ed-dohn'} of Hebrew origin, n AV - Armageddon 1; 1
  - (6194) "armemah" = a heap of sheaves (Ruth 3:7)
  - (1516) "gay" = gorge (Zech 14:4)
  - (1777) "duwn" = judge (Psa.9:8).
- God's 7<sup>th</sup> vial judgement:
  - *REV 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial ...*
  - *REV 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*

These two judgment are also noted in the last book and chapter of the Old Testament where Armageddon in Mal. 4:1 is pictured as a day that “burneth as an oven” and the wicked as “stubble” which is burnt up. Then in Mal. 4:5, reference is made to the “great and dreadful <3372> day of the LORD” or as expressed in Joel 2:31, the “great and terrible <3372> day of the LORD”.

- 3372 yare' {yaw-ray'} a primitive root; v AV - fear 188, afraid 78, terrible 23, terrible thing 6, dreadful 5, reverence 3, fearful 2, terrible acts 1, misc. 8; 314

**TWO different days: (1) "The day that shall burn as an oven" and (2) The "great and dreadful day".**

- *MAL 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*
- *MAL 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

These two different days in Joel 2:1,5,20 and Joel 2:31;3:13 are differentiated with the word "stubble" in Joel 2:5 and "press" in Joel 3:13. The grape harvest is covered in considerable detail in section 6.

**TWO days – TWO vials --TWO judgements – TWO harvests:**

Revelation 14:14-15	Grain harvest	6 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“thrust in thy sickle, and reap”
Revelation 14:18-19	Grape harvest	7 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“... thy sickle and gather the vine”
Joel 2:1	Grain harvest	6 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“the day of the LORD cometh”
Joel 2:5	Grain harvest	6 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“... fire that devoureth the stubble”
Joel 2:20	Grain harvest	6 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“... far off from you the northern army”
Joel 2:31	Grape harvest	7 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“great & terrible day of the LORD”
Joel 3:13	Grape harvest	7 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“the sickle ... the press is full”
Malachi 4:1	Grain harvest	6 <sup>th</sup> Vial	Wicked ... “shall be stubble”
Malachi 4:5	Grape harvest	7 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“great & dreadful day of the LORD”
Isaiah 26:20-27:2	Grape harvest	7 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“a vineyard of red wine”
Jeremiah 25:15-38	Grape harvest	7 <sup>th</sup> Vial	“shout, as they that tread the grapes”

The prophet Jeremiah details the “great and dreadful day of the LORD” in Jer. 25:15-38 and the



prophet Isaiah doeth the same in Isa. 26:20-Isa. 27:2.

**The “great and terrible/dreadful day of the LORD”:**

- *Jer. 25:30 ... The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. (Verse 33) And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth:...*
- *Isa. 26:21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*
- *Isa. 27:2 In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine.*  
*This and since in Israel the GRAIN harvest occurs in summer and the GRAPE harvest in fall, this shows the battle of Armageddon (“sheaves”) occurs in the 6<sup>th</sup> Vial and not the 7<sup>th</sup> Vial in Rev. 16.*

**The THIRD KEY involves establishing :**

- (1) The "marriage of the lamb" (Rev. 19:7,8).
- (2) The marriage supper (Rev. 19:9).
- (3) The supper of the great God (Rev. 19:17).

The marriage of the lamb is the marriage of Christ and his ecclesia, which follows the resurrection and judgment and is thought to take place at Mount Sinai in Arabia (**Appendix # 2**), as did the marriage of God and Israel.

**The marriage covenant between God and Israel near Mt. Sinai in Arabia:**

- *Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*
- *Ezekiel 16:8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.*

The marriage of Christ with his saints at Mt. Sinai is further supported by five references describing Jesus coming from that area with his saints. These verses are Deu.33:1-3; Psa.68:17; S.S. 3:6; Isa. 16:1; Hab. 3:3. Many scholars and archeologists believe that Mt. Sinai may be in Arabia in the land of Median because of Gal. 4:25; Hab. 3:7 and Exo. 3:1. (see **Appendix #2**)

**The marriage of Christ and his ecclesia:**

- *REV 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

**Weddings in the first century normally included three stages:**

- (1) The legal consummation of the marriage by the parents of the bride and of the groom, with the payment of the dowry.
- (2) Wedding procession – the friends and groom come to meet the bride and her attendants, usually at night as illustrated in Matt. 25:1-13 in the familiar parable of the 10 Virgins).
- (3) The wedding supper (illustrated in John 2:1-11) which was a several-day feast following the previous phases of the wedding.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the marriage of Christ and his saints, there is “fear in the (gentile) night” (S.S. 3:8) and a call goes forth for the lamb (Isa.16:1). Jesus Christ (the lamb, Rev. 13:8) with thousands of his saints (Deu. 33:1) leaves Mt. Sinai and comes up through the “wilderness” to deliver the “daughter of Zion”, (S.S. 3:6-11). But “what of the night”, (Isa. 21:11,12) just before Zion’s glad morning? The “daughter of Zion” is in deep trouble for the “northern army” has destroyed two thirds of her people and occupies her capital (Eze.38:15,16; Zec. 13:8; Dan. 11:45).

Christ comes with his saints “unto the daughter of Zion” (Isa.16:1). The “mount of Olives” splits in two (Zech. 14:4) allowing the “daughters of Zion” (S.S. 3:8) to flee forth through the “valley of the mountains”, (Zech 14:5). The “lamb” now “lion” (Rev.5:5;13:8) judges the “northern army” (Eze. 38:15,21,22) which becomes “stubble” (Mal.4:1). After Armageddon (“heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment”) Jesus is magnified “in the eyes of many nations” (Eze. 38:23) and inherits the “throne of his father David”, (Luke 1:32).

#### **After the marriage of Jesus and his ecclesia:**

- *Isa. 16:1 Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.*
- *Song of Solomon 3:8 They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night.*
- *Zechariah 14:4 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.*
- *Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

The gospel (Rev.14:6) will then be preached to the whole world and, an invitation will be issued throughout the "highways" of the nations to the "MARRIAGE SUPPER of the lamb".

#### **The "Marriage SUPPER of the lamb":**

- *REV 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*
- *Matt. 22:9 (NRSV) Go therefore into the main streets (highways), and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

The marriage supper FOLLOWS the first stage of the marriage thought to be in Sinai in Arabia.

After this marriage between Christ and his saints, Jesus comes with his saints to deliver Israel at Armageddon. Following Armageddon and Jesus inheriting David's throne, the gospel will go forth to the whole world and with it, the invitation to the "marriage supper" which is thought to take place in Jerusalem.

This marriage supper of the lamb is **NOT** however the "SUPPER OF THE GREAT GOD" described in Rev. 19:17 and Eze. 39:17-20.

#### **The "SUPPER of the GREAT GOD"**

- *REV 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;*
- *REV 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

Here the "fowls" (nations) are commanded with a "loud voice" to the "Supper of the Great God", and those nations that do not come, will be gobbled up (verse 21). The language is grotesque and leaves no doubt what will happen to those nations that still opposed Jesus. Eze. 39:17 is a parallel account, however its Rev. 19:19 that details WHO the final opposition, namely: "beast" and "false prophet."

#### **The "SUPPER of the GREAT GOD":**

- *EZE 39:17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood..*
- *REV 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;*
- *REV 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*

So the "Supper of the Great God" is very different from the "Marriage of the Lamb" that happens before the hour of God's judgment (Rev. 18:10).

Once these three keys are seen, the many, many Bible prophecies that describe the period between Christ's return and the beginning of the Millennium can be sequenced. This in turn is the key to seeing Joel's vision explained along with many other Bible prophecies thus providing exhortation and hope from which faith is built.

This can be illustrated by referencing Luke 12:35-37.

#### **When Jesus returns from the wedding"**

- *LUKE 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from <1537> the wedding<1062>; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 37 Blessed are those*

*servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.*

- 1537 "ek" prep. denoting origin (the point whence motion or action proceeds)
- 1062 "gamos" from 1060 "gameo" to wed. Used in Lk.14:8; Jn.2:1,2; Heb. 13:4

Today, with Jesus' return so close, it is most important to have OUR lamps burning brightly, but to really burn brightly we need to be able to answer the basic questions in this parable. For example, what about the phrase: "*when he will return from the wedding*"? Doesn't the wedding include the "*men that wait for their Lord*" as the bride, and would not the saints be with Christ when he returns from the wedding? Who are these men who wait for their Lord?

In checking this phrase, it does support the theory that Jesus has departed from the wedding, for the Greek preposition is "ek", meaning coming from the point of origin, which in this verse is "gamos" the wedding which includes the marriage supper.

Yes this is a parable, and the lesson is being ready, but that being said, -- our lights don't shine as bright when the details don't quite fit. If, however, we make the prime dimension of this parable to apply within the context of AFTER "*Armageddon*" and BEFORE the "*great and terrible day of the LORD*", this parable immediately lights up! Also notice Lk.12:37 that these servants are invited to sit down to meat, which has the spiritual meaning of being given understanding of God's word, Heb. 5:14. This fits well Joel 2:23 when the "*former and latter rain*" is given, but we are getting ahead of our self. Coming back to our suggested sequence of Bible prophecies lets see what is ahead.

#### **SUGGESTED PROPHETIC SEQUENCE:**

This begins a major section involving many Bible prophecies that when all fit together gives an amazing detailed picture of what is to come upon Jesus' return.

- Items labeled "a" through "d" have started or may start before Jesus' return as a thief.

#### **(a) The rebirth of the Israeli Nation:**

- *EZE. 36:22 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. 24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*
- *EZE. 37:22 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 rebirth of the Israeli nation in 1948 is the number one sign to our generation that Jesus is about to return. Jesus in his Olivet prophecy drew the parable of the fig tree to illustrate this and make the point that the generation that witnessed the fig tree put on leaves (symbolic of Israel becoming a

nation) would also witness his coming.

**(b) Zarephath in Lebanon!**

- *OBADIAH 1:20,21 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south. And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.*

On June 6, 1982 sixty thousand Israeli troops invaded Lebanon and took control of Southern Lebanon. On May 17, 1983 a peace treaty was made and Israel withdrew their forces to a special security zone just south of Sur (Tyre). The Prophecy of Obadiah says, when the exiled Jews possess Israel, they would do so unto Zarephath which is between Tyre and Sidon. Today we see signs of this prophecy being fulfilled but like Ezekiel's prophecy of Tyre, the full fulfillment comes when the "saviours" (Jesus with his saints) shall come and Mt. Zion is elevated.

**(c) Isaiah chapter 19 – A MODERN PROPHECY AGAINST EGYPT:**

- Verse 2 Civil War
- Verse 4 A "cruel Lord" to rule
- Verse 17 Israel a terror unto Egypt
- Verse 18 Five cities to speak the language of Israel
- Verse 20 Delivered by Christ
- Verse 23 One with Israel and Syria in the Kingdom

Egypt has yet to experience the full fulfillment of the prophecy contained in Isaiah 19. Today it is easy to see that this prophecy could be fulfilled in a way similar to what occurred in Iran in 1979 when the Shah (Mohammad Reza Pahlavi) and his Pahlavi Dynasty was replaced by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Iran became a Shiite Islamic republic.

Egypt today has a strong Shiite Islamic group that could try to gain control. This could cause civil war and a "*cruel*" Shiite "*lord*" taking control of part of Egypt. This in turn could easily involve Israel fulfilling Isaiah 19 where she controls five cities of Egypt. This state would continue until Christ and the saints delivered Egypt from the "*cruel Lord*".

**(d) Syria – DAMASCUS DESTROYED BY ISRAEL:**

*ISA 17:1 The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. V.3 The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts. V.7 At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel. V.9 In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation. 13 The*

*nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.*

Isaiah chapter 17 has both a partial and full fulfillment. There is a partial fulfillment when Damascus fell to the Assyrians under Tiglathpileser III in 732 BC and its populous carried captive to Elam and the famous orchards of Damascus destroyed. But there is a full fulfillment coming “*in that day*”... “*because of the children of Israel.*” The phrase “*in that day*”, verses 7,9,11, precedes the “*harvest*” when the nations in verse 13 become as the “*chaff of the mountains*”.

When and how “*the children of Israel*” will cause Damascus to be made a “*ruinous heap*” and if this happens before or after Jesus’ return as a “*thief*” isn’t given. Scripture is so designed that one can’t say. There is a good reason for if this could be established to happen before Jesus’ return, it could cause delay in people making their decision to serve God until after Damascus was made a “*ruinous heap*”.

The book, The Samson Option, by Seymour M. Hersh, Ed. 1, pages 216-217 has a paragraph that may give insight to how Damascus will be made “*a ruinous heap*”.

*“The Israelis also had contracted with Dr. Gerald Bull, a controversial Canadian arms designer, for the supply of specially configured artillery shells whose range was extended as much as 25%. There were some American weapons experts who understood what Israel’s real goal had to be, given the inaccuracy of an artillery shell fired at such long range. ‘If you’re going forty-five miles and precision is 3% of range, explained one expert, ‘what would you hit with the HE (high explosive) shell? Nothing much. You’d need a nuclear weapon.’ This American, who was senior official at one of the U.S. Army’s weapon testing facilities, had visited Israel in 1973 and had been told of the intended use of the long-range cannons, information he dutifully reported to U.S. intelligence. There also were suggestions, added the American, that Israel had targeted Damascus, Syria’s capital, with the special cannons during the Yom Kippur War. Washington got the message. A senior state department intelligence official recalled widespread concern in the early 1970’s over the ambitious Israeli artillery program. ‘Our supposition was that they’d developed a miniaturized (nuclear) artillery shell and wanted to test it,’ the official said.”*

Jesus in his Olivet prophecy echoes the language of Isaiah 17:12,13, warning in Luke 21 “*in that day*” there would be “*distress of nations with perplexity*” the “*sea and waves roaring*”, “*men’s hearts failing them for fear*”. V.28 says “*when these things begin to come to pass to pray “that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these thing”, (Luke 21:24-27,36).*

Jesus’ statement, “*that ye may be accounted worthy to escape these things*” may give a clue that Damascus will be laid heaps after his return but we can’t be sure for we don’t know if Damascus is included in Luke 21:36, “*all of these things*”. An interesting aside that helps us to be awake and watching is, Jesus returns as a “*thief*” when “*these things begin*” to come to pass.

**A 50 year sequence of events upon Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:**

The following section begins with Jesus' return as a "thief" and covers up until the millennium begins. This section is divided into eighteen events covering a space of fifty years. Why fifty years, the answer is based on Lev. 25:9; Micah 7:15; and Rev. 18:10.

### **The JUBILEE:**

- *Lev. 25:8 And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. 9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. 10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. 11 A jubile shall that fiftieth year be unto you: Ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.*

Because of Leviticus 25 with the "seven sabbaths of years" (v.8), and "a jubilee shall be that fiftieth year" (v.11), it suggests God works using Jubilee cycles. Verification is found in Israel's history (Isa. 61:2) and in the future in Eze. 46:17 for, in the kingdom age, the "year of liberty" (Jubilee) is used.

- *Isaiah 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*
- The "acceptable year of the LORD" is interpreted as the jubilee.
- *Ezekiel 46:17 But if he give a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his to the year of liberty; after it shall return to the prince: but his inheritance shall be his sons' for them. (The "year of liberty" is interpreted as the jubilee.)*

Next, in answering the question, why fifty years, Micah 7:14,15 is referenced to support forty of the fifty years.

Micah 7:15 the phrase "according to the days" is translated "in the days" in v.14. This helps to establish this includes the forty years in the wilderness. This Stephen further qualifies in Acts 7:36 to also include the signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.

### **"According to the DAYS of thy coming out of Egypt"**

- *MIC 7:14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. 15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto him marvellous things. 16 The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf.*
- Rod is a symbol of Jesus as seen in Isaiah 11:1,4, as the "rod of Jesse".
- Ezekiel 20:35,37 is a future prophecy where Israel is brought into the "wilderness of the

*people*" and passed under the "rod".

- The number "forty" in scripture is the number of probation, Jonah.3:4.
- Acts 7:36 He brought them out, after that he had showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.
- The "forty years" includes the wonders and signs in Egypt and the years wandering in the wilderness.

### **SUGGESTED SEQUENCE UPON CHRIST'S 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING:**

#### **(1) The return of Jesus as a "THIEF"!**

- *REV 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief <2812>. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*
- *1TH 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief <2812> in the night.*
- *2 PETER 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief <2812> 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. \* 2812 "kleptes"; n m AV – thief 16; 16*

The seven fold warning in the New Testament of Jesus' return using the analogy of a "thief" is designed to keep his elect awake and ready. How better to do this than an analogy which Christ's brethren and sisters would have difficulty with, not that they don't understand that a thief comes when one is unaware, but the linking of Jesus and a thief! The two just don't go together and if there were any other better analogy to alert, it would have been used. This shows how important this message is, for Christ's brethren must not get sleepy or "lose their garments" (Rev. 16:15) during the long Gentile night. Jesus returns as a thief when he is not expected by the world.

Jesus' disciples just before his crucifixion got sleepy and couldn't stay awake. Yes they had just eaten a big meal and it was late but if they had understood their Old Testament prophecies of what was about to happen they would have been wide awake. The same holds for Jesus' disciples at his return. Here God's prophetic word is like a "light that shineth in a dark place" and the clearer this light is seen, the wider awake his disciples will be.

#### **(2) The Resurrection and Judgment of the Responsible:**

Upon Jesus' return, there will be the resurrection and judgment of the responsible. The responsible are those who know the revealed will of God, and have been called upon to submit to it. Those who are faithful, having obeyed God, will be exalted to reign with Jesus as joint heirs in the kingdom of God to come upon earth.

- *John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the*



*word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

- *1Pe.4:5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*
- *2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad..*
- *Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*
- *2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*
- *Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*
  - There are three classifications of people: (1) those not responsible (Psalms 49:20) who will not awake, (2) those of the “many” (Dan 12:2) who awake and are blessed with “everlasting life”, (3) those responsible who awake and found “unjust” (Acts 24:15).

