

CHAPTER FIVE – PART ONE

SECTION 3 — SONG OF SOLOMON TO MALACHI

Example 23) Song of Solomon

The **Song of Solomon** is a love story about a young girl, a type of the bride of Christ, and King Solomon, a type of Christ. This story expresses the love between a bride and bridegroom and their intimate relationship, followed by an exhortation for the bride to remain holy and pure before marriage.

The **Song of Solomon** reveals the purpose as to why God created man and woman for marriage --- pointing to the relationship between God and Israel and Christ and the Church. Redeemed man involves both Israel and the Church in the same regard --- for participation in the future Messianic kingdom. In this respect, the **Song of Solomon** bears similarities to the Book of **Esther** for Israel, and the Book of **Ruth** for the Church. Esther, a Jewish girl who became the bride of the King of Israel, is a type of Israel. In the Book of **Ruth**, Boaz who is a type of Christ, redeems Ruth, a type of the Church, and takes her for his bride just as Christ will redeem the faithful ones from the Church and take them for His bride.

This is why the **Song of Solomon** means the "loveliest of songs." The marriage relationship between God the Father and Israel, and Christ and the Church will reflect the loveliest relationship ever to be. God created man in His image; the woman made from the side of man's rib. In like manner, Christ's rib was speared at Pentecost to form the Church as part of His body. This is symbolic of the marriage relationship between the Lord and His bride in the future Millennial kingdom.

The song opens with a brief description of the Shulamite. The Shulamite compares her dark skin acquired from the long hours working in the vineyards with the lighter complexion of the city maidens. But her groom assures her that she is "lovely," referring to the beauty of true worship to the living God (**Psalms 33:1; 147:1**). God sees the inward appearance of a Christian and not the outward appearance to qualify to be the bride for His Son.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

On the Day of the Lord, the bride of Christ will have made herself ready by washing herself (confession of sin), anointing herself (spiritual growth unto maturity), and putting on the wedding garment (working daily to live righteously by faith through the assistance of the Holy Spirit and awaiting His return).

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous act of the saints. (Revelation 19:7, 8)

In **Song of Solomon** chapter **two**, the Man introduces Himself as, *I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys*. In comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find "the rose" of "Sharon" to be the future glory of Zion (the glory of the Lord), mentioned in **Isaiah 35:1, 2**:

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;

It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God.

In **Matthew 6:28, 29**, a companion Scripture of the "the lily" of the valleys is revealed:

*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil or spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like **one** [bride of Christ] of these.*

The hope of the faithful Christian is to experience the love and glory of the Lord in His kingdom and to be chosen as His bride. In **Song 2:2**, we find

that among Solomon's 700 wives and 300 concubines, only one is special and set apart among His family. Only one was his special love among all.

Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

The Word makes perfectly clear that only those within the family of God who abide in Him will be chosen as His bride. In the parable of the wedding feast (**Matthew 22:14**), Christ says, *For many are called, but few are chosen* (called out).

Example 24) Isaiah

The remaining 16 books of the Old Testament were written from 15 prophets who ministered God's word to the nation of Israel. God gave them the gift of prophecy and called them to be His messengers to the Jewish people. They were called to minister and warn them of a future consequence if they did not obey the Lord.

Isaiah began to prophesy around 740 B.C. and ended his mission in 681 B.C. Isaiah had a two-fold message: he prophesied on Christ's first coming (**Isaiah 9:1-7; 42; 49; 53**), and His second coming (**Isaiah 11; 56; 61; 63; 65**). At the time when he began his service to God, the entire nation of Israel was heading down a path of sin and idolatry. Isaiah had been called by God to confront, exhort and warn them of their sins. As punishment, God had placed Israel in the hands of Babylon. Israel followed their gods and did evil in the sight of the Lord. Isaiah's teachings of repent and judgment was not what the Jewish people wanted to hear, and his preaching made him very unpopular. Nonetheless, Isaiah continued to stand up for the truth even when he was faced with opposition.