The responsible dead (“*in Christ*”) from 1Thes 4:15,16 “*arise first*” to proceed those who are alive at Jesus’ return as a thief. Here some think that the awakened responsible dead will be the messengers sent to call the responsible living to the judgment seat.

- *1THES. 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent <5348> them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*
  - 5348 “phthano” {fthan'-o} apparently a primary verb; v. AV - come 4, already attain 1, attain 1, attain 1, prevent 1; 7. ( 1) to come before, precede, anticipate

### **(3) The Judgment Seat AT MOUNT SINAI?**

The judgment seat of Christ is thought to take place in the area of Mt. Sinai, following in type, Israel coming out of Egypt and God making a marriage covenant with them at Mt. Sinai before they entered the promise land. This type is supported with several passages showing Jesus with his saints coming from the wilderness to deliver Jerusalem. (See **Appendix #2** for location of Mt. Sinai in Arabia)

#### **(3a) Jesus arises with his saints from Sinai:**

- *DEU 33:2 And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.*
- *PSA 68:17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.*

- *HAB 3:3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.*
  - *See also Hab. 3:3-7: Song of Solomon 8:5-7*
  - *Mt. Sinai may be in Arabia, Gal. 4:25.*

Upon Jesus' return, the modern nations will echo the ancient nations when Israel fled Egypt. They will have heard that people have been raised and miraculous power is being used and that a judgment of some type taking place in the Sinai area, but because of major world problems these events will recede to the back pages. God often uses the past to foreshadow the future but the Rahab's of our world will see! (Joshua 2:10) This will help them in their acceptance of Jesus' when he later sits upon the "*throne of his father David*, (Luke 1:32).

#### **(4) The MARRIAGE of Christ and his ecclesia:**

- *Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*
- *Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Another marriage took place in Mt. Sinai many years ago between God and the nation of Israel. Exodus 19:5-8 speaks of the covenant made between God and Israel where they were made a special treasure unto Him, to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Israel unfortunately broke this covenant. God first put her away (Isa. 50:1) and when this didn't work He divorced her, (Jer.3:8). Israel during the exile and to this day no longer embraced other gods like Baal, and although she has continued unfaithful to God, she didn't become another man's wife (Deu. 24:1-4). In the future she will be brought back under a new covenant, (Jer. 31:31-33).

#### **(4a) The marriage covenant between God and Israel:**

- *Exo. 19:5-8 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. 7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.*
- *Isaiah 50:1 Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement (3748), whom I have put away (7971)? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.*
- *Jeremiah 3:8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away (7971), and given her a bill of divorce (3748); yet her treacherous*

*sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.*

- *Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

In the marriage of Christ and his ecclesia, unfaithfulness of the bride will not be a problem, for she will have made herself ready and been arrayed with immortality before the marriage. The nations will not be invited to the marriage. They will be invited however to the marriage supper which it thought to take place after Armageddon in Jerusalem.

#### **(5) ELIJAH sent to the nation of Israel:**

The future work of Elijah, in type was foreshadowed by John the Baptist, (Mal.3:1; Mt.11:10,14; Lk.7:27) in preparing the way for Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> coming, but John was not Elijah. Elijah's future ministry is to prepare the Jews in Israel today for Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming (Mal.3:1). This is when Israel has "gotten cattle and goods" and "dwell safely", (Eze. 38:12-14). Israel has yet to dwell without "bars" or "gates" but today is rapidly developing the means to becoming rich. (See **Appendix #5**)

#### **(5a) Elijah foreshadowed by John the Baptist:**

- *MAL 3:1 Behold, I (God) will send my messenger, and he (Elijah) shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord (Christ), whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple (ecclesia), even the messenger of the (New) covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- *MAT 11:10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*
- *MAT 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*
- *LK 7:27 This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*

#### **(5b) Israel has yet to dwell confidently:**

- *Ezekiel 38:12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. 13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? 14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth*

*safely*, (983 from 982 “batach” = “trust”, “confident”, “bold”) shalt thou not know it?

This description of Israel dwelling safely has yet to happen. Using a jubilee period, the timing of Gog’s invasion is thought to be about ten years after Jesus returns as a thief.

#### **(6) "Time of TROUBLE such as never was"**

*Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

- The chapter epitome in Dan. 12:1 is detailed by several events that proceed, for example the resurrection, v.2, "many shall run to and fro" and "knowledge" increase, v.4. This order is very common in many Bible prophecies.
- *Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;*

There are a number of Bible prophecies describing the events just before Armageddon. Ezekiel chapter 38 speaks of a confederacy of nations led by “Gog” that comes into the Middle East as a “cloud to cover the land”. The prophet Zechariah says that “Gog” will take Jerusalem and two thirds of Israel destroyed, (Zec.14:2; 13:8,9). The prophet Daniel says that “the king of the North” (Gog) will set his headquarters in Jerusalem and there shall be a “time of trouble, such as never was” (Dan.11:45;12:1) which in Rev. 16:16 is called “Armageddon”.

#### **(7) Gog, of the land of Russia to invade Israel!**

*Ezekiel 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

- “Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who by the Greeks are called Scythians.” (Quote from The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus, translated by W. Whiston, pub. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, book 1, chapter VI, p.40)
- Tracing the ancient Scythians as they moved from Asia to Europe helps to identify that Gog, "the land of Magog" describes the nation of Russia today. (**Appendix #4**, map from World of Herodotus)

#### **(7a) ARMAGEDDON – “heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment”**

- *Revelation 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*
- In the Hebrew language “**Armageddon**” is a composite of three Hebrew words:
  - (6194) “**armemah**” means “heap of sheaves” as translated in Ruth 3:7.

- (1516) “**gay**” means “gorge, valley” as translated in Zech. 14:4.
- (1777) “**duwn**” means judge as translated in Psa. 9:8.
- *Zechariah 14:2 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.*
- *Zechariah 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*
- *Daniel 11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him*

Armageddon ends God’s 6<sup>th</sup> vial judgment poured out upon the Goggian confederacy which will come as “*a cloud*” destroying two thirds of Israel and setting its headquarters in Jerusalem. God then will judge this confederacy and destroy it. This judgment is called Armageddon for Gog is made a heap of sheaves in the valley of judgment. The details of this are found in several Bible prophecies including: Eze. 38:1-23; 39:1-16; Dan 11:45; Joel 2:1-11.

**(7b) God draws the Goggian confederacy into invading Israel.**

- *EZE 38:4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:*
- Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal is drawn by God into the Middle East and once there with his confederate army decides to attack Israel, Eze. 38:9-13.
- *DAN 11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*
- The “*king of the North*” (Gog) will make Jerusalem his headquarters but then God intervenes and the Goggian confederacy is destroyed.

**(7c) DIVINE Intervention at Armageddon:**

When the nations gathered “*against Jerusalem to battle*” (Zec. 14:2) and God’s earth is being destroyed (Rev. 11:18), the prophet Ezekiel in Eze. 38:18,19 describes God’s reaction and Joel 2:1-11 details His intervention.

**(7d) GOD will not allow MAN to destroy HIS earth!**

- *Zec. 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, ... 3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought*

*in the day of battle. 12 Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet.*

- *Rev. 11:18 ... and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*
- *Ezekiel 38:18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. 19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;*
- *Joel 2:5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword they shall not be wounded.*

## **8. JESUS CHRIST REVEALED TO THE WORLD!**

When Jesus reveals himself to the world it will be with great power and authority. This side of Jesus as the “lion” compared to the “lamb” will cause the world great concern. The prophet Isaiah in his prophecy has counseled the nations to accept Jesus but his actions will be so different from his first coming that many will be troubled with his claim to be Jesus Christ.

### **(8a) Jesus manifested to the world with great power and authority!**

*ZEC 14:4 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 ...*

- *MAT 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (See **Appendix 6** Olivet prophecy comparison of Matthew, Mark and Luke accounts which is necessary to divide the three questions, namely: when not one stone upon another, the sign of Jesus coming and the end of the age.)*
- *ISA 5:26 And he will lift up an ensign <5251> to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:*
  - 5251 "nec" {nace} AV - standard 7, ensign 6, pole 2, banner 2, sail 2, sign 1; 20.
  - It is thought the "sign" that Jesus uses to make the claim that he is the Messiah is *the "wounds in his hands"* and his "pierced" side, (Zech. 13:7;12:10).
- *ISA 11:12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, ...*
- *ISA 18:3 All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.*
- *ISA 11:10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, (Jesus) which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

### **(9) Jesus Christ makes JERUSALEM his capital:**

The nations will have difficulty recognizing the new leader of Israel as the “great king” (Psalms 48:2) of the earth, the “Son of the Highest” (Lk.1:32). They will go to Jerusalem and marvel seeing

Ezekiel's temple (Eze. 40-43) being built with "*the towers thereof*" (Psalms 48:12,13) but they will be "*troubled*" (Psalms 48:5) and "*haste away*". The reason they will be troubled is there will be a "*strong delusion*" (2Th.2:11) throughout the world that this world leader that sits upon David's throne is the Antichrist. This will be an especially strong delusion for many today look for such a world leader. In fact there are many books that promote this doctrine of a future Antichrist. (i.e. the *Left Behind* series.)

**(9a) Who is this world leader in Jerusalem?**

This "*great King*" isn't the Antichrist but the real Christ, who has returned to "*inherit the throne of his father David*". The nations will marvel but because of the strong delusion will be "*troubled*".

- *Psalm 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*
- *Psalm 48:5 They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away.*
- *Psalm 48:12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.*
- *Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him (Jesus Christ) the throne of his father David.*
- *Act 2:30 ... of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;*

**(10) The GOSPEL preached to the world:**

The good news of God's millennial kingdom will be proclaimed world wide (Rev. 14:6) and His holy spirit power will be poured out upon all flesh, (Joel 2:28). This will cause great joy paralleling that in Samaria many years ago (Acts 8:5-8). The resurrected saints will be directly involved in preaching the gospel to the world. This will echo Jesus' apostles in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

**(10a) Good News for the World:**

- *REV 14:6 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,*
- *Joel 2:28 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:*

**(11) World Jewry gathered and brought under the new covenant:**

During the gospel proclamation, there will be a second exodus of world Jewry to the "*wilderness of the people*" (Eze. 20:34) echoing the Jews leaving Egypt under Moses. Here in the land of Bashan and Gilead (Mic.7:14,15; Psa.68:22) they will be brought under a new covenant (Jer.31:31) where God's law will be written "*in their heart*" and they will finally become the kingdom of priest as God intended in Exo. 19:6.

- *Ezekiel 20:34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there*

*will I plead with you face to face. 37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:*

- *Micah 7:14 Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. 15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.*
- *Psalm 68:22 The Lord said, I will bring again from Bashan, I will bring my people again from the depths of the sea:*
- *Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

### **(12) Further invitation to the MARRIAGE SUPPER of Christ and his saints:**

During this period of joy there will go out an invitation to the marriage supper of Jesus and his saints Luke 14:22-23. As in the past the invitation isn't taken seriously as seen by the man without a wedding garment. The change from the past is seen in Mt. 22:13 in how this indifference will be dealt with! The people of the world will have difficulty with the authoritarian style of this new power in Jerusalem and resistance to it will grow.

- *Luke 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. <sup>23</sup> And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*
- *Matthew 22:13 <sup>13</sup> Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

### **(12a) Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper:**

- *Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

### **(13) Jesus upon David's throne judges the image nations:**

As this new power in Jerusalem grows throughout the earth, the nations are commanded to "*the valley of Jehoshaphat*" and divided between "*sheep*" and "*goats*" (Joel 3:2; Mt. 25:32). Many nations making up the image in Daniel 2 will resent this new authority in Jerusalem and have great difficulty with its solutions to world problems, i.e. the Palestinian problem, (see notes Joel 3:8). This will first prompt the ten finger nations in the image in Daniel 2 to take "*crafty counsel*" (Psa. 83:6-8)



against Israel and the “*hidden ones*” (saints) to drive Israel into the sea, (Psalms 83:3,4). This resistance will usher in the day of God’s vengeance (7<sup>th</sup> vial made up of 7 thunders) upon the image nations (Isa. 34:2-8; 63:1-4) for Jesus will be ruling in “*midst*” of “*enemies*”, (Psalms 110:2).

**(14) Jesus rules in the midst of enemies:**

- *Psalm 110:2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.*
- *Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*
- *Joel 3:8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken it.*
- *Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

As the image in Daniel 2 had ten fingers, there is also another group of ten nations (Psa. 2:2) which also will take “*counsel*” against “*the LORD and against his anointed*” (Jesus). These ten toe nations of the image will see God’s judgments upon the nations that surround Israel as well as the destruction of their seven hill city (Rev. 18:8). This will cause them to “*rage*” and being deceived by a “*strong delusion*” (2Thes.2:11) will believe the “*lie*” that “*Jesus who has returned in the flesh*” is the Antichrist, (1Jn.4:3). At this point the image in Daniel 2 begins to rise “*together*” taking crafty *counsel against the LORD and His anointed*.

**(14a) TWO groups of ten nations troubled by the new king/judge in Jerusalem:**

The **TEN FINGER nations** of the image troubled by the new king/judge in Jerusalem.

- *Psalm 83:6 The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assur ....*
- *Psalm 83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 4 They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.*
- *Isaiah 34:2 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: ... 5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. 6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, ...: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea ... 8 For it is the day of the LORD’S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.*
- Verses 2-8 establishes the context as “*the day of the LORD’s vengeance*” and the “*controversy of Zion*”. Jeremiah 25:31 shows this is the time of the grape harvest. This is confirmed in Isa. 63:1-4 by the phrases “*treadeth in the winefat*” and “*of the people there was*”

none with me."

- *Isaiah 63:1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.*
- None of the surrounding nations will be with Christ as the fingers of the image in Daniel are dealt with beginning the hour of God's judgment.

The **TEN TOE nations** of the image troubled by the new KING/JUDGE in Jerusalem. As already mentioned this group of ten nations will be drunk by a "*strong delusion*" into thinking that Israel's "*great king*" reigning in Jerusalem is the Antichrist, the incarnation of Satan. Unfortunately these lies today are well entrenched dating back at least to the Reformation when the historical interpretation of the Revelation was gradually replaced with a future interpretation of the Revelation. This interpretation includes the coming of a future world leader known as the Antichrist. Today this future Antichrist delusion is widely believed therefore it is not difficult to interpret the Psalmist, that many nations will "*take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed*". The anointed here is the Lord Jesus Christ who has returned with an immortal flesh spirit body as compared to our mortal body of flesh and blood.

- *1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*
- *Psalms 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*
- *2Thes. 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

### **(15) The SUPPER of the GREAT GOD:**

The "*supper of the great God*" is a war counsel and the nations which come, will consume the nations (Rev.19:16-18; Eze. 39:17) that oppose Jesus being "*king of kings and Lord of Lords*". This takes place towards the end of the hour of God's judgment, Rev. 17:12.

- *Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.*

- *EZE 39:17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.*
- *Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.*

### **(16) “Christ ROARS out of Zion”**

For the LORD to roar *out of Zion* he must previously have been established there, therefore this occurs **after** Armageddon. Alone the same line in order for the LORD to *sit to judge*, he must have been previously established there.

After the “*supper of the great God*”, Jesus will “*roar out of Zion*” (Joel 3:16; Jer.25:30) against all of the inhabitation of the earth.” Jesus now commands allegiance from Jerusalem, for the inhabitation of the earth will have been given every opportunity to accept him as Messiah and still they will take counsel against his Father and himself, (Psa. 2:2; Rev. 19:19). This will infuriate the “*lion*” of the tribe of Judah (Gen.49:9-11), and as he overthrew the money changers, he will go forth to overthrow all political opposition that his Father’s will might “*be done in earth as in heaven*”, (Mat. 6:10).

- *JOEL 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*
- *JER 25:30 Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.*
- *Joel 3:12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.*
- *Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*
- *Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.*
- *Genesis 49:9 Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. 11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass’s colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes.*

### **(17) The “GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD” ( winepress judgment):**

This “*winepress*” judgment (Rev. 19:15) will be poured (Rev. 16:17-21) upon “*great Babylon*”. This will encompass the whole image in Daniel 2 including its ecclesiastical and political systems throughout the world. All will be completely destroyed in the “*lake of fire*” (Revelation19:20)

- Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God..
- Revelation 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.
- Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
  - Daniel 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.



- This "beast" has seven heads made up as seen in Rev. 13:2 of a Babylonian lion head, a Medo-Persian bear head, four Greek leopard heads, and a Roman head.
- This ties this beast with Dan.7 which parallels the image in Daniel 2.
- Daniel 2:35 shows the image falls "together", therefore it must stand all together against Jesus.

### **(18) ALL NATIONS SUBMIT TO JESUS CHRIST - the millennium begins!**

At the beginning of the millennium there will be no political opposition to Jesus. All nations will serve him and obey his laws.

- ISA 2:2 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.

- *JER 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.*
- *PSA.72:11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.*

### **(19) The MILLENNIAL kingdom:**

#### **THE KING – The Lord Jesus Christ:**

- *Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*
- *John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

#### **THE MILLENNIAL RULERS – the saints:**

- *Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*
- *Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, 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 MILLENNIAL SUBJECTS – “the remnant”:**

- *Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*
- *Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles .*

#### **THE MILLENNIAL PRIESTS – immortal and mortal:**

- *Ezekiel 44:15 But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:*
- *Ezekiel 44:10 And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity. **11** Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them.*

#### **THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM – the laws:**

- *Micah 4:3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*
- *Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

#### **THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM - the territory:**

- *Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*
- *Psalms 72:8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.*

Here referenced are many Bible prophecies which when placed in sequence give an amazingly detailed, important picture of what is to come. The clearer this vision becomes the stronger our faith and the brighter our lamps burn. This sequence is also very helpful in finishing Joel chapter 2 and interpreting Joel chapter 3.

#### **Pages 40-54 in chart form**

<b>Sequence</b>	<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>1</b>	Revelations 16:15; 1Thessalonians 5:2; 2Peter 3:10	Return of Jesus as a thief
<b>2</b>	2Corinthians 5:10; Daniel 12:2; 1Thessalonians 4:15	Resurrection and Judgment of the responsible
<b>3</b>	?	Judgment seat at mount Sinai
3a	Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Habakkuk 3:3	Jesus arises with his saints from Sinai
<b>4</b>	Revelations 19:7; Ephesians 5:26-27	Marriage of Christ and his ecclesia
<b>5</b>	Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:10-14; Luke 7:27	Elijah sent to the nation of Israel
5a	Ezekiel 38:2; Luke 17:26,27,30; Matthew 24:37-39	Israel dwells confidently eating, drinking etc.
<b>6</b>	Daniel 12:1; Luke 21:25	Time of trouble such as never was
<b>7</b>	Ezekiel 38:2	Gog to invade Israel
7a	Revelation 16:16; Zechariah 13:8; 14:2	Armageddon
7b	Ezekiel 38:4; Daniel 11:45	God draws Gogian confederacy into Israel
7c	Zechariah 14:2; Ezekiel 38:18-19	Divine intervention at Armageddon
<b>8a</b>	Zechariah 14:4; Matthew 24:27; Isaiah 11:10	Jesus manifested with great power & authority
<b>9</b>	Psalms 48:2; Luke 1:32	Jesus makes Jerusalem his capital

<b>10</b>	Revelation 10:11; 14:10; Joel 2:28	Gospel preached to the world
<b>11</b>	Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 20:34	World Jewry brought under new covenant
<b>12</b>	Luke 14:23	Further invitation to the Marriage Supper
12a	Revelation 19:9	Marriage Supper of the Lamb
<b>13</b>	Joel 3:2; Matthew 25:32	Judgment of the nations
<b>14</b>	Psalms 110:2	Jesus rules in the midst of his enemies
14a	Psalms 83:3-6; Daniel 7:24; Revelation 17:12	Two groups of ten nations
<b>15</b>	Revelation 19:16-18; Ezekiel 39:17	Supper of the great God
<b>16</b>	Joel 3:16; Jeremiah 25:30; Psalm 2:2	Christ roars out of Zion
<b>17</b>	Revelation 19:15; 16:17; Joel 2:31	Great and terrible day of the LORD
<b>18</b>	Isaiah 2:2; Psalm 72:11	The millennium begins – the laws
<b>19</b>	John 18:37; Zechariah 14:6; Micah 4:3; Psalm 72:8	The kingdom age – the territory

### **(Section 5) THE GLOOM LIFTED FOR A MOMENT!**

Section 4 was rather a long pause, but the benefits will now be seen as we come back to Joel for the vision will start to fit -- and that's exciting!

In Joel 2:23, after the “Northern Army” has been destroyed in v.20, everything quickly changes.

### **The gloom is lifted!**

- **JOEL 2:23** *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*
- **JOEL 2:24** *And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.*

Jesus in v.23 is dwelling in Jerusalem upon David’s throne and God’s word goes out to the nations as rain that waters dry ground, that it might bring forth fruit to God. This rain will have especially wonderful results in Israel and no wonder for the “Holy One of Israel” is in her “midst”.

### **The Holy One of Israel in her midst!**

**JOEL 2:27** *And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.*

- **PSA 46:5** *God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.*

The “heathen” (nations) will have difficulty accepting the new ruler in Jerusalem, but Israel will “*not be moved*” or be made “*ashamed*” -- and the reason, (Joel 2:27) they shall know who is in their midst. In fact they will mourn for him, (Zech. 12:10) which shows both recognition and emotion, a rending of heart and once this happens...

- **ZEC 12:10** *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

**JOEL 2:24** *And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.*

God's physical blessings of wheat, wine and oil are POURED out! But there is much more than physical blessings, for God’s spiritual blessing come including the pouring out of the holy spirit gifts, Joel 2:28.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> century but a taste!**

**JOEL 2:28** *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:*

- **HEB 6:4** *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,*



The gifts experienced in the first century were but a taste of what is to come, a partial fulfillment. This taste of the holy spirit gifts can be seen in the great joy and excitement of Martha and Mary when their brother Lazareth came forth from the tomb. Here Jesus was emotionally involved with both the sorrow and joy of this miracle, but have we ever thought of being the one, who will have the power to lay hands on a loved one and see them healed. To be actively involved, NOT needing to be healed, but being able to heal, to cause great joy in the land. To remove the gloom and see God's glory unfold, as men and women come to know and reflect that glory.

These powers of the world to come need to be made as real as possible in our mind's eye, and even though today they are seen, as through a "glass, darkly" (1Co. 13:12), just having the vision helps in obtaining the prize. We can see how important this vision is through the example of our Lord Jesus. His vision was a major force that helped him come through the crucifixion, (Heb. 12:2; Isa.50:7).

#### **HAVING THE VISION helped Jesus:**

- *Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- *Isaiah 50:7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*

That joy which Jesus saw helped him to set his face like "flint" and endure the cross and the same can help us to see and endure for a new world is coming!

#### **A NEW WORLD is coming!**

- *1CO 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*
- *ISA 64:4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*
- *ISA 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

We now look through a darken glass and need to be careful, but this isn't speculation with itching ears, nor is it wrong to make the Kingdom Age as real as possible. Yes, the "heavens are higher than the earth" however the Bible does detail this heavenly vision and the more real we make it, the greater our desire will be to be part of it when God's will, "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Like Jesus, we too need to have this vision to be able to counter our fleshly nature.

Can you imagine having an incorruptible body, plus being immortal not ever growing tired or being sick. A body that is naturally enthusiastic, of where great ideas spring forth. A body full of energy to carry out the great ideas. Proverbs 25;11 says "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver". Can you imagine being able to say the right word, at the right time then having it perfectly understood? This is like being on the same wavelength, which is both exhilarating and

rewarding. Communication is able through the internet using a computer program to take our English words and translate them into French, Spanish, Hebrew, etc, if we wish to try to communicate with someone who speaks another language. Yet the translation is usually so poor that much is misunderstood and lost in the translation. In the Kingdom Age, we will be able to communicate in such a way that there will be no misunderstandings for the apostle Paul says: “*we will know even as we are known*”. Just think how enjoyable it will be to share ideas with immortal saints, who too have great ideas, enthusiasm, boundless energy, plus have the means and ability to carry these ideas out. Not like today's tools, which disappear with a power glitch, or more often with human failure? In God's kingdom, there will be communication systems so superior that we will wonder how we ever endured with today's primitive systems.

Further what about being able to use the other 90% of our brain; the parts which, we haven't been able to tap today? We see isolated incidences of this, people like Beethoven who could write some the world's best music, without being able to hear, except with the ear of the mind. What will it be like to have access to a mind that can so hear and compose the best music? Or, can you imagine being able to change the genetic code of the lion so that a little child can lead it and ride it. What joy this will cause!

**In the KINGDOM AGE:**

- *ISA 11:6 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.*

But more than this, God's saints will be like the angels who were involved in our creation. We know this by comparing the following scriptures: Gen 1:26; Psa. 8:5; Heb.2:7. God's angels are included in the word "us" in Gen. 1:26 for it is interpreted by the Psalmist and further interpreted in Hebrews.

- *GEN 1:26 And God <430> said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
- *Psalm 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels <430>, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*
- *Hebrews 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
  - 430 "elohiym" {eloheem'} plural, n m p. AV - God 2346, god 244, judge 5, GOD 1, goddess 2, great 2, mighty 2 angels 1, exceeding 1, God-ward + 4136 1, godly 1; 2606.

So the "us" in Genesis 1:26 include the angels as interpreted by the Psalmist and verified by Paul in Hebrews 2:7.

There is amazing variety in God's creation. For example, from a cocoon to a butterfly that both flies and has a coat of many colors. Imagine having the power to bring this about, and this is only seeing what already has been done. What about what is in store for those who "wait for him", Isaiah 64:4?

What about Job's comment, (Job 38:22) of the uses of hail?

**"even the wind and sea obey him"**

- *JOB 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?*
- *ZEC 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.*

Yes, the microscope has brought some of these treasures to light, but in the kingdom age, to have control over the world's weather systems will be a huge responsibility. For example, in Zech. 14:17, rain is withheld, if the feast of tabernacles isn't kept, but having this control as Elijah found out, effects the innocent, like a Gentile widow away up in Zarephath. Yes, we will need the other 90% of our brain to effectively and with equity, use the world's weather systems to glorify God. As to changing and helping the mortal population, this will be a real challenge, but we will have an advantage over the angels today, for we will be able to take from our experiences, "things old" (Matt. 13:52). That is, when we are made householders in God's kingdom, we will be able to use the experiences of this life to better impart justice and mercy to a mortal household.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> mystery – The "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" is like:**

- *MAT 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.*
- *LUK 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?*
- *PRO 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.*

As to "things new", imagine having a new, non-tiring, immortal body from which to impart knowledge to the earth's mortal population. We wouldn't become impatient in transferring it. We would be better able to see where the problems were. We would have no difficulty expressing ourselves clearly but as to complete success, we only have to read Revelation chapter 20 to know we too will have problems as the angels do now. But we will be able to take of "things old"-- our experiences now, for we will well remember what it was like to battle flesh.

What may seem surprising is that towards the end of the millennium, humans will be allowed to once again take political control and there will be opposition to Jesus and the saints.

**KING SIN again reigns during the millennial age!**

- *REV 20:7 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.*

- *Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

To allow King Sin (Rom. 5:21) to again "**reign**" towards the end of the millennium seems astounding. To allow Gog to again manifest political power and to deceive the nations doesn't at first compute. God's ultimate plan however is designed to give mankind a choice. Our creation began in Eden and will end 7,000 years later at the end of the millennium. God's will, "*will be done*" but by humans who of their own will, put their trust in Him. To have no choice would not accomplish God's will. The tragedy is all the hurt and suffering along the way which again is graphically illustrated as Joel now details the final day of the LORD before the millennium.

#### **TRAGEDY when KING SIN reigns!**

***JOEL 2: 30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.***

- *JER 25:30 ... The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. 33 And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; ...".*
- *MAL 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

This "*Great and Terrible Day of the LORD*" is the same as the "*Great and Dreadful day of the LORD*", already referenced in Malachi 4:5 and more graphically described in Jeremiah 25:33. The "*slain of the LORD*" shall be from "*one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth,*" and no wonder! The world will have had the opportunity to taste and see "*marvelous things*" and still will reject Jesus. This may seem amazing but the Psalmist leaves no doubt that it will happen.

#### **The kings saw what? - "they MARVELED"**

- *PSA 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. 4 For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. 5 They saw it, and so they marveled; they were troubled, and hasted away. 12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.*
- WHY were the kings troubled? WHY did they haste away? The Psalmist gives us a clue.
  - *PSA 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?*
  - *PSA 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

Can you imagine the world leaders coming to Jerusalem and both seeing and hearing Jesus? It would be like the queen of Sheba seeing a greater than Solomon, with a greater temple to walk about and count the towers, Psalms 48:12. The Psalmist pens this vision magnificently in Psalm 48 and Psalm 2, but what would make these kings so troubled, and why will they haste away? Psalm 2 says

these kings are in a rage and take counsel against both God and Christ. What possibly could cause this? In the partial fulfillment of Psalm 2 in Acts 4:25-27, insight is given which helps in interpreting Psalm 2.

**The kings of the earth --- INFURIATED!**

- ACT 4:25) *Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?*
- ACT 4:26 *The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.*
- ACT 4:27 *For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,*

What, so infuriated these leaders was to be told by Peter and John, that they were responsible for crucifying the Messiah, and then to be in the position, where there was little they could say against Peter and John. They were totally enraged and could say nothing against them! This fury is to have a future full fulfillment when today's kings of the earth will take council against God and Christ because of a "*strong delusion*" (2 Thes 2:11).

**"A strong delusion" – ANTICHRIST!**

- 2TH 2:11 *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*
- PSA 2:1 *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*

The doctrinal roots of this "*strong delusion*" go back centuries but it was after the Reformation that crystallized these lies into today's expectation of a future world leader, the incarnation of Satan called "Antichrist", and who will set himself in Jerusalem. The effect of this false belief is prophesied in 2Thes 2:11, for they "*believe a lie*", which causes them to oppose the *LORD'S ANOINTED* for they will believe Jesus, is the Antichrist! This, as the Psalmist prophecies will cause them to take "*counsel together*" against the LORD and Jesus His Anointed.

This may seem incredible, but Bible prophecy, history and today's popular interpretations of scripture all support that this will happen!

Let's go back to the time of the Reformation when the Protestant Church was being formed and the printing press being discovered. Europe, you will recall after the French Revolution, quickly changed, and the Catholic Church lost much of its power. Part of the reason was because of the invention of the printing press. This allowed the Bible to reach the hands of the people, and the prophecies in the Revelation started to be read and "*Babylon the Great*" became linked to Catholicism.

To counter this, the Church, using its Jesuit priests tried to show that Babylon the Great was not linked with the Catholic Church. At first this made little headway, but in the 1800's, a Jesuit priest named Lacunza using the pen name Ben Ezra was successful.

What Lacunza did was to write a four volume book entitled: “The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty” which gave a futurist interpreted to the Revelation. That is the Seals, Trumpets, Vials, Thunders and Revelation chapters 17-19 all take place in the future when the incarnation of Satan called Antichrist will take world control from Jerusalem for a period of 3.5 years. The result of this effort by Lacunza has turned the Protestant churches from linking Catholicism with “*Babylon the Great*”, to a future Antichrist. This idea has been so successful that if today, Thomas Nast’s famous cartoon (showing alligators cleverly dressed with cardinal hats invading North America) was published, it wouldn’t be understood. (See picture, Appendix #3)

So much has our world changed. Today more than ever and we need to have the prophetic oil within our lamps to see and appreciate what has happened, is happening and will happen, to cause the kings of the earth to take counsel against the “*LORD and his anointed*”.

#### **Revelation chapters 17-19:**

- *REV 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*
- *REV 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war...*
- *REV 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

These chapters detail the last set of main players who will oppose Jesus during the “*great and terrible day of the Lord*” in Joel 2:30-32. The characters are:

- **The woman** (symbolic of a religious system) that sits upon a beast.
- **The beast** (symbolic of a political power) with the ten horns. The horns identify its roots in Daniel 7:7 but in Rev. 17:3 it is seen at a later date in history when it acquired seven heads.

This apostate woman, deceived by the “*false prophet*”, will guide the beast against Jesus. History, geography and the Bible all identify her. Also “*the strong delusion*” which her “*false prophet*” uses to deceive, is seen today in the outcome of her doctrines, i.e., Lacunza’s teaching of a future ruler in Jerusalem who will be the incarnation of Satan called Antichrist has roots back to the immortality of the soul. This outcome is best seen in the following sequence:

<b>"PART-TRUTH" CREATES A STRONG DELUSION!</b>
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<b>BIBLE TRUTH</b>	<b>ANTICHRIST THEORY</b>
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1. Jesus returns to the earth as a thief.	1. Jesus returns to atmosphere
2. Resurrection/Judgment	2. Rapture
<b>3. Armageddon</b>	3. Russia attacks Israel to take spoil.
<b>4. Christ's capital, Jerusalem</b>	<b>4. Antichrist's capital, Jerusalem</b>
<b>5. Israel accepts Christ</b>	<b>5. Israel accepts Antichrist</b>
6. Christ called Antichrist	6. Antichrist shows real colors.
7. Antichrist destroyed	<b>7. Armageddon</b>
8. Millennium	8. Millennium

At first glance there doesn't seem much of a difference between the two sequences but items 4 and 5 are major, being directly opposite. Also the placement of Armageddon in the sequence is important in showing this future Antichrist theory is incorrect.

**Item (4) Christ's Capital, JERUSALEM:**

- *Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*
- *Matthew 5:35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great king..*
- *Jeremiah 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.*

There are no Bible prophecies that come close to saying that Jerusalem will be the throne of a future Antichrist as the incarnation of Satan.

**Item (5) ISRAEL will accept JESUS as CHRIST & be blessed with the TEMPLE in their midst:**

- *Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*
- *Zechariah 13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.*
- *Ezekiel 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.*

*There are no Bible prophecies showing Israel will accept the Antichrist as their king.*

**Items (3) and (8) THE PLACEMENT OF ARMAGEDDON:**

- Armageddon ends the 6<sup>th</sup> vial and not the 7<sup>th</sup> vial, Rev. 16:12-21.

- Armageddon is the grain harvest, not the grape harvest, Rev. 14:14-20.
- Armageddon burns (stubble) Mal. 4:1 but is not the "*great and terrible day*" in Mal.4:5.

The result of this part-truth lie is an utter disaster and will cause many to oppose Jesus Christ for this "*strong delusion*" will cause them to think he is the Antichrist. This opposition will become so strong that there is a further "*day of the Lord*" which the prophet Joel calls "*the great and terrible day of the LORD*". This Joel develops in Joel 3 when finally Jesus "*roars*" out of Jerusalem and God's judgments (wine harvest) are from one the one end of the earth to the other.

### **The GLOOM again!**

- ***JOEL 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.***
  - *JOEL 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.*
  - *JOEL 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake:*

Not only is there more gloom again in Joel's prophecy but this prophecy becomes directly important to our age just before Jesus' return. To see the Gentile world prophesied as paralleling the Jewish world in rejecting the Messiah is both sheer irony and fitting for the Gentile world has lorded itself over the Jew for 2000 years for rejecting their Messiah. There is the Bible principle that no flesh will glory in God's sight but more here is involved than Bible principles. This is a life and death issue for its critical for our age to rightly divide God's prophetic word. This is why so many Bible passages have been referenced so that we can be absolutely sure and our faith made strong.