In the year that King Uzziah died in 740 B.C., Isaiah had an extraordinary vision of the throne of God with His angels. It was then that God Himself called Isaiah to be a prophet and messenger to the people of Israel (**Isaiah 6**). And this is what God instructed Isaiah to do:

And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand;

Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy,

And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed." (Isaiah 6:9, 10)

Isaiah's preaching to the religious and arrogant people of Israel were a challenging call, for the more he would preach to them, the less responsive the people would be. Isaiah's perseverance in his preaching would cause them to keep hearing his message but only make their ears heavy, for their hearts were hardened. Only the humble would understand the Lord's message. Isaiah's response was "*Lord, how long?*" How long would the people of Israel be rebellious to God and unresponsive to the truth? And God answers him, "*Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant...But yet a tenth will be in it, and will return and be for consuming*" (**Isaiah 6:11a, 13**); a time of the end.

Isaiah prophesied on the fall of Jerusalem, which occurred in 586 B.C. He prophesied on the return of the Jews to their land, which occurred in 538 B.C. Yet while he warned the wicked of their tragic fate, he also encouraged those who repented to place their hope in God for their future inheritance. However, because of their continued disobedience, Isaiah prophesied that Israel would be separated from God until the end of the age, until they repent and their Redeemer returns (**Isaiah 59**).

All of the prophecies told by Isaiah and the other prophets have all come to pass, all but the following have yet to take place: the rapture of the Church, the seven year Tribulation and the second coming of Christ Jesus.

After the Church is raptured, God will once again deal with Israel unto repentance during the seven year Tribulation. Isaiah presented a detailed description of the impending judgment that will fall on the Jewish people and on the entire earth during the Great Tribulation (**Isaiah 24; 29, 34**). Though God chastens His sinful people, He also preserves a remnant because He is faithful to keep His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (**Isaiah 10:20; 11; 31:4; 52; 62**).

Isaiah encouraged the people of Israel to repent and keep away from greed, idolatry and the sin of unbelief. The same admonition was relayed to Christians. And Isaiah prophesied that out of the Gentiles, a remnant (saved Gentiles) will join Israel's remnant to become servants of the Lord (**Isaiah 56**). Isaiah exhorted every believer to abide in the Lord, which is most important in this age for the future salvation of their soul:

An Invitation to Abundant Life:

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-- The sure mercies of David.

Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you, shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you."

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower, And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.
(Isaiah 55:1-13)

Example 25) Jeremiah

Jeremiah served God as a prophet for over forty years and in all this time the people did not listen to his warnings. He suffered greatly for preaching the Word of God, being put into prison, thrown into a dungeon, mocked and rejected by his family, friends, false priests and kings. Jeremiah was alone in his service to get the people to repent and follow God. Though most of what he prophesied came to pass, the people continued to ignore the warnings.

Does this still hold true today? In **John 3:19**, Christ said that people would rather believe a lie than believe the Truth. Many Christians are comfortable remaining ignorant, as they are so deep into the affairs of this world, a world ruled under Satan. Many would rather follow false teachers who are ear ticklers, as they only want to hear what is pleasing to their ears. Their deeds are merely attempts to conceal a heart in rebellion against God. The ultimate reason people do not come to the light is that they do not want to. In **Revelation 3:17**, the Lord Jesus Christ reveals the condition of the Church as a whole at the near close of this age — “*wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.*”

But Jeremiah did not give up. Though he was mocked, humiliated and persecuted, he remained faithfully obedient to God. Jeremiah could have been swayed by these people's attacks to turn away from the Truth, but he remained faithful to God, for he had a deep understanding of His Word. Once a believer has been enlightened with the Truth, how can he go back

to believing the lie? Those who have no foundation in God's Word will be the first ones to fall back. We see this in the Parable of the Sower in **Matthew 13:20, 21:**

"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word (Word of the kingdom), immediately he stumbles."

In light of his persecutions and tribulations, Jeremiah could be compared to what Job suffered. Jeremiah, in his distress, thought it would have been better to die at birth than to endure the hardships of persecution (**Jeremiah 20:14; Job 3**). But with God's strength, Jeremiah prevailed and for the reason that *"His word was in my heart like a burning fire"* (**Jeremiah 20:9**). Despite his anguish, Jeremiah fulfilled his ministry of proclaiming God's judgment to His people for their unfaithfulness and disobedience.

The Book of **Jeremiah** is about prophecy and concerns God's future judgment on Israel, during the Tribulation. In **Jeremiah 4:1-4**, God made a plea to the nation of Israel to repent and return to the Lord, for they were a disobedient people, following other gods and doing works of wickedness in the sight of the Lord. In **Jeremiah 4:5-31**, Jeremiah prophesied on God's judgment upon His people because of their continued transgressions. This judgment relates to the future Tribulation and what God will do to the Jews and to their city in order to bring them to repentance. The devastation will be as the Flood during Noah's day, and far worse than the Holocaust that occurred during this dispensation. Jeremiah prophesied on Christ's second coming (**Jeremiah 23:1-8**); on Israel's seventy years of desolations (excluding the Church period) until Christ's return (**Jeremiah 25:1-14; 29:10**); and the restoration of Israel on the coming Day of the Lord (**Jeremiah 30, 31**).

Jeremiah serves to this day as an example of a faithful ambassador of God, one faithful unto the end despite many hardships. His life of service to the Lord was a success because he overcame all obstacles to the saving of his soul.

In the Book of **Lamentations**, Jeremiah expresses his grief over the fall of Jerusalem due to the nation's sinfulness. The people of Israel had chosen to reject God. Yet even in this time of suffering there was hope. The Lord would not discipline His people forever; He would eventually restore those who waited on Him. To this day, Israel's position has not changed since their last fall in 70 A.D. According to the Lord, the nation ceases to exist as a whole, as a theocracy. This period is considered "*the times of the Gentiles.*" At the end of this dispensation, the Jews who have waited upon the Lord will finally be restored to their land and then Israel will exist as a nation again within a theocracy — forever.

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. (Lamentations 3:25, 26)

Example 26) Ezekiel

Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was given more visions from God than any other prophet — the Apostle John being next in line. The word "vision" is derived from the Hebrew word "to see." Ezekiel witnessed a vision of God in **Ezekiel 1:26-28**, a similar picture of how Daniel saw Him in **Daniel 10:4-6** and John's eyewitness in **Revelation 1:13-16; 4:2, 3; 19:12**.

Ezekiel perceived with his own eyes, prophesied and warned the people of Israel concerning the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. After the city was destroyed, Ezekiel gave the people hope prophesying that the Lord would gather the children of Israel among the nations, bring them back into their own land and that one kingdom shall arise in the future with one King, Christ Jesus, ruling over them.

But before this would happen, Ezekiel gave warnings of the impending judgment that would fall upon Israel because of their continued disobedience and wickedness. God would bring extreme judgment on them because they continued throughout their generations to defile and desecrate themselves by pagan worship and by their unfaithfulness, in

which they murdered their prophets and sacrificed their children to the god, Baal.

Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire? (Ezekiel 16:20, 21)

Ezekiel presents detailed information concerning Jerusalem's wickedness and harlotry against God (**Ezekiel 16:15-34**). Israel had committed adultery with the Gentile nations, had built themselves up in fame and fortune, and fell completely away from the Lord. In the future, the Lord will cause the Gentile nations, Jerusalem's lovers (**Ezekiel 16:35**), to turn against the nation of Israel and to violently abuse and kill them. Many Israelites will be destroyed because of their wickedness, but God will leave a remnant. This account will occur during the Great Tribulation at the end of this age.

Thus says the Lord God to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: "Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places.

Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars.