## (Section 6) THE GLORY – AT LAST!

Section 5 ended once again in gloom with the “*great and terrible day of the LORD*”. Yes there will be deliverance in Jerusalem for the “*remnant whom the Lord would call*” (Joel 2:31,32) but for the world, gloom thicker than ever. This will block out the “*sun of righteousness*” and bring on God’s 7 thunder judgments (Rev. 10:3,4). These thunder judgments play a part in Joel chapter 3 but they are sealed and need first to be opened and read. Being sealed means we can't read them like we do the seals, trumpets, and vials. This however doesn't mean we can't search them out.

- *Revelation 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.*

There are three important clues to the seven thunders, namely: **time, order, and place**. Their **TIMING** is given in Rev. 10:1-4 as being after the cry of the rainbow angel; therefore they occur **after** Armageddon and the mid-heaven gospel proclamation by the resurrected saints. Their **ORDER** for the first four is suggested by the common pattern upon: **earth, sea, water, and sun**. This pattern is used in the first four trumpets in Revelation 8:1-12 and the first four vials in Revelation 16:1-9. Also of support between Revelations 8 & 10 in Revelation 10, the 7 Thunders occur even though the thunders take place after the vials. Further we also have the **PLACE: earth, sea, water, and sun**. From all this the following interpretation is made:

Order and Place	Trumpets	Vials
Earth	Revelation 8:7	Revelations 16:2
Sea	Revelation 8:8	Revelations 16:3
Waters	Revelation 8:10	Revelations 16:4
Sun	Revelations 8:12	Revelations 16:8

- **First thunder:** God’s judgment upon the **earth**, Isa.26:21.
  - *Isaiah 26:21 "For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: ..." This describes the Lion of the tribe of Judah as he roars commanding the nations to submit.*
- **Second thunder:** God’s judgment upon the **sea**, Psa.48:7.
  - *Psalms 48:7 Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.* At this point the

Western world loses its navel power.

- **Third thunder:** God’s judgment on the **rivers**, Hab.3:8.
  - *Habakkuk 3:8 Was the Lord displeased against the rivers? was thine anger against the **rivers**? was thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses and thy chariots of salvation? Jesus thunders against the armies of the world.*
- **Fourth thunder:** God’s judgment on the **sun**, Joel 2:31; 3:15.
  - *Joel 3:15 The **sun** and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. Jesus thunders removing much of the political power of the nations.*
- **Fifth thunder:** God’s judgment on the Muslim kings in Psalm.83 who have taken **counsel** against Israel and the saints. This **fifth** thunder caps trumpet#5 putting an end to this power.
  - *Psalm 83:3 They have taken crafty **counsel** against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.*
- **Sixth thunder:** God’s judgment on the Christian kings in Psalm.2 who also have taken counsel against God and Jesus.
  - *Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take **counsel** together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*
- **Seventh thunder:** God’s judgment on the beast and false prophet, Rev.19:20.
  - *Rev. 19:20 And the beast (makeup, see picture p.52) was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

<b>Thunder</b>	<b>Order and Place</b>	<b>Quotation</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
<b>1</b>	Earth	“punish the inhabitants of the earth”	Isa.26:21
<b>2</b>	Sea	“thou breakest the ships of Tarshish”	Psa.48:7
<b>3</b>	Waters	“was thine anger against the rivers”	Hab.3:8
<b>4</b>	Sun	Sun and moon darkened	Joel 2;31
<b>5</b>	Muslims	“they have taken crafty counsel”	Psalm 83
<b>6</b>	Christendom destruction	Rulers take counsel together	Psalm 2
<b>7</b>	Beast and false prophet	Both cast alive into fire	Rev.19:20

### **JOEL’S LAST CHAPTER – Joel chapter 3**

- **JOEL 3:1** For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity <7622> of Judah (1948 ???) and Jerusalem (1967 ???), 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley <6010> of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them ...".
- REV 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.
  - Armageddon in Hebrew to means: “A **heap** of sheaves in the **valley** of **judgment**.”
  - Armageddon is a composite of three Hebrew words: “aremah”, “gay” and “duwn”.
    - 6010 “emeq”AV valley 63, vale 4, dale 2; 69 1) valley, vale, low land, open country.
    - 6194 "aremah" A **heap** (of corn), Ruth 3:7
    - 1516 "gay" A gorge: **valley**, Zech. 14:4
    - 1777 "duwn" Rule, by impl. **judge**, Psa. 9:8
    - 7622 “sh@buwth” captivity 31, captives 1, variant 11, Strong's synonym 1; 44

The usual interpretation for “*in those days*” is 1948 for “*the captivity of Judah*” and 1967 for “*Jerusalem*”. This however does not fit well with the context nor is it chronological.

- It is suggested Joel 3:1 sets the time **when** the **fortunes** of Judah and Jerusalem have been brought back by Christ who is on David’s throne, (Luke 1:32).

#### “captivity” or “fortunes”?

- *Joel 3:1* In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, (NIV)
- *Joel 3:1* For then, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, (NRSV)
- *Joel 3:1* For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, (KJV)

The main difference is in the translation of “*captivity*” to “*fortunes*”. The reason is that though the prime context is future, there are still links to the audience in Joel’s day. These links are also seen in Joel 3:6,20, and since the people of Joel’s day had yet to go into captivity, the NIV and NRSV translated the Hebrew word “sh@buwth” as “**fortunes**”.

- The bringing again of the “*fortunes*” of Judah and Jerusalem fits well the context of Israel just before the “*great and terrible day of the LORD*” when Jesus is upon David’s throne in Jerusalem but “sh@buwth” is not so translated in the KJV. Yes “*fortunes*” eliminates the difficulty of being too restrictive since the “*captivity*” that has returned today, includes Ethiopian Jews, Russian Jews, in fact Jews from all over the world and Strong’s does say “sh@buwth”, figuratively can mean a former state of prosperity”. Therefore it is doubly hard to conclude that the Jews today in the land are only from the stock in Joel’s day and who made up Judah and Jerusalem. This however is needed for the 1948 and 1967 interpretation.

Also remember, Joel chapter 1 concerns the “*day of the LORD*” upon Israel around 600 BC. Joel chapter 2 concerns the “*day of the LORD*” when Christ is manifested to the world and destroys the “*Northern Army*” at Armageddon. Joel chapter 3 details event surrounding the “*great and terrible day of the LORD*”, when the nations will be judged divided and finally commanded to the “*supper of the*”

*great God*". Then God's judgments will go forth throughout the world. To interpret Joel 3:1 out of chronological order when there is a strong case to be made that Joel is in chronological order doesn't build faith.

- “Captivity (7622) sh@buwth: “exile, concretely prisoners; figuratively a former state of prosperity” (Strong’s).
- The following chart shows that “captivity” scripturally speaking, is predicated on national repentance. The events of 1948 and 1967, as significant as they were could only be tokens that the captivity will return, not that it already has. This adds further evidence supporting the translation found in the NRSV and NIV that “captivity” in Joel 3:1 should be “fortunes” since Israel as a nation has yet to repent.

Description	Quotation	Scripture
Captivity returned for repentance	“and shalt return unto the LORD ... then the LORD thy “God will turn thy captivity and have compassion upon thee.	Deuteronomy 30:1-3
Captivity returned for repentance	“I ... repent in dust and ashes ... and the LORD turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends”	Job 42:6-10
Captivity returned through forgiveness	“thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob ... forgiven the iniquity of thy people”	Psalms 85:1-2
Captivity returned for repentance	“ye shall seek me ... and I will be found of you ... and I will turn away your captivity”	Jeremiah 29:13
Captivity returned through mercy	“I will bring again the captivity of Jacob’s tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places”	Jeremiah 30:18

If Joel chapter 3 follows in chronological order and describes “*the great and terrible day of the LORD*” in Joel 2:31, the question arises concerning the “*valley of Jehoshaphat*” and whether this is the Kidron or Hinnom valleys and the judgment of Armageddon? In answering, scripture does not record that the Kidron or any valley was called the “*valley of Jehoshaphat*”. In fact, history shows that it wasn't until the 4th century, in 325 AD that the Empress, Helena (mother of Constantine) was the first to draw this interpretation. To this *The Interpreter's Bible Dictionary of the Bible* adds:

*“A few Jewish commentators, followed by the majority of early and medieval Christian exegetes, however, interpreted the toponym realistically. Kimchi supposes that a valley near Jerusalem would have named for a monument built by King Jehoshaphat. The Valley of Jehoshaphat has been identified at times with the Valley of Hinnom, and since the fourth century A.D., with the Valley of the Kidron. The basis of speculations concerning God's vengeance in the day of judgment, of which the destruction of idols burnt in the Kidron by reformer kings was regarded as a type.” (vol. 2, p.816, Abingdon Press)*

So, this equation of linking the valley <6010>“emec” of Jehoshaphat with either the Kidron or Hinnom valleys <1516 “gay”> is speculative at best. When the Hebrew words for valley are checked, as in Joshua 18:16, it is concluded this interpretation does not fit, for the valley <6010 “emec”> of Jehoshaphat doesn’t describe a narrow gorge type valley. It is important to remember that the Hebrew word “gay” which makes up the Hebrew word, Armageddon describes a narrow gorge like the Kidron or Hinnom valleys.

#### **“emec” <6010> and “gay”<1516>**

- *Joshua 18:16 And the border came down to the end of the mountain that lieth before the*

*valley*<sup><1516></sup> of the son of Hinnom, and which is in the *valley*<sup><6010></sup> of the giants on the north and descended to the *valley*<sup><1516></sup> of Hinnom, to the side of Jebusi on the south, and descended to Enrogel, ...

- “*emec*” 6010 Strong’s – a vale (that is, broad depression) cp Eze.39:11,15; Zech.14:4-5.
- “*gay*” 1516 Strong’s – a gorge (from its lofty sides) cp Eze. 39:11,15; Zech.14:4-5.

The valleys of Hinnom and Kidron are narrow gorges which are IN the *valley* (“*emec*”) of the giants. This shows these two Hebrew words shouldn't be equated and this greatly weakens the interpretation that Armageddon and the valley of Jehoshaphat describe the same event.

What can be supported from Joel 3:1,2 is that “*in that time*” applies to when Jesus will summon the nations to the “*valley of Jehoshaphat*” (Joel 3:2-8) to judge on their treatment of God's chosen people.

#### **TIMING – AFTER Armageddon when Jesus upon David's throne.**

*JOEL 3:2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them...*

- 8199 shaphat {shaw-fat'} AV - **judge (v) 119**, judge (n) 60, **plead 11**, avenged 2, condemn 2, execute 2, judgment 2, defend 1, deliver 1, misc 3; 203
- In Joel 3:12 “shaphat” is translated “judge” but because of the context, verses 3-8 the KJV translators translated “shaphat” **plead**. The NKJV translates v.2 as “*enter into judgment with them there.*” In Joel 3:12 the context changes and “shaphat” is translated “judge”.
- The LXX reads: “*en te koiladi tes dikes*” » “*in the valley of judgment*”. Strong's commenting on the word for judgment (“*dike*” – 1349), says it means right or “i.e. justice (the principle, a **decision**, or its execution)”.

The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, (vol. 2, p.816) says re: “*the valley of Jehoshaphat*”:

*"A valley in which God shall summon the nations to be judged in the days of the messianic restoration of Judah and Jerusalem, according to Joel 3:2,12. The intent of this text is symbolical rather than geographical, as may be inferred from the etymology of the name Jehoshaphat, 'Yahweh shall judge' or from Joel 3:14, where the same valley is called 'valley of decision', in the sense of a judicial decision or a verdict."*

The emphasis is the judgment of nations and not the valley itself as seen in the meaning of Jehoshaphat, "Jehovah has judged". Therefore what is described is a judicial court where nations are summoned, judged and verdicts rendered according to how they have treated God's people. This court scene however presents difficulties since today's nations are not made up of the actual people who were directly responsible for that described in Joel 3:3-6 but their ancestors, who in the time of Joel in the days of Jehoikim, brought Judah and Jerusalem very low. Scripture is clear however that “the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father,” (Eze. 18:20-22) which would be the case if today's sons were judged for what their fathers had done.

A possible solution is this could describe the nations today if they participate in a future fulfilment of the abuse of God's people. This however requires a future fulfilment of v.4 with “Tyre, Zidon and coasts of Palestine overrunning Israel and then Greece purchasing these people as slaves. Another

solution is seen in covering Joel 3:3-6.

*JOEL 3:3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink. 4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head; 5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things: 6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.*

Assuming Joel chapter 3 is primarily a latter day prophecy taking place after the judgment of the responsible and when Jesus is on David's throne. The question is - does God hold some of these ancient people, who have plundered Solomon's temple and sold his people to the "Grecians" responsible? Further will they be raised to judgment, found wanting and go back to their native countries? Before answering, the Bible does speak of the queen of Sheba and the men of Nineveh rising in judgment against those who heard Jesus speak during his ministry.

#### **Men of ancient Nineveh and Ethiopia raised?**

*MAT 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*

*MAT 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgement with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*

Part of the difficulty is to know whom God will raise to judgment for little is known about ancient Nineveh. God did send His prophet Jonah to the men of Nineveh for some reason and they did repent, but there is no concrete support to show if some knew the revealed will of God. Although scripture does say that God is taking a people for his name throughout all ages, (Acts 15:14; Rm. 1:5). This being said, it still is difficult to know just how literal Joel 3:3-6 applies. Jesus' parable, of the "sheep and goats" is helpful depending on the interpretation, and can support that Joel 3:3-6 is literal. Usually however the "sheep" and "goats" are interpreted as applying to individuals and not nations. Because of its importance to interpreting Joel chapter 3:3-8, a close look becomes necessary:

#### **The CONTEXT of the PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND GOATS, Matt.25:31-46.**

1. Part of the Olivet prophecy - Matthew chapters 24 & 25.
2. This parable is in answer to the disciples LAST question (Mt.24:3) the "end of the world" (165 "aion"). This is supported in Matt. 25:46 where the same Greek root "aion" appears.
3. It is the last of five parables that follow each other chronologically:
  - Matt. 24:43 (*goodman of the house*) = BEFORE Christ's return.
  - Matt. 24:45 (*faithful/wise servant*)= BEFORE Christ's return
  - Matt. 25:1-13 (*ten virgins*) = AT Christ's return as a thief.
  - Matt. 25:14-30 (*talents*) = Judgment seat basis which is AFTER Christ's return
  - Matt. 25:31-46 (*sheep/goats*) = judgment of nations AFTER judgment of the saints and when Jesus sits upon David's throne.

4. Further support to the timing:

- *MAT 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.*
- *MAT 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed ...*
- *MAT 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, ...*
  - The timing is after Jesus comes in glory, Mat.24:27 and not his coming as a "thief".
  - The timing is when "he (Jesus) sits upon the "throne of his glory." (v.31)
  - The timing is when Jesus is KING upon David's throne, Lk.1:32.
  - The timing is before the "end of the age" and beginning of the millennium, Matt.24:3.

ANALYSIS:

Once the timing of this parable is established as **after the saints have been judged**, the prime interpretation can be made. That's not to say there are not other levels of interpretation including an individual level and so judged, for faith is active and feeds the hungry, gives drink to he thirsty, houses the stranger, clothes the naked, visits the sick and imprisoned.

INTERPRETING Matthew 25:31-46:

*MAT 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels <32 "aggelos"> with him, then shall he sit upon the throne <2362 "thronos"> of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations <1484 "ethnos">: ...*

- "**Son of man**" describes Christ's mission for mankind, namely: to preach the gospel, bring in forgiveness, mediate at God's right hand and in the future reign as king of kings. In contrast, "**son of God**" portrays Jesus' relationship with God.
- "**Son of man**" is used in verse 31 because the context is about his future mission to judge the Gentile nations. The saints have already been judged having heard the voice of the "**son of God**", John 5:25.
  - *John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*
- A. "**Throne of his glory**" -- This is a telling phrase that helps establish the timing of this parable. Matthew 19:28 is the ONLY other place where this phrase is used and applies AFTER the resurrection and judgement.
  - *Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, 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.*
- B. **Context** - Here the disciples have already been judged and also sit on thrones judging the tribes, Luke 22:29,30.
- C. "**Throne**" 2362 thronos { thron'-os } from thrao (to sit), a stately seat ("throne"). AV - throne 54, seat 7; 61.
  - (Telling Pt.) "Thronos" is the throne of a king as compared to the judgment seat of a judge. Jesus will sit to judge his brethren seated upon the "bema" and not the "thronos".
    - *2CO 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat <968 "bema"> of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he*

*hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;*

- *ROM 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat <968 "bema"> of Christ.*
    - (968 bema; n. AV - judgment seat 10, throne 1, misc. 1, 12).
  - Daniel 7:9-10 speaks of this time when the books were open and Jesus did "sit" to judge the nations which will affect "ten thousand times ten thousand".
- D. *"Angels"* 32 *aggelos* {ang'-el-os} from *aggello* (to bring tidings); n m AV - angel 179, messenger 7; 186.
- Interpreting "aggelos" (messenger) depends on the context for the messenger can be mortal or immortal.
  - *Luke 7:24 And when the messengers <32 "aggelos"> of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, ...*
  - See also Heb.12:1; Matt.24:30; 26:64; Rev.1:7.
  - The context of Mt.25:31 is when Jesus sits upon David's throne and his angels (messengers which here are the immortal saints) will be with him and in the kingdom as kings and priest (Rev. 5:10).
- E. The context, Mt. 25:31, is when Jesus sits upon David's throne and his angels (messengers which here are the immortal saints) will be with him in the millennial kingdom as kings and priests.
- *1Cor.6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? ...*
  - *Rev. 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*
  - *Daniel 7:10-11 ...the judgment was set, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup> I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*
    - *The "beast" is the ten horn beast of Dan.7:7. This 10 horn beast is further described in Rev. 17:3; 19:21.*

***MAT 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations <1484>: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.***

- (Telling pt.) *"Nations"* 1484 "ethnos" {eth'-nos} plural probably from 1486; n. AV - Gentiles 93, nation 64, heathen 5, people 2; 164.
  - (Liddell and Scott Greek-English Lexicon) "...in New Testament (ethnos) the nations, Gentiles, i.e. all but Jews and Christians."
  - (Moulton and Milligan) "... LXX and NT (ethnos) 'describes the pagan world, outside the Jewish church (laos -people) itself, as in Acts 10:22, 24:17."
  - The word "ethnos" is NOT applied to specific individuals. (Mt. 4:15; 6:32; 10:5,18;12:18,21; 20:19,25; 21:43; 24:7,9,14; 25:32; 28:19)
  - "Ethnos" applies to a number of people living together. Christ is not judging individuals here. The Gentile nations will be judged by Christ, (Mic.4:3; Psa.110:6; Isa.2:4; Acts 14:16).
  - Joel 3:2-5 details a basis of judgment as to their treatment of natural Israel. In Matt. 25:31-46,



Christ expands this, including their treatment of his brethren.