In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered throughout the countries. Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was

crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols;

they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. And they shall know that I am the Lord; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them.”
(Ezekiel 6:2-10)

In order to effect repentance, God will execute the severest form of judgment on Israel, such as never before. The Great Tribulation will cause Israel to sincerely repent and to cry to God for help. The same distressful wailing that was heard in the camp of Israel in Babylon and during the days of the Assyrian in Egypt will be heard again during the days of the future Assyrian Antichrist. When they look upon Jesus, it will cause Israel's eyes to see the evil they have done, to believe in Him and to mourn. Because of God's grace and mercy, He will deliver the nation of Israel from the Gentile nations and restore them back to their land **(Ezekiel 11:14; 20:33; 36:8-38; 37:14-28; 39:21)**. At the end of the Great Tribulation, God will destroy Israel's bordering enemies and most of the Gentile nations as they make war against the Lord and the Jewish people **(Ezekiel 25-32, 35)**.

God gave Ezekiel the vision of the dry bones, the whole house of Israel, being raised to life and placed in their own land. To see flesh and bones come to life, a multitude raised simultaneously and transported to their land, would have been an incredible sight! This vision depicts God's power and promise to all, Israel and the Church, that He will revive and resurrect the dead.

And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath

in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord." (**Ezekiel 37:3-6**)

Ezekiel is given a detailed vision of the New Jerusalem that will be built by Christ during the Millennium on earth. Ezekiel's vision of a restored temple gave hope to the people of Israel since the last temple was destroyed in 586 B.C. But Ezekiel spoke of a more glorious temple than the last one because God's glorious presence will give the future temple light and He shall dwell there amongst His people, Israel (**Ezekiel 43:7**). As a hopeful reminder, God gave a thorough description of the future New Jerusalem with specific dimensions, number of rooms, courts and detailed designs of God's temple where His people Israel will reside.

Like the other prophets, Ezekiel faced strong opposition and hardship from the people of Israel during his ministry. Yet he remained faithful to the Lord and abided by all of God's commandments. Ezekiel's ministry was quite different from the other prophets in that he displayed unusual demonstrations to the people of Israel in order to get their attention and make them understand. These demonstrations were a way in which Ezekiel could illustrate Israel's disobedience, followed by their punishment and restoration. God asked Ezekiel to perform some of these strange actions such as lying on his left side for 390 days and his right side for 40 days to demonstrate the length of Babylon's siege corresponding to the number of years Israel had sinned against God — 390 years for Israel and 40 days for Judah. This demonstration portrayed the punishment of Gentile rule inflicted upon the nation of Israel over a 430-year period extending from 597 BC to approximately 167 BC. (**Ezekiel 4:1-8**).

God also took the death of Ezekiel's wife as a sign of the overwhelming sadness the nation would feel when the city of Jerusalem and the temple is destroyed. God commanded Ezekiel not to mourn for the death of his wife as an illustration of God's pain over the death of His wife, Israel, and His inability to mourn because the nation deserved the punishment of destruction for their wickedness and disobedience (**Ezekiel 24:15**).

When obedience to God demanded unusual actions, the people's curiosity about the reasons for the behavior was enhanced. Therefore, Ezekiel was able to witness and get the people to pay attention to his prophesies. But how difficult it must have been for his inability to mourn for his wife!

Ezekiel's sacrifices and devotion to God were clearly made apparent. While our actions may not be as dramatic as his, we can relate to him being portrayed as an "outcast" in the world and as a "strange person." Obedience to the will of God can be challenging in any generation, because the popularity of the world is so wicked and ready to persecute the few righteous, the unpopular.

The prophet Ezekiel is one we can fall back on for support when we feel alone in our ministry to others. Like Ezekiel, we should not worry about how we look to others, but only to God, for we owe our obedience to Him.

Ezekiel's vision of the future New Jerusalem *on earth* (not to be mistaken for the New Jerusalem in heaven) included the entire temple complex consisting of the Sanctuary or Most Holy Place of the Lord and the holy district of the priests within the center of the city. The temple complex is separate from the rest of the city. The entire city is surrounded by a wall and twelve gates of the city, naming the twelve tribes of Israel. The borders and divisions of the land within the city are described in detail, dividing the inheritance between the twelve tribes of Israel. And within the center of the city dwells the Lord Jesus Christ amongst them -- forever.

All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE. (Ezekiel 48:35)

Example 27) Daniel

... the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses (Daniel 5:21b).

God placed Daniel in the midst of pagan rulers in Babylon so that His purpose would be done, so that the kings of Babylon would know that God's kingdom will prevail over all earthly kingdoms.

The Book of **Daniel** is a prophecy of future events of the Tribulation, events that involve the nation of Israel and Gentile world power centered in Babylon under the rule of the Antichrist. During Daniel's time, God

placed the nation of Israel into the hands of Babylon because of their disobedience. In 605 B.C., the Assyrian Empire had been defeated by the king of Babylon. Judah, the surviving remnant of the nation of Israel, had been under Assyrian domination at that time, but was forced out of their land to Babylon.

Because of Israel's disobedience, God's chosen people had been conquered and dispersed by a mighty empire that did not acknowledge God. History will continue in this pattern until Israel repents, then God will judge all Gentile nations, restore Israel to their land and establish His Millennial kingdom. The time will come when God will gather His chosen people to Himself. The message that Daniel gave to the people of Israel and to the kings of Babylon was that God of Israel is sovereign and that heaven rules above them all.

The Book of **Daniel** is a Book of prophecy surrounding the "*latter days*" which means in Hebrew "end, end time, last end or latter end." It begins in Daniel's day and ends with the future Tribulation. It is evident that the prophecies and visions of Daniel were fulfilled and will be fulfilled at the exact time that God wills, demonstrating yet again --- the Most High God rules.

The Four Great Beasts—

In **Daniel 2**, God reveals King Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel. Daniel was bold to minister God's power to the king. When asked if he was able to interpret the dream, Daniel answered,

The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. (Daniel 2:27, 28)

As previously stated, the "*latter days*" is an expression used frequently of the end times, referring to the Tribulation and subsequently when God will establish His Messianic kingdom, an expression that is the central subject of the Book of **Daniel** and which corresponds to the Book of **Revelation**.

Daniel proceeds to tell the king the interpretation of the dream, which was a testimony of what God will do in the future. The image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was seen standing in Babylon before the king. Therefore, *one* kingdom is in view, as all four parts of the image was Babylon throughout. These four parts represent four world empires that will arise in the latter times, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B.C. and ending with the future Antichrist, each one more powerful than the one before. After these four Babylonian kingdoms have run their course, a stone cut out of the mountain without hands (meaning supernatural activity; a mighty angel: **Revelation 18:21**) was seen smashing the great image on the feet and grinding it to powder (in the latter days, the image will reflect the Antichrist: **Revelation 13:14**). The powder is then blown away as chaff from the summer threshing floor, and the stone grew until it filled the whole earth. This is a description of the smiting of Gentile world power ruled by the Antichrist, and the establishment of Christ's kingdom which fills the entire earth (**Isaiah 1:9**).

After Daniel interpreted the dream, the king promoted Daniel and his three Jewish friends. Then, King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, nearly a 100 feet high, and commanded all peoples, nations and tongues to worship the image. Whoever did not fall down and worship would be cast into a burning fiery furnace. This prophecy will find its fulfillment during the last half of the Tribulation, when the false prophet will make an image of the Antichrist (abomination of desolation) and will command all to worship the image of the beast or be killed (**Revelation 13:14, 15**).

The Book of **Daniel** coincides with the Book of **Revelation** beginning with chapter **seventeen** regarding the condition of the Jews and the Gentile nations during the last half of the Tribulation period. During this time, Israel and the Gentile nations will be mingled together in acts of idolatry, greed, and wickedness under the rule of the Antichrist. The Jews will be committing spiritual adultery with Babylon, attempting to exist apart from God and will be reckoned among the nations. Without shame, they will openly worship and idolize other gods. Daniel, as well as the other prophets, predicted Israel's disobedience and harlotry through forbidden national relationships with the Gentile nations under the rule of the Antichrist. In **Revelation 17:5**, Israel is pictured having *on her forehead a name written, "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth."* In **Jeremiah 3:1** and **3:3**, we have a

companion Scripture which reads, “*But you have played the harlot with many lovers....You have had a harlot’s forehead; You refuse to be ashamed.*”