- If this applied to the judgment of individuals then this parable supports judgment of all people and not just the responsible.
- Jesus will judge the nations for they now are “*the minister of God*”, (Rom.13:4) and therefore responsible to judgment.
- In v.32 the sheep are those nations who have welfare programs and hear Jesus the Jewish king who has inherited the throne of his father David. This is before the millennium when the world will be given opportunity to accept Jesus as the “*great king*”, (Psa.48:2; Isaiah 19:21; 18:3).
- Yes "ethnos" is used in scripture in scripture in an elliptical (cryptic, incomplete) manner when speaking of certain individuals from a nation but as in so many places the context defines the interpretation.
  - (“ethnos” = **nations not individuals**) *REV 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations (“ethnos”), and kindred, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*
  - (“ethnos” = **individuals**) *Matthew28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations (“ethnos” = individuals), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ( However NKJV, NRSV = “disciples of all nations”)*
  - (“ethnos” = **nations**) *Matthew24:7 For nation (“ethnos”) shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*
  - Here individual are gathered but as representatives of various nations. It is however the nation which is judged as a sheep or goat. This is why these translations (KJV, NKJV, NAS, NRSV, NIV, Rotherham,) translate "ethnos" as nations. The nations will continue to be judged in the Millennial Age. For example, the nation of Egypt will be judged, Zech.14:17,18).
- There is no difficulty in scripture showing animals are symbols of nations. For example the goat in Dan.8:5,8,21 is used as a symbol of Greece.

***MAT 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:***

- “**King**” shows the timing is after Jesus is upon David's throne in Jerusalem.
- The righteous nations will be blessed in the kingdom age and receive their allotted place.
  - *GAL.3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*
- Today the nations bear responsibility for their actions being the “*minister of God*”.
  - Acts 14:16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.
  - *Rom.13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

***MAT 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.***

- The test of this judgment is the treatment accorded by the nations (sheep/goats) to those whom Christ calls *"my brethren"*.
- Much more is required of Christ's brethren at the judgment seat than the giving of temporal food. The judgment of the faithful is on the basis of their faith which is accounted for righteousness, Gal. 3:6. Faith however is active and produces works but to use works as a basis of judgment for the saints undermines that it is not works that saves. Applying this to the nations is a better fit since the basis of their works isn't from their faith in God but their good choice to keep the nation together.
- Christ's brethren are to develop their talents, providing spiritual *"meat in due season"* and turning many to righteousness. This is the difference between the *"good man"* (Mt.24:43) whose house was broken up and the *"wise servant"* (Mt.24:45; Luke 12:42) who gave his house spiritual meat, (Mt. 25:14; Dan.12:3).
- An incorrect understanding of the parable of the sheep and goats can lead to an incorrect emphasis on the temporal things which lies in God's arena and where God says He will provide, (Luke 12:24,27). That's not to say we don't provide these temporal things, which often give added opportunity to provide spiritual food but the saints judgment is NOT on the basis of works Eph.2:9 although faith is demonstrated by works, (James 2:14-20).
- The nations are judged by God; in the past Nineveh was to be destroyed because of their wickedness, Nahum 1:1. Israel was to be blessed or cursed depending on their obedience to God, Deuteronomy chapter 28. Nations in our age are even more responsible (Rom.13:4) than in Old Testament times when *"God suffered all nations to walk in their own ways"* (Acts 14:16). In the millennium the nations will have further responsibilities, i.e. that their people keep the feast of tabernacles, Zec.14:18.
- Before the nations in this parable are judged, they also will have had opportunity to accept Christ (Psalms 48:4) who will be ruling upon the *"throne of his glory"*. Their leaders will be commanded to Jerusalem and separated. A basis of this judgment will be their treatment of God's people, (Joel 3:2-8) and whether they have acted as sheep or goats.

***MAT 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?***

- As noted, v.36 much more is required of saints than these types of works.
- Christ's saints are to manifest the *"fruits of the spirit"*. They must be well aware of the temporal needs of the body of Christ.
- Christ's judgment of the saints is on the basis of *"faith"*, Rom 3:28. Works come naturally because Christ's saints will manifest "agape" love. The context for this judgment is works therefore this isn't the judgment of the saints but the nations.
- The nations would be unaware of who were Jesus' brethren and so their surprise.

***MAT 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these <5130 "touton"> my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

- *"These"* 5130 touton {too'-tone}, plural masculine or neuter, pronoun. AV - these 38, these things 21, such 2, these matters 1, such matters 1, those 1, misc. 5; 69
  - The sheep or goat nation in this context can't be Christ's brethren since not only is "brethren" in the genitive case, but **"these"** is emphatic in the sense of Jesus point to these here, my brethren,

showing Christ's brethren are **THERE** with him and as if Jesus points to them to verify his judgment and then separates and pronounces judgment. (See also v.45.)

**MAT 25:41** *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:*

- Those on Jesus' left hand are those goat nations which will continue to resist Jesus upon David's throne, (i.e. Psa.83:3). They will be destroyed, eaten up or severely pruned. (See v.46)
  - *REV 19:20* *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*
  - *PSA 83:3* *They have taken crafty counsel against thy people and consulted against thy hidden ones.*

**MAT 25:45** *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 <166 'aionios'> punishment <2851>: but the righteous <1342> into life eternal <166 'aionios'>.*

- *"And these shall go forth to the aioian cutting-off: but the righteous to the aionian Life."* (Diaglott)
- *"everlasting"* 166 aionios {ahee-o'-nee-os} from 165; adj. AV - eternal 42, everlasting 25, misc 4; 71
  - Moulton & Milligan : "aionios" depicts that of which the horizon is not in view, whether the horizon be at an infinite distance or whether it lies no farther than the span of a Caesar's life.
- *"punishment"* 2851 kolasis {kol'-as-is} from 2849; n f AV - punishment 1, torment 1; 2
  - 2849 kolazo {kol-ad'-zo}; v AV - punish 2; 2 (1) to lop or prune, as trees and wings (2) to curb, check, restrain (3) to chastise, correct, punishment (4) to cause to be punished
- *"righteous"* 1342 dikaios {dik'-ah-yos}; adj. AV - righteous 41, just 33, right 5, meet 2; 81.

Context is key to interpreting "aionios". For example, "aionios" in 2Pe.1:11 apply to the millennial age for 1Co.15:24 says at the end of the millennial age Jesus delivers the kingdom to God.

- *2 Peter 1:11* *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting <166> kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*
- *1 Cor.15:24* *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.*
- *Rev.14:6* *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting <166> ("aionios") gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

The context of Mat.25:46, applies when Jesus is upon David's throne just before the millennial age, Mat.25:31. Verse 46 describes the goat nations who in the millennial age will undergo pruning which is one of the meanings of *"punishment"* "kolasis" <2851>. This is in contrast with (Mat.25:41) those nations which are destroyed with the beast and false prophet, (Rev. 19:20) and the sheep nations like Assyria which will have a privilege position in the millennium.

- *Isaiah 19:24* *In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing*

*in the midst of the land:*

- *Isaiah 60:12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.*

Having this understanding of the parable of the sheep and goats and knowing that Jesus is to judge the nations when he sits upon David's throne is not only important to interpreting Joel 3:2-8 but to many other Bible prophecies. For example in Eze.25:14, Edom has yet to fully experience God's vengeance – "BY the hand of MY people Israel." Yes under the Maccabees there was a partial fulfilment, but that was limited and does not do justice to the emphatic expression, "by the hand of MY people Israel, shall they know my vengeance."

- **VENGEANCE UPON THE SURROUNDING NATIONS**
- *EZE. 25:14 And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD.*
- *EZE. 25:17 And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.*
  - A future prophecy for Israel has yet to lay their hand upon Edom. (= Arabs, Obadiah 1:17-21)
  - A future prophecy because of the phrase, "*they shall know*".
  - This final vengeance will follow the court scene in Joel 3:3-6 where the nations will have great difficulty accepting the basis of judgment and the resulting punishment, i.e. in Joel 3:8 of having their people sold to the Sabeans.

### **THE NATIONS JUDGED UPON THEIR TREATMENT OF ISRAEL!**

*JOEL 3:2 I will also gather all nations, ... and will plead with them there for my people ..., whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. 3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink. 4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? ... 6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, ...*

One occasion of this national involvement was during the Babylonian invasions (2Kings24:13,14) when the surrounding nations joined in looting, however this probably refers to the many local border wars. Selling captured people as slaves was commonly done and selling them to the Greeks would remove them far off where they couldn't easily be bought back. The surrounding nations who parted God's land and sold his people are yet to be judged and will find themselves as goats, upon Christ's left hand. There are several Bible prophecies describing this including: Zechariah 10:3 where the goats are punished (Amos 1:9), where Tyre broke their covenant with Israel and sold them to slavery (Obadiah 1:15), where Edom is punished on the basis of their treatment of Israel. It is thought the Edomites are the ancestors of the Palestinians, and this is the old hatred between Jacob and Esau. This same hatred is seen today and Jesus will deal with it as seen in Joel 3:8.

### **THE NATIONS JUDGED ON THEIR TREATMENT OF ISRAEL!**

- *ZEC 10:3 Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats; for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle.*
- *AMOS 1:9 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant:*
- *EZE 27:13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market.*
- *OBA.1:15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.*
- *GEN.12:3 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.*

What goes around comes around for God has raised His exiled people and brought them back as a nation and it will be the modern Phoenicians and “*those of the coast of Palestine*” who will be exiled in the future.

### **WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND!**

*Joel 3:7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head: 8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, <7615> to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken it.*

- 7615 Sh@ba'iy {sheb-aw-ee'}; adj. AV - Sabeans 1; 1
  - 7614 Sh@ba' {sheb-aw'} of foreign origin; AV - Sheba 23; 23  
Sheba was a son of Jokshan, the son of Abraham by Keturah and a nation in southern Arabia.
  - (Elpis Israel, J. Thomas, p.436, 14<sup>th</sup> Ed.) “In speaking of events these days, the prophets refer not to races of men, but to powers on territories designated by the names of the peoples who anciently inhabited them.”
  - The territories mentioned in Joel 3:4 are “*Tyre*”, “*Zidon*” and the “*coast of Palestine*”. Today’s powers on these territories are Lebanon and the Palestinians.

**Joel 3:8** foretells what is yet to happen to these people that they will be deported to Arabia. This solution will not be well received by the nations that surround Israel and they will take “*counsel*” against Israel and the “*hidden ones*” (saints) who will be ruling with Jesus in Jerusalem, Psa.83:3; 110:2. This will bring on the 5<sup>th</sup> thunder judgment as detailed on pages 63 & 64 and in Isaiah chapter 34.

### **JESUS ON DAVID’S THRONE RULING ‘IN THE MIDST OF ENEMIES!’**

- *Psalm 83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden*

*ones.*

- *Psalm 110:2 The LORD shall send the rod (Jesus) of thy (David's) strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies*
- ***Isaiah chapter 34 – God's judgments upon the surrounding nations.***

This solution will not sit well with the nations throughout the world, being viewed probably as a form of racism. This will cause the Gentile nations to also take "*counsel against the LORD and His anointed*" (Psa. 2:1-5), bringing on God's 6<sup>th</sup> thunder judgment.

### **RESISTANCE TO JESUS SPREADS!**

***Joel 3:9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare <6942> war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: 10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.***

- 6942 qadash (kaw-dash') a primitive root; v AV – sanctify 108, hallow 25, dedicate 10, holy 7, prepare 7, consecrate 5, misc. 10; 172.
- (1) To consecrate, sanctify, prepare dedicate be hallowed, be holy.
- Joel 3:10 is the reverse of Isa.2:4 which shows the timing is before the millennial age.
  - *Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*
- *Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

This war preparation spreads into many of the Gentile nations. They too will be "*vexed*" and being drunk with a "*strong delusion*" will also take counsel against Israel's immortal king. At this time all nations will be commanded by Israel's king to be judged in the "*valley of Jehoshaphat*".

- This is NOT the "*supper of the great God*", Rev. 19:17,18; Eze.39:17-20 where "*the kings of the earth*" feel God's 6<sup>th</sup> thunder judgment and their kingdoms are eaten by those nations who give their allegiance to Israel's "*great king*" but that described in Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats in Mat. 25:31-46.

***Joel 3:11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones <1368> to come down, O LORD. 12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit <3427> to judge all the heathen round about.***

- 1368 gibbowr {ghib-bore'} AV- mighty 63, mighty man 68, strong 4, valiant 3, misc.20.
- 3427 yashab {yaw-shab'}; v AV - dwell 437, inhabitant 221, sit 172, abide 70, inhabit 39, down 26, remain 23, in 22, tarry 19, set 14, continue 5, place 7, still 5, misc.28; 1088.

- Joel 3:2 also shows the nations are told to assemble for judgment. Notice the judge is sitting which describes a court setting. The NRSV & NIV show urgency to this command.
- The “*mighty ones*” are the saints and the judge who sits is the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Joel 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press <1660> is full, the fats <3342> overflow; for their wickedness is great.***

- 1660 gath {gath} (sense of treading out grapes); n f AV - winepress 3, press 1, winefat 1; 5.
- 3342 yeqeb {yeh'-keb}; n m AV – winepresses 10, press 2, fats 2, pressfat 1, wine 1; 16.
- Even though “*the grapes*” is absent in the Hebrew text, there is good reason to include it in the English for almost every passage in which a harvest is the context for the Hebrew word for “*tread*” (1869 “*darak*”) is a grape harvest. (i.e. Jud.9:27; Neh.13:15; Job 24:11; Isa. 16:10; 63:2,3; Jer. 25:30; 48:33; 51:33; Amos 9:13; Mic. 6:15)

The judgment having been made the text leaves no doubt this harvest is the grape harvest judgment and Joel 3:13 is part of God’s 7<sup>th</sup> vial judgment (Rev. 16:17-21). Some have difficulty with the use of a sickle to harvest grapes but since a sickle is also used in Rev. 14:18 where the context is obviously the grape harvest, this objection is not valid.

- *REV 14:18 ... Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe*

### **MULTITUDES FROM ALL NATIONS**

***Joel 3:14 Multitudes <1995>, multitudes <1995> in the valley <6010> of decision <2742>: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley <6010> of decision 2742>.***

- 1995 hamown {haw-mone'} or hamon (Ezek. 5:7) {haw-mone'} from 1993; n m AV - multitude 62, noise 4, tumult 4, abundance 3, many 3, store 2, company 1, misc. 4; 83
- 6010 `emeq {ay'-mek} n m AV - valley 63, vale 4, dale 2; 69
- 2742 charuwts {khaw-roots'} AV - gold 6, diligent 5, decision 2, threshing instrument 2, sharp 1, sharp things 1, wall 1; 18

The multitudes are NOT Gog’s multitude (*haw-mond-gowg*) as in Ezekiel 39:11 but the multitudes of people, of “*all the nations*” gathered to the “*valley* (“*emeq*” not “*gay*” as in Armageddon) of *Jehoshaphat*” where judgment is made upon them by the Lord Jesus Christ, Joel 3:2,12. It is here that the nations are bound as described in Psalm 2:3.

- *Psalm 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*

***Joel 3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.***

Using highly figurative language Joel describes the Gentile political heaven losing power to shine. This type of prophetic symbolic language is used throughout scripture, i.e. Isa.1:2,10; 34:4-6; 65:17.

- *Isaiah 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. 10 Hear the word of*

- the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.*
- *Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.<sup>18</sup> But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.*
  - *Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. 5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.*

The timing of this Gentile political heaven losing power is at first gradual during the mid-heaven proclamation but upon resistance of the "great whore" this rebuff gains momentum bringing on the "great and terrible day of the LORD".

- *Rev. 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the **great whore** that sitteth upon many waters: [2] With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*
- *Jeremiah 25:15 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.*
- *Rev. 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

This resistance is caused by a "strong delusion" that acts like wine making the nations drunk into believing Jesus is the Antichrist. They with the "great whore" who rides them however will be anti-Christ causing the "great and terrible day of the LORD" to come.

- *2 Thes. 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie:*
- *Jeremiah 25:33 And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.*

### **JESUS AS A ROARING LION COMMANDS ALLEGIANCE OF ALL NATIONS:**

*Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall **roar** <7580> out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*

- 7580 sha'ag {shaw-ag'} a primitive root; AV - **roar 19**, mightily 1, misc.1; 21. (1a) of lion, conqueror.
- In Joel 3:16, "**roar**" ("shaw-ag") expresses the command from the "Lion of the tribe of Judah", (Gen.49:8-10), Rev.5:5. The LORD will be the strength of Israel and through His son will dwell in their midst.
- *Zephaniah 3:15 The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.*
  - Jesus as king "in the midst" of Israel will not long continue to rule in the midst of enemies but will go forth to rule them with a rod of iron.