The Gentile nations existed because of the Jewish people's disobedience. God removed the Jewish people from their land and scattered them as punishment for their sins since the building of the tower of Babel. During this time, God gave the scepter over to the Gentile nations. And, though later, the city of Babylon was destroyed by Media-Persia, the spirit of Babylon remained throughout the centuries and spread to all peoples, nations and tongues. This resulted in a corrupt and evil world where greed, selfishness, gluttony, wickedness, and idolatry were practiced. And once again as before, God will give Israel into the hands of modern rebuilt Babylon and the Gentile nations. In the future, because of their harlotry and wickedness, God will use Babylon to bring destruction to Israel until they have been completely shattered. Then, when they repent, He will save them and destroy Babylon and Gentile domination.

In **Ezekiel 23:28-31**, God punishes Israel for reckoning with the Gentile nations:

For thus says the Lord God: 'Surely I will deliver you into the hand of those you hate, into the hand of those from whom you alienated yourself. They will deal hatefully with you, take away all you have worked for, and leave you naked and bare.

The nakedness of your harlotry shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and your harlotry. I will do these things to you because you have gone as a harlot after the Gentiles, because you have become defiled by their idols. You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore I will put her cup (of wrath and desolation) in your hand."

A companion Scripture is revealed in **Revelation 17:16**,

And the ten horns (nations) which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot (Israel), make her desolate, and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

The Tribulation will be the “*time of Jacob’s trouble*,” the most horrific time imaginable for the Jewish people — far worse than World War II.

Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, were promoted over the affairs of the province of Babylon, but refused to worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Therefore, the Chaldeans maliciously accused them of disobeying the king and suggested they be burned in the fiery furnace. The king was furious and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than usual and bind the three Jewish men. But not a hair on their head was burned, as God had protected them. The king was astonished to see that there were four men loose in the fire unharmed, the fourth being Jesus Christ.

“Look!” He answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Daniel 3:25)

This account will once again occur during the last half of the Tribulation. The Jewish people will fall into the rule and persecution of the Antichrist. Those who refuse to worship the image of the Antichrist and receive the mark of the beast will be saved into the millennial kingdom. Though many will be martyred for their faith in Christ, they will be resurrected at His second coming. Those who do worship the image will face the wrath of God. In **Revelation 13:3, 4**, it is apparent that most of God's people will be deceived and will follow the Antichrist.

In **Daniel 4**, Nebuchadnezzar's second dream was interpreted by Daniel through divine revelation. Nebuchadnezzar and his empire, Babylon, were symbolized by a great tree which was cut down for seven years (a “tree” in Scripture is used to symbolize a national power). But God allowed the stump and the roots of the tree to remain. This is a description of Nebuchadnezzar's rule to be taken away for seven years because of his failure to recognize that “*the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.*” The moment the king proclaimed that Babylon was great and that he had mighty power and royalty, he was stripped of his power, possessions and honor. But God allowed the kingdom to remain under the king's power, once he repented and acknowledged that God was the eternal Sovereign of the universe. Yet, this part of the prophecy will find its fulfillment when Christ returns, when

Gentile world power (Babylon as the center) ruled by the Antichrist is put down, and all who remain will acknowledge and worship Him. God has and will create and destroy kingdoms and distribute them to whom he wills so that His plans and purposes are fulfilled.

Belshazzar, the successor of Nebuchadnezzar, had a prideful heart and had failed to recognize the sovereignty of God. Therefore, God warned him by writing on the palace walls the words that described his fall. That very night, after Daniel had interpreted God's writing on the wall, Belshazzar was slain.

Darius the Mede was Belshazzar's successor to the throne of Babylon. He was planning to set Daniel above the governors of his kingdom, so the governors sought maliciously to get Daniel to break the king's law when it conflicted with the law of God. When Daniel knelt down to pray, the governors went before the king and accused Daniel of breaking the king's law and requested that he be cast into the den of lions. But God protected Daniel in the den and no harm came to him. When Darius released him from the den, Daniel blessed the king for believing in God. Darius honored God and commanded the evil governors and their families to be cast into the den of lions. And Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and his successor, Cyrus. In the antitype, God will protect a remnant of Israel during the Great Tribulation and will slay the evil leaders of the world, demonstrating yet again that God rules in the kingdom of men.

While Daniel served Belshazzar, God gave him visions of four beasts, which represent four Gentile kingdoms (**Daniel 7**). These kingdoms arise out of the works of Satan. The first represents Babylon (modern day Iraq), the second is Media-Persia (modern day Iran), the third represents Greece and the fourth will be a kingdom headed by Satan who gives power to the Antichrist. Scripture outlines the structure of the governments of the earth in the following fashion: God rules over all, Satan and his fallen angels rules under God, and man rules under Satan and his angels. Satan has occupied the position as incumbent ruler over the earth but only under the authority of God. Therefore, these four earthly kingdoms are ruled by man under Satan.

The fourth kingdom will be exceedingly powerful and dreadful and will rule over all the Gentile nations as one world kingdom. The Antichrist

will speak against God and will display himself as the Most High. He shall order the Jews to be killed who do not worship him and his image and he will order them to receive his mark on their hand or forehead in order for them to buy or sell. He will intend to change the entire economic and governmental structure of the world. He will defile the holy sanctuary with his image and cause the Holy Spirit to depart from it.

Then the Glory of the Lord departed... (Ezekiel 10:18).

The Spirit of the Lord departed from the holy temple in Israel because of all the abominations that Israel allowed. The house of Israel will go into captivity, be scattered among the Gentile nations and be given into their hands (**Ezekiel 12:11-15**).

King Antiochus IV, a type of the Antichrist, polluted the altar and committed an abomination of desolation, whereby he erected an image of Zeus in the holy temple (**Daniel 9:27; 12:11**). Jesus said a similar thing would happen just prior to His return (**Matthew 24:15**). The holy temple will once again be defiled by the Antichrist in the latter days causing the Holy Spirit and the Levitical sacrifices to depart from it (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-8; Daniel 8:11-14, 11:31, 12:11**). And many of the Jews will cooperate with the Antichrist and forsake the holy covenant.

So he (Antichrist) shall return and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant. And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (Daniel 11:30-32)

Once God brings the Jews to a place of repentance, Christ will then deliver them from the Antichrist and Gentile nations. Gentile world power will be brought down. Then, He will establish His kingdom and it shall be given to the saints of the Most High, those that overcame and remained faithful to the Lord.

He (Antichrist) shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.

Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.

Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him. (Daniel 7:25-27)

A vision of God seated on His throne was revealed to Daniel, displaying the establishment of His kingdom in the seventh Millennium. Antichrist will be slain and cast into the lake of fire. Christ Jesus will possess the kingdom from God the Father and all peoples, nations and tongues shall serve Him. The people from Babylon, Media-Persia and Greece who survived will be ruled by the saints until the end of the Millennium. Following the Millennium, Satan will be released for a short time to deceive the nations again and make war with Israel (**Revelation 20:7**).

Daniel was given another vision concerning Antichrist and the time of the end. In **Daniel 8**, the vision of the ram is Media-Persia (modern day Iran) and the goat is Greece. Greece will overtake the Babylonian kingdom from Iran and then it will be divided amongst four kingdoms. From one of these kingdoms, within the Greco-Babylonian Empire, which then extended to Syria and even further east to Iran [See map on page 316], a king shall arise who is the Antichrist. When the sinful actions of the Jewish people have reached its peak with God, His wrath will be dispensed. Satan will give power to the Antichrist who will destroy many Jews. He shall exalt himself as God and will make war against Christ. But he shall not prevail. After this vision, Daniel became emotionally sick.