- *Psalm 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*
- Joel 3:16 is **an important addition** showing this must be **after** Armageddon, **for to “roar” out of Jerusalem, Jesus would need to be set up there.** upon the throne of his father David, and once set up there, there will be deliverance there. (See also Psa.2:6; 110:2)
  - Psa.2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. (KJV)
  - Psalm 110:2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. (KJV)
- This is why the last sentence in Joel 2:32 "...for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance ..." **isn't** quoted in the partial fulfillment in Acts 2:21 for in AD 70 there was no divine deliverance in Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah 25 shows the judgment upon the “*king of Sheshach*” (Babylon) **follows** the judgment upon the surrounding nations.
  - This judgment upon great Babylon goes forth upon all of the inhabitants of the earth and the slain of the Lord in v.33 “*shall be in that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth*”. And no wonder, for the nations will have been given a wonderful opportunity to accept Jesus and many will not, therefore the Psalmist prophecies that “*the LORD shall send the rod*”, which is the “*rod of Jesse*” (Jesus), “*out of Zion and he shall rule them with a rod of iron*”.
  - V.30 *Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall **roar** <7580> from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily **roar** <7580> upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the **grapes**, against all the inhabitants of the earth.*
  - V.26 *And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach <8347> shall drink after them.*
    - 8347 Sheshach {shay-shak'} of foreign derivation; AV - Sheshach 2; 2. Sheshach = another name for Babylon apparently taken from the goddess 'Shach'.
    - Easton's Bible Dictionary “(Jer.25:26), supposed to be equivalent to Babel (Babylon), according to be a secret (cabalistic) mode of writing among the Jews of unknown antiquity, which consisted in substituting the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet for the first, the last but one for the second, and so on. Thus the letters sh,sh,ch become b,b,l, i.e., Babel. This is supposed to be confirmed by a reference to Jer.51:41, where Sheshach and Babylon are in parallel clauses. There seems to be no reason to doubt that Babylon is here intended by this name. (See Streane's Jeremiah, 1.c.)”
    - “After” shows Babylon the Great and its rider are last to be judged. This judgment is God's 7<sup>th</sup> thunder judgment which concludes with the beast and false prophet destroyed in the lake of fire, Rev. 19:20.

The Psalmist gives further insight to one of the root causes behind why these nations (*Babylon the*

Great) resist Jesus who is enthroned in Jerusalem as king. Psalm 2:1 says they “*imagine a vain thing*” and as already shown, this is linked with the “*false prophet*” of Rev. 19:20 and the “*man of sin*” of 2Th.2:11. This “*strong delusion*” is today’s popular belief in a future Antichrist, the incarnation of Satan, who sets himself up in Jerusalem.

- Psalm 2:1 **Why** do the heathen rage, and the people *imagine a vain thing*? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
  - **Why**, because the false prophet is anti-Christ!
- Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the **false prophet** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin** be revealed, the son of perdition;

The prophet Isaiah says ‘*he (Jesus) shall judge among the nations and rebuke many people*’. Micah 4:3 is the reverse of Joel 3:10 where finally the swords are beaten into “*plowshares*”, and the spears into “*pruninghooks*” and the nations learn war no more.

### **FINALLY THEY SHALL LEARN WAR NO MORE!**

*Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (KJV)*

*MIC 4:3 And he shall judge among many nations, and rebuke strong nations afar off: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

In Joel, God gathers the nations to battle: “Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears.” Isaiah and Micah prophesy about the time when “*they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks*” --- a beautiful reversal of the troublous time of the end.

After God’s 7<sup>th</sup> thunder judgment upon the beast and false prophet, the millennial kingdom age begins. Joel describes this kingdom age with God dwelling in Zion and Jerusalem being the holy city. Here the gloom will be gone not only from Israel but the whole earth for all will be filled with God’s glory and all people will know the king in Jerusalem is the Lord Jesus Christ.

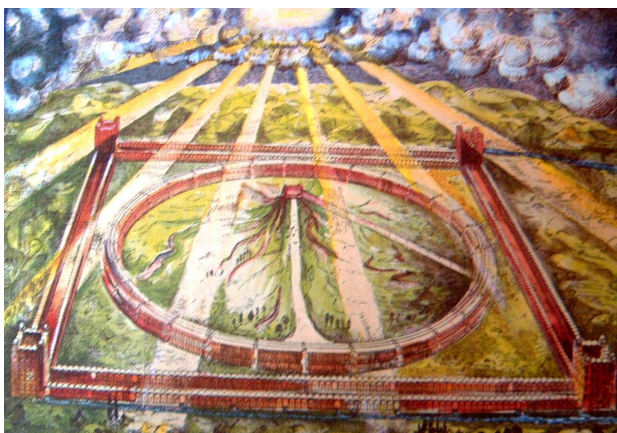
***Joel 3:17 So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers <2114> pass through her any more.***

- 2114 zuwr {zoor}; v AV - stranger 45, strange 18, estranged 4, stranger + 0376 3, another 2, strange woman 2, gone away 1, fanners 1, another place 1; 77
- The following passages speak about the time when there will be no more strangers among God’s

people: Nahum 1:15; Isaiah 35:8; 52:1; Zec.14:21; Rev. 21:27.

Mt. Zion is to be greatly elevated in the minds of men throughout the world. This elevation also will include a physical dimension for the Psalmist (Psalms 48:2) describes this mountain from the sides of the north where today there is no northern elevation. Ezekiel's temple (Ezekiel chapters 40-44) will surround Mt. Zion being over a mile square and it is here that the nations go to worship.

- *Psalm 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*
- *Isaiah 56:7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*
- *Zechariah 8:3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.*



Mt. Zion, God's holy mountain will become the centre of world worship. Jerusalem will become the world capital from which God's law will go forth and where never again "the wicked allowed to pass through".

- *Jeremiah 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil*

*heart.*

- *Nahum 1:15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.*
- *Isaiah 52:1 Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.*

Joel continues to describe this new order including a description of great agricultural bounty. He waxes poetic but this does not mean there isn't an actual physical base to his description, with water flowing from the temple described in Ezekiel chapters 40-44 to the Dead Sea area.

***Joel 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and***

***the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim (7851).***

- 7851 Shittim {shit-teem'}; n pr loc AV - Shittim 5; Shittim = "the **acacias**" (1) place of Israel's encampment between the conquest of the transjordanic region and crossing the Jordan into Canaan.

The language is metaphorical. The prophet sees the hills of Judah, which were once barren now clothed with lush vegetation forming a complete reversal of the languishing vine that the locust, cankerworm, caterpillar, and palmerworm had eaten. The "wine" and the "milk" (first principles of God's word, (Heb.5:12-14) will flow freely as rivers that make glad the city of God. These pure waters of life, clear as crystal, will proceed out of the throne of God and of the Lamb to cleanse the valley of Shittim, where once Israel committed whoredom and idolatry. A metaphorical scene yes, but also, very real for the mountain tops will produce corn, (Psa. 72:16) and there will be a literal temple with a spring that becomes a river (Eze.47:5) which divides flowing into the Mediterranean (Zec.14:8) and in the opposite direction through the valley of **acacias** into the Dead Sea. This will cause the Dead Sea to live!

- *Psalm 72:16 There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass...*
- *Zechariah 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: ...*

It is the spiritual dimension that is so meaningful for in the kingdom age this temple spring produces living water (God's laws) which will flow forth causing the mountains (nations) to enact new righteous laws and the hills (courts) to give forth nourishment and righteous judgment.

- *Deuteronomy 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:*
- *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.*
- *Revelation 22:1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

In contrast to Israel flowing with water, Egypt and Edom are singled out for their ill treatment of Israel as earlier Philistia and Phoenicia were in Joel 3:4. Egypt and Edom will also undergo further punishment, however in the case of Egypt the prophet Isaiah speaks of Egypt being healed and in the kingdom age being blessed with Israel, Isa.19: 24,25.

***Joel 3:19 Egypt shall be a desolation <8076>, and Edom shall be a desolate <8076> wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.***

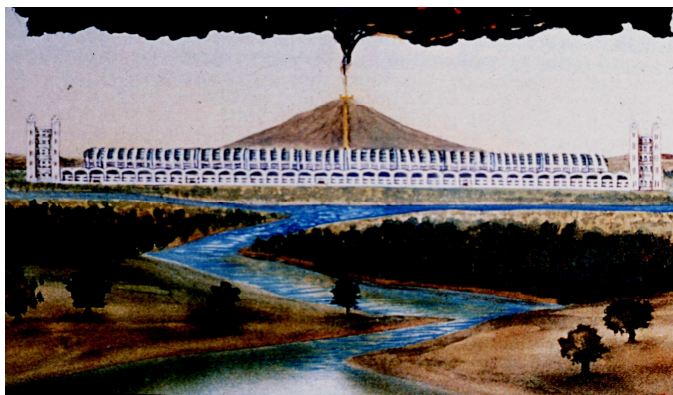
- 8077 “shamamah”, n f AV - desolate 40, desolation 14, waste 1, misc. 3; 58
- Isaiah 19:22,24,25 says that Egypt is yet to be smitten and then healed to become one with Israel and Assyria. Isaiah 11:15 says that the tongue of the Egyptian sea, shall be dried up and in the kingdom age there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria.
  - *Isaiah 19:22 And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them. 24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing ...*
  - *Isaiah 11:15 And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.*
    - Isaiah 11:15 fits well with Zec. 14:18 in that the tongue of the Egyptian sea is to be dried up for today Egypt is not dependant upon rain but in the kingdom age she will be dependant.
      - *Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.*
  - As for Edom this nation will not be healed but her desolation is forever as detailed by the prophets Ezekiel and Malachi.
  - *Ezekiel 35:9 I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy cities shall not return: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. 14 Thus saith the Lord GOD; When the whole earth rejoiceth, I will make thee desolate.*
  - *Malachi 1:4 Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.*

Children seem to be of special relevance in Joel’s prophecy. (Joel 1:3; 2:16,23,28; 3:3,6,8,16,19)

***Joel 3:20 But Judah shall dwell for ever<5769>, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. 21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.***

- 5769 `owlam {o-lawm'}; n m AV - ever 272, everlasting 63, old 22, perpetual 22, evermore 15, never 13, time 6, ancient 5, world 4, always 3, alway 2, long 2, more 2, misc 8; 439
- Judah’s is to be cleansed (forgiven for their past and anticipation of the words of the Jews when they said “*His blood be on us and our children*” Mt.27:24-25) and to dwell throughout the kingdom age. Judah is contrasted with Edom v.19 which is described as a desolate wilderness whose blood isn’t cleansed. The context is the kingdom age when the LORD (Jesus who bears his Father’s name as the angel did in the wilderness, Exo.23:21) dwells on God’s holy hill Zion and finally the gloom is gone!
  - *Psa.2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*
  - *Psa.72:19 And blessed by his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with*

*his glory; Amen, and Amen.*



In seeing the vision of Joel, the gloom can be gone for us too, for Joel is an amazing prophecy that uses vivid pictures that can warn, inspire, and cheer. Today it is especially important to see the vision, to see ourselves there, as “*kings and priests*” in a new, beautiful world that will finally glorify God's name. Because of God’s grace, his son’s redeeming work and our faith we have opportunity to be part of it! May God bless you in understanding His prophet Joel

*“and let the whole earth be filled with His glory, Amen, and Amen.”*

### **APPENDIX #1 PARTIAL AND FULL FULFILLMENT:**

An excellent illustration of Partial and Full Fulfillment is seen when Jesus read in the synagogue in Nazareth from the prophet Isaiah, and then interpreted the prophet by saying that this prophecy had just been fulfilled.

**PARTIAL (Nazareth, 1st century) & FULL FULFILLMENT (After Christ's return)**

- *ISA 61:1 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 broken-hearted, 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, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

First, observe the underlined phrase: "the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;" was **not** quoted by Jesus because it did not apply then, see Luke 4:21. In fact its full fulfillment has yet to happen and will not be fulfilled until after Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. This day of vengeance will come upon those who know not God and obey not the gospel. The apostle Paul, (1 Thes.1:7,) speaks of this day of vengeance.

- **"The Day of Vengeance of our God"**

- *2Thess. 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*
- What makes this a good example of **partial and full fulfillment** is that we have Jesus' interpretation in Luke 4:21, so we know we have it right.
- How careful one must be in interpreting Bible prophecy, for within the middle of a verse, we can move from one context and setting, to another context and setting, some 2,000 years hence.
- How observant one must be in first determining if there is **partial and full fulfillment** of a particular Bible prophecy, and then rightly dividing the prophecy.
- This can help us attain an accurate knowledge of history and a sound understanding of the many Bible prophecies that are scattered throughout God's word. In Joel, this helps in giving us the sequence of events leading to the millennial age.

Another illustration of "**partial and full fulfillment**" involves a prophecy that if we were living between 585 BC and 332 BC, we probably would have concluded that the prophet Ezekiel was inspired, but we would have had difficulty with parts of the prophecy. For example the destroyed city of Tyre being a place for fishing nets.

**PARTIAL (time of Nebuchadnezzar) & FULL FULFILLMENT (time of Alexander)**

- *EZE 26:4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. 14 And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.*
  - **Partial fulfillment** was by Nebuchadnezzar in 585 BC.
  - **Full fulfillment** was by Alexander in 332 BC who built a causeway, making Tyre "*like a top of a rock.*"

"*Being scraped like top of a rock,*" would have given us difficulty if we had lived back then. Yes NOW it is easy, for we know this didn't happen until over 200 years later, when Alexander the Great

took the stones of the old city of Tyre and built a 200 ft. wide causeway to the island city of Tyre.

The point is that we need to remember this example, when faced with difficult prophetic details that don't quite fit and fall into the traps of glossing over these details or explaining them away.

One further point, verse 14 continues to give us evidence for our faith. *“And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more.”*

The location of ancient Tyre today is a place to spread nets upon and her stones are under sand plus the island city of Tyre is the city of Sur. There is no island today for the causeway built by Alexander the Great has filled in with sand connecting the island to the mainland. Tyre the merchant power of antiquity and the envy of nations is no more.

A very important partial and full fulfillment prophecy that wasn't seen by the Jew and became a cause of Jesus rejection by them is in Malachi 4:1-6. The Jews said Jesus couldn't be the Messiah since Elijah hadn't first come. Unfortunately they didn't appreciate the partial fulfillment in Matthew 17:10-13.

- *Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*
- *Matthew 17:10-13 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? <sup>11</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.*

An interesting example of **partial and full fulfillment** that connects with the book of Joel is found in Acts 2. The Apostle Peter quotes Joel chapter 2, verses 28-32. It was the day of Pentecost and the 1st century ecclesia had just received the holy spirit gifts. The apostle Peter then stands up saying this was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

*ACTS 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

There is no doubt Joel is being quoted and that this prophecy has direct application to the 1<sup>st</sup> century, but -- as Jesus rightly divided Isaiah, so here Peter rightly divides Joel 2:32 because in AD 70, there was no deliverance in mount Zion and in Jerusalem. In fact, the Roman armies burnt the city with fire and took the survivors captive into slavery.

With the full fulfillment of this prophecy, there will be deliverance in Jerusalem for in that day it will be the capital of the “great king”, the Lord Jesus Christ. This deliverance will happen when the *"great and terrible day of the LORD"* comes.

**PARTIAL FULFILLMENT AD 70 and FULL FULFILLMENT after Jesus returns:**

*JOEL 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and*



*terrible day of the LORD come. 32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: **for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.***

Below, the context of Acts 2 is outlined that the partial fulfillment might be seen. This is provided for Joel is quoted by Peter and applied to A.D. 70.

### **Acts chapter 2 – context:**

1. Acts 2:1-21 -- Pentecost with the giving of the holy spirit gifts.
  - Joel 2:28-32.5 partial fulfillment
2. Acts 2:22-31-- Peter's sermon continues showing that Jesus is the Messiah.
  - Contrast: David dead/Christ alive
  - Psalms 16:8-11 "...soul not left in hell"
3. Acts 2:32-36 – Peter continues to contrast Christ and David
  - Psalms 110:1 "... at my right hand"

Acts 2 begins with Pentecost, and the receiving of the holy spirit gifts, but because some mocked, Peter stands up and addresses the whole assembly showing that these holy spirit gifts were prophesied by the prophet Joel. Peter then quotes Joel 2:28-32.5, to support this, but from here a most important observation presents itself. Take the context of Acts 2, with the pouring out of the holy spirit gifts and parallel this with what will happen upon Christ's return, when the holy spirit gifts AGAIN will be poured out. What we have in Acts 2 is a taste of the full fulfillment of Joel's prophecy as the gospel goes forth to the world just before the "*great and terrible day of the LORD.*"

Acts 2:22-31 continues with Peter showing that Jesus, who they crucified and God raised, was foretold by the prophets. To support this, Peter quotes the prophet David, Psalms 16:10 "*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*"

**(An important aside)** Peter then contrasts a DEAD David with an ALIVE and resurrected Jesus which makes this a most powerful reference against going to heaven at death, for David saw corruption, (Acts 2:29) and David was both dead and buried, and his sepulcher was still to be found in the 1st century. Peter then strengthened this contrast in verses 32-36, showing that he with the eleven were eye witnesses, having seen Jesus alive, after he had been crucified. He then makes the point that Jesus had gone to heaven, "*being at the right hand of God*", v.33. Peter would never have made this contrast if David was alive and in heaven in some form.

David further prophesied that Jesus would not only ascend to heaven and sit at God's right hand but that his enemies "*be made his footstool*". This quote from Psalm 110:1 gives additional insight to Joel 2, showing that Jesus will rule in the midst of his enemies BEFORE he judges the nations, Psalms 110:6. This judgment involves the "*great and dreadful day of the LORD*" in Joel 2:31.

- *Psalms 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine*

*enemies thy footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.*

- *Psalms 110:6 He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.*
- *Psalms 110:2 “The LORD shall send the rod of thy (David's) strength out of Zion”.*
  - This shows Jesus Christ is already established there. This is covered in Joel chapter 3:16 when Jesus “roars” out of Zion to judge the nations. This all connects with *the “great and terrible day of the LORD”* in Joel 2:31, and is well AFTER Armageddon when the “northern army” is destroyed in Joel 2:20.

***Joel 2:32 “... for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”*** only applies to the future fulfillment when Jesus is set up in Jerusalem and when there will be deliverance in Jerusalem. This is why Peter didn't quote the last part of verse 32 for in the **partial fulfillment** in A.D. 70 there was no deliverance in Jerusalem.

## **APPENDIX 2 – Where is Mt. Sinai – in Arabia?**

(Context, pages 31 & 41)

The location of Mt. Sinai is important to our faith. It makes a difference whether the Hebrews

crossed the Sea of Reeds or the Eastern fork of the Red Sea. It affects our understanding in books like Joshua, Samuel and Kings, however more important it affects the judgment seat and Jesus coming with his saints to save Israel from Gog.

Over the years there have been many prospective sites for Mt. Sinai however today there are two main schools of thought on its location. The first school places Mt. Sinai in the Southern Sinai Peninsula near the St. Catherine's monastery. This monastery was first a church built by Empress Helena (330 A.D.) to protect monks from nomads. Tradition says it was built at the site of the burning bush and in 550 A.D. the Emperor Justinian fortified it, making it a monastery. The high mountain just southwest of this monastery is called in Arabic "Jebel Musa", mountain of Moses and thought by many to be Mt. Sinai.

The evidence comes from early Jewish pilgrimages. For example, rabbinical literature describes the distance between Pharan and Mt. Sinai as 36 Roman miles. The conclusion then is drawn that Mt. Sinai was identified by Jewish pilgrims around 100 A.D. This is disputed in several ways including the Apostle Paul, who in Gal. 4:25 identified Mt. Sinai as in Arabia. To this the answer is given that in the 1<sup>st</sup> century Arabia included a large area including the Sinai Peninsula. The question however then becomes, why Paul needed to identify Mt. Sinai with Arabia in the first place.

*Galatians 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.*

Three scriptures are usually given to support the Jebel Musa (Mountain of Moses) site. They are Ex.4:27; 18:5 and Deut. 1:2. None however are close to being conclusive. For example in Deut. 1:2 it says Mt Seir is the chief mountain range of Edom. It extends SW to the Gulf of Aqaba. The point is made that if Mt. Sinai was in Arabia, it would be a longer and more difficult journey than if it was in the Sinai Peninsula.

The second school of thought identify Mt. Sinai with the Jebel Al-Lawz site (Arabic for Mount of laws) in the northwest part of Saudi Arabia. This site today is difficult to access being surrounded by a fence and marked as an archaeological site with a warning not to enter.

The evidence for this site comes from Scripture, geography and those who have illegally entered this site and identify what they have seen, including blackened rock (Ex.19:18), an earthen altar, 12 pillars (Ex.24:4), Elijah's cave (1Kings 19:8,9), signs of a mountain stream bed, etc.

The evidence from Scripture and geography is as follows: Moses fled Egypt to Midian, Ex.2:15, not Sinai.

- *Exodus 2:15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.*

Ancient Midian can not be identified with the Sinai Peninsula for this wilderness was controlled by Egypt and wouldn't have been safe for Moses. Modern archaeology supports this, showing Pharaoh had multiple mining interests and military outposts in this wilderness of Egypt. Midian is east of the eastern fork of the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba). Here Moses led sheep to the mountain of God (Mt. Sinai, also called Sina-Hora) which is the chief mountain in the Horeb range of mountains.

- *Exodus 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.*
  - The "backside of the desert" here is the great Arabian Desert and the land of Midian in the time of Moses would correspond to the "*backside*" of this desert.
  - Since you wouldn't lead a flock across the Gulf of Aqaba to graze so Mt. Horeb must be in Midian which today is located in the NW part of Saudi Arabia. (See map on the next page.)

The Bible makes several references to Moses returning to Egypt from Midian (i.e. Ex.4:19).

- *Exodus 4:19 And the Lord said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.*
  - The point being that Midian was not considered part of Egypt whereas the Sinai at that time was controlled by Egypt.

Exodus 13:18 says that God changed the direction of the Hebrews, turning them toward the Sinai Peninsula. For a mixed multitude of 2 million, traveling with old, young and herds of cattle through the rugged Red Sea desert (Sinai Peninsula) wasn't a viable option. It is thought they traveled southward along the wide coastal plain next to the Gulf of Suez.

*Exodus 13:18 But God led the people about, <5437> through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.*

- 5437 cabab {saw-bab'}; v. AV - about 54, compass 41, turn 34, turn away 4, remove 3, returned 2, round 2, side 2, turn aside 2, turn back 2, misc 14; 154 (1) To turn, turn about or around or aside or back or towards, go about or around, surround, encircle, change direction.
- So God turned the people by the way of the Red Sea desert.

What makes it so difficult to identify the location of Mt. Sinai is that none of the names given along the way can be identified today as certain. For example, Exodus 14:2 all three names are uncertain and this is typical.

*Exo.14:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea*



The Bible does not mention how long it took the Israelites to reach the Red Sea crossing site, but it is possible to get close by using the following time frames of their journey.

*Exodus 16:1 And they took their journey from Elim, (Num.33:9) and all the congregation of the children of*

*Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.*

Using the Egyptian solar calendar the Hebrews arrived at the Wilderness of Sin 30 days after Passover, therefore the crossing of the Red Sea would be sometime between. Knowing the distance and rate ("that there are eleven days' journey between Horeb and Kadesh-barnea", Deu. 1:2), it is estimated that it took them two to three weeks to reach the Eastern fork of the Red Sea known today as the Gulf of Aquaba.

The Hebrews reached the Wilderness of Sinai, near Mt. Sinai, on the third day of the third month. Since the Hebrews arrived on the third day of the third month, their total travel time to Mt. Sinai was 48 days.

*Exodus 19:1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.*

This gives time for them to have reached either of the two main sites for Mt. Sinai and many sites between, but in combining the evidence, Mount Sinai in Arabia has better support.

One further point is in the crossing of the Red Sea. Isaiah 51:10 shows this wasn't the Sea of Reeds for Isaiah describes it as "the waters of the great deep".

*Isaiah 51:10 Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?*

### **APPENDIX # 3 Thomas Nest cartoon**

Context from page 62.



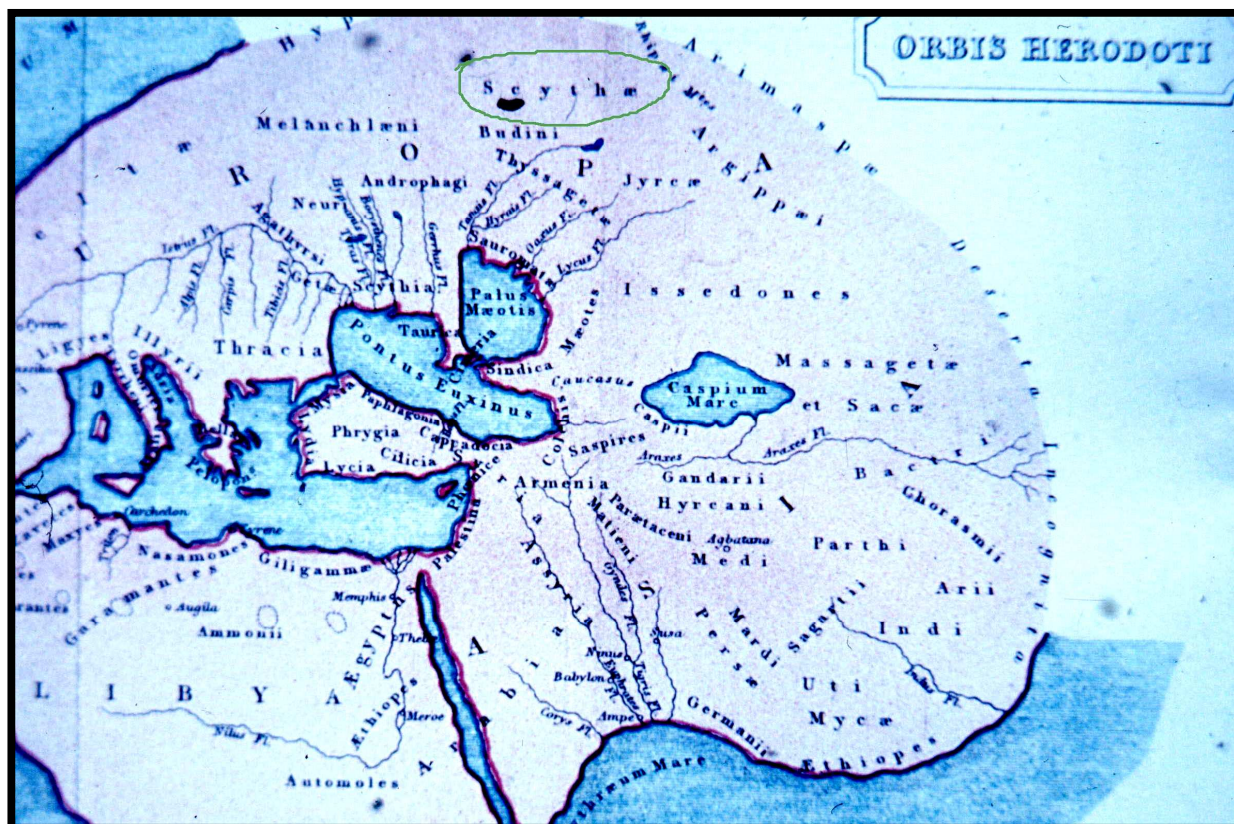


This famous cartoon requires a second look today with the United States' capital in the background. The foreground shows Papal cardinals whose mitres look like alligators invading the North American shores and a protestant minister trying to protect his young flock against this invasion.

**APPENDIX # 4 The World of Herodotus**

(Context from page 44)





A reconstruction of Herodotus' world map 450 B.C. which is about one hundred and fifty years before Ezekiel the prophet in Ezekiel chapter 38 prophesied against of Gog of the land of Magog.

- *Ezekiel 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*

Josephus in his Antiquities of the Jews book 1, chapter IV, section 1 said: "Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians."

Scythia has been circled on the above map. This shows its location as the far reaches of the north. The Scythians migrated from Asia to Europe therefore their location varied with time. This map helps in identifying Russia today as Magog in Ezekiel 38 for v.16 says it is a latter day prophecy.

- *Ezekiel 38:15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, ... 16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

#### **APPENDIX # 5 Malachi, Elijah and John the Baptist**

*Mark 9:12 And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things;*

*and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.*

"*Restoreth all things*" From Robertson's NT word pictures: "This late double compound verb *apokatistanei panta*, usual form *apokayisthmi* in the papyri, is Christ's description of the Baptist as the promised Elijah and Forerunner of the Messiah. (Mt. 17:10-13)."

Jesus' disciples didn't see there was a partial fulfillment in their time of this prophecy and Jesus here enlightens them to the work of John the Baptist. The work of John the Baptist however is but a partial fulfillment of the work of Elijah to come.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I (*LORD of hosts*) will send my messenger (*Elijah*), and he shall prepare the way before me (*LORD of hosts*): and the Lord (*Jesus*), whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple (*Ecclesia*), even the messenger of the covenant (*New Covenant*), whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. (Page 22)

[2] But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:.

[3] And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

- *Ezekiel 20:34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

*Malachi 4:1-6 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble (=Armageddon, Joel 2:5): and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

[2] *But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness (Jesus) arise with healing in his wings; and ye (= the one third who are healed, Zech. 13:8,9) shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. (descriptive of Israel as calves after the long Gentile night go forth from the barn upon Zion's glad morning.)*

[3] *And ye (Mic. 4:13) shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.*

[4] *Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. (Ex. 19:5, that they would be a special people if they kept God's commandments.)*

[5] *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet (Elijah sent to the ten tribes Eze. 20:33-38) before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Joel 2:31): [6] *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**

The disciples saw Jesus as the Messiah but Mal. 3:1 said that Elijah prepared the way for Messiah therefore the Jews said Jesus couldn't be the Messiah since Elijah hadn't first come. Jesus explained John the Baptist typed Elijah and he preceded Messiah (*Jesus*) preparing the way. What the disciples didn't see was that Malachi's prophecy concerning Elijah had both a partial and full fulfillment.



- *Mt.17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?[11] And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. [12] But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.[13] Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.*

## APPENDIX #6 Jesus' Olivet Prophecy

MATHEW CHAPTERS 24- 25	MARK CHAPTER 13	LUKE CHAPTERS 17 & 21
Matthew 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.	Mark 13:1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!	Luke 21:5 And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said,
Matthew 24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.	Mark 13:2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.	Luke 21:6 As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.
Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?	Mark 13:3,4 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?	Luke 21:7 And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?
Matthew 24:4 ,5 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.	Mark 13:5,6 5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: 6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.	Luke 21:8 8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.
Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.	Mark 13:7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.	Luke 21:9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.
Matthew 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.	Mark 13:8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: ...	Luke 21:10,11 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: 11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.
Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.	Mark 13:8 ... these are the beginnings of sorrows. >	
Matthew 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.	Mark 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; <u>and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten</u> : and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.	Luke 21:12,13 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, <u>delivering you up to the synagogues</u> , and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. 13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.
	Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations. Mark 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.	Luke 21:14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: Luke 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.
Matthew 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.	Mark 13:12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.	Luke 21:16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. 17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. 18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish. 19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

MATTHEW CHAPTERS 24- 25	MARK CHAPTER 13	LUKE CHAPTERS 17 & 21
<p>Matthew 24:11,12,13 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.</p>	<p>Mark 13:13 ... but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.</p>		
<p>Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)</p>	<p>Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.</p>	<p>Mark 13:15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: 16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.</p>	<p>Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Luke 21:21 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. Luke 21: 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.</p>
<p>Matthew 24:19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!</p>	<p>Mark 13:17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!</p>	<p>Luke 21:23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! ...</p>
<p>Matthew 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:</p>	<p>Mark 13:18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.</p>	<p>Mark 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.</p>	
<p>Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.</p>	<p>Mark 13:20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.</p>	
		<p>... for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.</p>

MATTHEW 24 & 25	MARK CHAPTER 13	LUKE CHAPTERS 21 & 17
		Luke 21:24 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.
Matthew 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.	Mark 13:21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:	
Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.	Mark 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.	
Matthew 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.	Mark 13:23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.	
Matthew 24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.		
Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.		Luke 17:24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.
		Luke 17:25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.
		Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.
		Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.
		Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;
		Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.
		Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.
		Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;
		Luke 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.
		Luke 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.
		Luke 17:35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
		Luke 17:36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
		Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
Matthew 24:28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.		Luke 17:37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.
		Luke 21:28 And when these things <u>begin</u> to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

<b>MATTHEW 24&amp;25</b>	<b>MARK CHAPTER 13</b>	<b>LUKE CHAPTERS 17 &amp; 21</b>
Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:	Mark 13:24,25 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, :25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.	
Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.	Mark 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.	
Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.	Mark 13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.	
<b>THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUESTION</b> "What shall be the sign of the coming?" Mt. 24:3	<b>THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUESTION</b> Mk. 13:3 "What shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?"	<b>THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUESTION</b> Lk 21:7 "What sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?"
Matthew 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:	Mark 13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:	Luke 21:29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 30] When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.
Matthew 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.	Mark 13:29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.	Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.
Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.	Mark 13:30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.	Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.
Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.	Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.	Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.	Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.	
Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.		Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.
Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,		Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.
Matt. 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.		
Matthew 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.		Luke 17:36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
Matthew 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.		Luke 17:35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
	Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.	Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.
		Luke 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.
	MK. 13:34 For the Son taking afar journey ...	

MATTHEW 24&25	MARK CHAPTER 13	LUKE CHAPTERS 17:21
Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.	Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:	Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.
	Mark 13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.	
	Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.	
Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.		Luke 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.
Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.		Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.
		Luke 12:41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?
Matthew 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?		Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?
Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.		Luke 12:43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
Matthew 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.		Luke 12:44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.
Matthew 24:48,49 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;		Luke 12:45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;
Matthew 24:50,51 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.		Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.
		Luke 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.
		Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: ....
Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the virgins		
Matthew 25:13-30 Parable of the talents		
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> QUESTION "the end of the world" Mt.24:3</b>		
Matthew 25:31-46 Parable of the sheep and goats		

**Scriptural Index**

<b><u>Genesis</u></b>	
Gen 1:2 .....	8
Gen 19:17 .....	13
Gen 5:24 .....	13
Gen.1:26 .....	58
Gen.12:3 .....	77
Gen.49:8-10 .....	80
Gen.49:9-11 .....	51
Gen.6:5 .....	24
<b><u>Exodus</u></b>	
Exo.2:15 .....	91
Exo.4:19 .....	92
Exo.4:27 .....	91
Exo.13:18 .....	92
Exo.14:2 .....	92
Exo.16:1 .....	93
Exo.18:5 .....	91
Exo.19:1 .....	93
Exo.19:18 .....	91
Exo.19:5 .....	33, 96
Exo.19:5-8 .....	42
Exo.19:6 .....	47
Exo.24:4 .....	91
Exo.3:1 .....	33, 92
Exo.34:6 .....	23
Exo.34:7 .....	23
<b><u>Leviticus</u></b>	
Lev.25:8-11 .....	39
Lev.25:9 .....	39
<b><u>Deuteronomy</u></b>	
Deu.1:2 .....	91, 93
Deu.24:1-4 .....	42
Deu.30:1-3 .....	68
Deu.32:2 .....	84
Deu.32:2 .....	28
Deu.33:1 .....	34
Deu.33:1-3 .....	33
Deu.33:2 .....	41
<b><u>Joshua</u></b>	
Jos.18:16 .....	68

<b><u>Judges</u></b>	
Jud.9:27 .....	79
<b><u>1 Kings</u></b>	
1Ki.19:8-9 .....	91
<b><u>2 Kings</u></b>	
2 Kings 23:25 .....	24
2 Kings 23:4,5,7,10,13,21,25 .....	24
2 Kings 24:1 .....	6
2 Kings 24:2 .....	6
2 Kings 24:10-17 .....	7
2 Kings 24:13,14 .....	76
2 Kings 25:1-28 .....	7
<b><u>Nehemiah</u></b>	
Neh.13:15 .....	79
<b><u>Job</u></b>	
Job 24:11 .....	79
Job 38:22,23 .....	59
Job 42:6-10 .....	68
<b><u>Psalms</u></b>	
Psa.2:1 .....	50, 61, 82
Psa.2:1,6 .....	60
Psa.2:1-5 .....	78
Psa.2:2 .....	51
Psa.2:2 .....	49, 66
Psa.2:3 .....	79
Psa.2:6 .....	81, 86
Psa.2:9 .....	81
Psa.16:8-11 .....	89
Psa.46:5,6 .....	56
Psa.48:2 .....	73, 83
Psa.48:2,12 .....	30
Psa.48:2,4,5,12 .....	60
Psa.48:2,5,12 .....	47
Psa.48:4 .....	74
Psa.48:7 .....	66
Psa.48:12,13 .....	46
Psa.49:20 .....	41
Psa.68:17 .....	33, 41

Psa.68:22	47
Psa.72:11	53
Psa.72:16	84
Psa.72:19	86
Psa.72:5	17
Psa.72:6	27
Psa.72:8	54
Psa.8:5	58
Psa.83:3	66,75
Psa.83:3	77
Psa.83:3,6	49
Psa.83:3-8	48
Psa.85:1,2	68
Psa.100:5	17
Psa.110:1-6	89
Psa.110:2	49,77,81
Psa.110:6	73
Psa.145:13	17
Psa.149:7	19
<b>Proverbs</b>	
Pro.18:4	59
<b>Song of Solomon</b>	
S.S.2:8	22
S.S.2:9-11	22
S.S.3:6-11	33
S.S.3:8	34
S.S.8:5-7	42
<b>Isaiah</b>	
Isa.1:2	80
Isa.1:2,10	18
Isa.2:2	52
Isa.2:4	73,82
Isa.5:20	24
Isa.5:26	46
Isa.11:1,4	39
Isa.11:10	46
Isa.11:12	46
Isa.11:15	85
Isa.11:6	58
Isa.16:1	33,34
Isa.16:10	79
Isa.17:1,3,7,9,13	37
Isa.17:12,13	38
Isa.18:3	46,73
Isa.19:2,4,17,18,20,23	37
Isa.19:21	73

Isa.19:22-25	85
Isa.19:24	76
Isa.19:24,25	84
Isa.21:11,12	34
Isa.26:21	33,65
Isa.27:2	33
Isa.30:30	31
Isa.33:4	18
Isa.34:2-8	49
Isa.34:4-5	80
Isa.35:8	83
Isa.50:1	42
Isa.50:7	57
Isa.51:10	93
Isa.52:1	83
Isa.55:9	57
Isa.56:7	83
Isa.57:1	13
Isa.60:12	76
Isa.61:1-2	87
Isa.61:2	39
Isa.63:1-4	49,50
Isa.63:2,3	79
Isa.64:4	57,59
Isa.65:17	80
<b>Jeremiah</b>	
Jer.3:8	42
Jer.3:12	8
Jer.3:17	52,63,83
Jer.4:19	8,11
Jer.4:22	11
Jer.4:23	8
Jer.4:7	9
Jer.5:17	7
Jer.5:6	7,9
Jer.8:16	18
Jer.11:14	8
Jer.17:9	24
Jer.25:15	80
Jer.25:26	81
Jer.25:26,30,33	81
Jer.25:30	33,51,79
Jer.25:31	49
Jer.25:33	60,80
Jer.29:13	68
Jer.30:18	68
Jer.31:31	47
Jer.31:31-33	42
Jer.31:33	54



Jer. 48:33 . . . . .	79
Jer. 51:33 . . . . .	79
Jer. 51:41 . . . . .	81
<b>Ezekiel</b>	
Eze. 8:9 . . . . .	11
Eze. 8:14 . . . . .	11
Eze. 8:16 . . . . .	11
Eze. 8:18 . . . . .	12
Eze. 16:8 . . . . .	33
Eze. 18:20-22 . . . . .	69
Eze. 20:33-38 . . . . .	30
Eze. 20:34 . . . . .	47
Eze. 20:34, 35 . . . . .	96
Eze. 25:14, 17 . . . . .	76
Eze. 26:4, 14 . . . . .	87
Eze. 35:9, 14 . . . . .	85
Eze. 36:22 . . . . .	36
Eze. 37:22 . . . . .	36
Eze. 37:26 . . . . .	63
Eze. 38:1- . . . . .	17
Eze. 38:1-23 . . . . .	45
Eze. 38:2 . . . . .	16, 95
Eze. 38:2, 16 . . . . .	44
Eze. 39:11 . . . . .	23
Eze. 38:12-14 . . . . .	43
Eze. 38:15, 16 . . . . .	34, 95
Eze. 38:15, 21, 22 . . . . .	34
Eze. 38:18, 19 . . . . .	45
Eze. 38:21, 22 . . . . .	25
Eze. 38:22 . . . . .	19
Eze. 38:23 . . . . .	34
Eze. 39:1- . . . . .	17
Eze. 39:11 . . . . .	17
Eze. 39:11 . . . . .	79
Eze. 39:11, 15 . . . . .	69
Eze. 39:1-16 . . . . .	16, 45
Eze. 39:17 . . . . .	35, 51
Eze. 39:17-20 . . . . .	78
Eze. 40-43: . . . . .	46
Eze. 44:10, 11, 15 . . . . .	53
Eze. 46:17 . . . . .	39
<b>Daniel</b>	
Dan 1:6 . . . . .	13
Dan. 2:21 . . . . .	21
Dan. 2:35 . . . . .	52
Dan 2:31-33 . . . . .	9

Dan. 4:20, 22 . . . . .	27
Dan. 7:4-7 . . . . .	9
Dan. 7:7, 10-11 . . . . .	72
Dan. 7:7-10 . . . . .	72
Dan. 8:14 . . . . .	30
Dan. 8:5, 8, 21 . . . . .	73
Dan. 8\20 . . . . .	27
Dan. 11:45 . . . . .	34, 44
Dan. 12:1 . . . . .	44
Dan. 12:2 . . . . .	41
Dan. 12:3 . . . . .	74
<b>Joel</b>	
Joel 1:1 . . . . .	4
Joel 1:11 . . . . .	12
Joel 1:1-11 . . . . .	15
Joel 1:12 . . . . .	13
Joel 1:14 . . . . .	2, 8
Joel 1:15 . . . . .	10
Joel 1:20 . . . . .	12
Joel 1:4 . . . . .	2, 4, 5
Joel 1:6 . . . . .	5, 8
Joel 1:7 . . . . .	6, 7
Joel 1:8 . . . . .	12
Joel 1:8-13 . . . . .	7
Joel 1:9 . . . . .	13
Joel 1:9, 14 . . . . .	2
Joel 2:1 . . . . .	10, 18
Joel 2:1-5 . . . . .	17
Joel 2:1, 5, 20, 31 . . . . .	32
Joel 2:2-9 . . . . .	16
Joel 2:2 . . . . .	17, 31
Joel 2:3 . . . . .	10, 18
Joel 2:4-5 . . . . .	18
Joel 2:5 . . . . .	96
Joel 2:6 . . . . .	18
Joel 2:7, 8 . . . . .	6
Joel 2:7-10 . . . . .	19
Joel 2:7-9 . . . . .	16, 18
Joel 2:11 . . . . .	10, 19
Joel 2:1-11 . . . . .	6, 19, 45
Joel 2:12 . . . . .	23
Joel 2:15, 18, 19, 20, 25 . . . . .	25
Joel 2:18 . . . . .	18
Joel 2:20 . . . . .	8, 15, 17, 20, 23, 90
Joel 2:20, 23, 24, 27 . . . . .	56
Joel 2:20, 23-26, 28 . . . . .	30
Joel 2:20, 25 . . . . .	25
Joel 2:23 . . . . .	19, 28, 36
Joel 2:24, 27, 28 . . . . .	56

Joel 2:25,22,23 .....	27
Joel 2:26 .....	24
Joel 2:28 .....	15,47
Joel 2:28-32 .....	1,15,88
Joel 2:28-32.5 .....	89
Joel 2:30-32 .....	62
Joel 2:30-33 .....	60
Joel 2:31...10,28,32,64,66	68
Joel 2:31,32 .....	65
Joel 2:31-32 .....	89,90
Joel 2:32 .....	15,53,81
Joel 3:1 .....	67
Joel 3:1,2 .....	67
Joel 3:1,2-8 .....	69
Joel 3:2 .....	48,79
Joel 3:2,4,6 .....	76
Joel 3:2-5 .....	73
Joel 3:2-8 .....	74
Joel 3:2,12 .....	79
Joel 3:2,12,14 .....	69
Joel 3:3-6 .....	70
Joel 3:3-6,8 .....	76
Joel 3:3-8 .....	70
Joel 3:4 .....	77,84
Joel 3:6,20 .....	67
Joel 3:7-8 .....	77
Joel 3:8 .....	48,77
Joel 3:9-10 .....	78
Joel 3:11-12 .....	78
Joel 3:12 .....	69
Joel 3:14 .....	10,79
Joel 3:15 .....	66,79
Joel 3:16 .....	51,80,81,90
Joel 3:17 .....	83
Joel 3:18 .....	12,84
Joel 3:19 .....	85
Joel 3:20,21 .....	85
<b><u>Obadiah</u></b>	
Oba.1:20,21 .....	37
Obadiah 1:15 .....	76
<b><u>Jonah</u></b>	
Jonah 3:5 .....	12
<b><u>Micah</u></b>	
Mic.4:13 .....	96
Mic.4:2 .....	84
Mic.4:3 .....	54,73,82

Mic.6:15 .....	79
Mic.7:14-15 .....	47
Mic.7:14-16 .....	39
Mic.7:15 .....	39
Mic.7:16 .....	30
<b><u>Nahum</u></b>	
Nahum 1:1 .....	74
Nahum 1:15 .....	83
<b><u>Habakkuk</u></b>	
Hab 2:14 .....	12
Hab.3:3 .....	42
Hab.3:3,7 .....	33
Hab 3:5 .....	10
Hab 3:8 .....	10,66
<b><u>Zechariah</u></b>	
Zec.8:3 .....	83
Zec.10:3 .....	76
Zec.12:10 .....	20,24,63
Zec.13:6,8 .....	20
Zec.13:8 .....	24,25,34
Zec.13:8,9 .....	96
Zec.13:8-9 .....	19
Zec.13:6 .....	25,63
Zec.13\8,9 .....	44
Zec.14:16 .....	53
Zec.14:17 .....	59
Zec.14:17,18 .....	73
Zec.14:18 .....	74,85
Zec.14:21 .....	83
Zec.14:2 .....	44,45
Zec.14:4 .....	19,34,46
Zec.14:4,5 .....	34,69
Zec.14:4-5 .....	18
Zec.14:8 .....	84
<b><u>Malachi</u></b>	

Mal. 4:1,5	32
Mal. 4:1,5	64
Mal. 1:4	85
Mal. 3:1	22, 43, 96
Mal. 3:1-3	96
Mal. 4:1	34
Mal. 4:1-6	88, 96
Mal. 4:5	60
<b>Matthew</b>	
Mat. 1:11	2
Mat. 4:15	72
Mat. 5:35	63
Mat. 6:32	72
Mat. 6:9	54
Mat. 10:5,18	72
Mat. 11:10,14	43
Mat. 12:18,21	72
Mat. 12:41,42	70
Mat. 13:52	59
Mat. 17:10-13	88, 97
Mat. 19:28	53, 71
Mat. 20:19,25	72
Mat. 21:43	72
Mat. 22:13	48
Mat. 22:9	34
Mat. 24:1-10	98
Mat. 24:3	21, 70, 71
Mat. 24:7	73
Mat. 24:7,9,14	72
Mat. 24:11-22	99
Mat. 24:23-28	100
Mat. 24:27	19, 31, 46
Mat. 24:27-31	71
Mat. 24:29-41	101
Mat. 24:30	31, 72
Mat. 24:34	22
Mat. 24:36-37	21
Mat. 24:43	30
Mat. 24:43,45	74
Mat. 24:48	22
Mat. 25:8	14
Mat. 25:1-13	34
Mat. 25:1-30	70
Mat. 25:14	74
Mat. 25:1-46	102
Mat. 25:31	71, 72
Mat. 25:31,41,46,	75
Mat. 25:31-46	70, 73, 78
Mat. 25:32	48, 49, 72

Mat. 25:34	73
Mat. 25:35	74
Mat. 25:40	74
Mat. 25:41	75
Mat. 25:45,46	75
Mat. 25:37-39	74
Mat. 26:64	72
Mat. 27:24-25	85
Mat. 28:19	72, 73
<b>Mark</b>	
Mar. 9:12	96
Mar. 13:1-12	98
Mar. 13:13-20	99
Mar. 13:21-23	100
Mar. 13:24-32	101
Mar. 13:3	101
Mar. 14:62	31
<b>Luke</b>	
Luk. 1:32	19, 34, 42, 46, 47, 53
Luk. 4:21	87
Luk. 7:24	72
Luk. 7:27	43
Luke 12:24,27	74
Luke 12:35-37	35
Luke 12:37	36
Luke 12:39	30
Luke 12:42	59, 74
Luke 14:8	36
Luk. 14:22,23	48
Luk. 17:24-37	100
Luk. 21:5-16	98
Luk. 21:20-23	99
Luk. 21:24-28	100
Luk. 21:25	44
Luk. 21:29-35	101
Luk. 21:36	13
Luk. 21:7	101
Luk. 21:24-27,36	38
Luk. 22:29,30	71
<b>John</b>	
John 2:1,2	36
John 2:1-11	34
John 5:25	71
John 6:21	13
John 12:48	40
John 18:37	53

<b><u>Acts</u></b>	
Acts 2:1-36 .....	89
<b><u>Acts 2:16 .....</u></b>	<b>88</b>
Acts 2:21 .....	81
Acts 2:30 .....	47
Acts 4:25-27 .....	61
Acts 7:36 .....	40
Acts 8:5-8 .....	47
Acts 10:22 .....	72
Acts 14:16 .....	73
Acts 14:16 .....	73, 74
Acts 15:14 .....	70
Acts 24:15 .....	41
<b><u>Romans</u></b>	
Rom. 1:5 .....	70
Rom. 5:21 .....	60
Rom. 13:4 .....	74
Rom. 14:10 .....	72
<b><u>1 Corinthians</u></b>	
1 Cor. 13:12 .....	57
1 Cor. 15:24 .....	75
1 Cor. 6:2 .....	72
<b><u>2 Corinthians</u></b>	
2 Cor. 5:10 .....	72
2 Cor. 5:10 .....	41
2 Chr. 6:23 .....	28
<b><u>Galatians</u></b>	
Gal. 3:6 .....	74
Gal. 3:8 .....	73
Gal. 4:25 .....	33, 42, 91
<b><u>Ephesians</u></b>	
Eph. 2:9 .....	74
Eph. 5:26-27 .....	42
<b><u>1 Thessalonians</u></b>	
1 Thes. 1:10 .....	19
1 Thes. 4:15, 16 .....	41
1 Thes. 5:2 .....	40
1 Thes. 5:2, 4 .....	30
1 Thes. :7-8 .....	87

<b><u>2 Thessalonians</u></b>	
2 Thes. 1:8 .....	19
2 Thes. 2:11 .....	47, 49, 50, 61, 80
<b><u>1 Timothy</u></b>	
1 Tim. 3:7 .....	29
<b><u>2 Timothy</u></b>	
2 Tim. 4:1 .....	41
<b><u>Hebrews</u></b>	
Heb. 2:7 .....	58
Heb. 5:12-14 .....	84
Heb. 5:14 .....	36
Heb. 6:4 .....	57
Heb. 10:1 .....	27
Heb. 10:37 .....	22
Heb. 12:1 .....	31, 72
Heb. 12:2 .....	57
Heb. 13:4 .....	36
<b><u>James</u></b>	
Jam. 2:14-20 .....	74
<b><u>1 Peter</u></b>	
1 Peter 3:10 .....	30
1 Peter 4:5 .....	41
<b><u>2 Peter</u></b>	
2 Pet. 1:11 .....	75
2 Pet. 3:9 .....	22
2 Pet. 3:10 .....	40
<b><u>1 John</u></b>	
1 John 4:2 .....	50
1 John 4:3 .....	49
<b><u>Revelation</u></b>	
Rev. 1:7 .....	31, 72
Rev. 3:3 .....	30
Rev. 5:10 .....	53, 72
Rev. 5:5 .....	34, 80
Rev. 7:9 .....	73

Rev.8:1-12 .....	65
Rev 9:7 .....	5
Rev.10:1 .....	28
Rev.10:1-4 .....	65
Rev.10:3,4 .....	65
Rev.11:18 .....	45
Rev 13:1,2 .....	9
Rev.13:8 .....	34
Rev.14:14-20 .....	64
Rev.14:15-18 .....	31
Rev.14:18 .....	79
Rev.14:6 .....	28,34,47,75
Rev.16:1-9 .....	65
Rev.16:12 .....	32
Rev.16:12-21 .....	64
Rev.16:15 .....	22,30,40
Rev.16:16 .....	32,44,67
Rev.16:17 .....	32
Rev.16:17-21 .....	51,79
Rev.16:19 .....	32
Rev.17:1-2 .....	80
Rev.17:3 .....	62,72

Rev.17:12 .....	51
Rev.17:15 .....	80
Rev.18:10 .....	35,39
Rev.18:8 .....	49
Rev.19:7 .....	33,42
Rev.19:7,8,9,17 .....	33
Rev.19:9 .....	48
Rev.19:15 .....	51
Rev.19:16-18 .....	50
Rev.19:17,18 .....	78
Rev.19:17 .....	35
Rev.19:19 .....	35,51
Rev.19:19,20 .....	62
Rev.19:20 .....	52,66,75,76,82
Rev.19:21 .....	35,72
Rev.20:7-9 .....	60
Rev.21:27 .....	83
Rev.22:7 ..	21
Rev.22:12 .....	21
Rev.22:20 .....	21