In 539 B.C., during the reign of Darius, Daniel prayed for the people of Israel and repented for their past sinfulness. Daniel quoted Jeremiah the

prophet concerning the seventy years of desolations for Jerusalem (a parallel to Daniel's seventy week prophecy), signifying the Jewish people's continued transgressions. He prayed that God would restore the temple for it was laid in ruins since its destruction in 586 B.C. While he was still praying to God, the angel Gabriel appeared to him to give him the vision of the seventy weeks prophecy, and to reveal that from the beginning of his prayer, God had given the command to rebuild the temple.

The Seventy-Weeks Prophecy (**Daniel 9:24-27**) concerns the timeframe from 444 B.C. until then end, when God will deal with the nation of Israel unto repentance. Israel had departed from the Lord and had fallen into disobedience, harlotry and unfaithfulness. God allotted seventy weeks (one "week" meaning "seven years") which is calculated seventy times seven years or 490 years. The time frame began with the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in 444 B.C. God dealt with Israel for 483 years after the command was given and then they were set aside following the crucifixion of their Messiah.

In early 63 A.D., the Word of the kingdom of heaven was no longer offered to Israel but to the Church, to those bearing fruit for the kingdom. The Lord set aside His dealings with the nation of Israel seven years prior to the prophecy, a time to be realized yet future -- the seven year Tribulation. At this time, God will bring an end to Gentile world power which will be centered in Babylon. Then, the kingdoms of this world (One world kingdom, centered in Babylon) will become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ (kingdom on earth and in heaven) **Revelation 11:15**, and Israel will finally experience perfect reconciliation with God.

After Israel had crucified their Messiah, the *people* of "the prince who is to come" (a reference to the Antichrist) will destroy the city and the temple. *The end of it shall be with a flood* (Hebrew definition of "flood" is "to overwhelm; outrageous" judgment). The end of the war desolations for Israel will be at Christ's second coming, following their repentance, when the seventy weeks (490 years) are fulfilled. At the beginning of the Tribulation, the Antichrist shall arise and confirm a covenant of peace with Israel for seven years; but within three and a half years he will break that covenant and will commit an abomination of desolation against God. Christ will return to finish the transgression and to bring in everlasting

righteousness --- to destroy the wicked and restore God's people who will reign with Him in the Millennial Kingdom.

In that Day of the Lord, man will rule both from the heavens and the earth. The Church will rule in the heavens with Christ from His throne (**John 14:1-4; 1 Peter 1:4-9; Revelation 2:7; 3:21**) and Israel will rule on earth with Christ reigning from David's throne in Jerusalem (**Ezekiel 37: 24-28; Joel 2:27-32; Luke 1:31-33**).

The dreams and visions of Daniel clearly and accurately not only predict the course of history down to the first century A.D., but is a testimony surrounding future events of the Tribulation. God's special revelation to Daniel of future events led to visions of God and Christ Himself seated on His throne in the kingdom. (**Daniel 7:9; 10:1**)

In **Daniel 10:13**, we see the ever-present battle occurring between God's angels and Satan's angels in the heavens.

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

An angel had approached Daniel to give him the prophecies concerning Persia and Greece, but said that he was detained in the heavens by the prince of the kingdom of Persia for 21 days. Twenty-one days is the exact time frame that Daniel was mourning to gain understanding from God. Michael, the chief prince, helped the angel and was able to come to Daniel to give him the prophecies. It is clear to see that the prince of Persia, who was in the heavens, was a demon or angel of Satan who was to supervise the affairs of the earthly king of Persia, inspiring its religious, social and political affairs to works of evil. The purpose of this satanic intervention was to prevent Daniel from hearing more of God's revelation.

The angel made mention to Daniel that he must tell him *what is noted in the Scripture of Truth* (**Daniel 10:21**) and then he must return to fight again with the prince of Persia and afterwards the prince of Greece. This clearly shows that Gentile kingdoms are ruled under Satan and his angels, as we see mentioned here of the demons over the provinces of Persia and Greece.

In **Daniel 10:14**, the angel made clear to Daniel that what he was about to disclose referred to the time of the end:

Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.

In the sixth century B.C., Daniel wrote,

Behold three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. (Daniel 11:2, 3)

Daniel chapter **11** begins with the Babylonian kingdom under the rule of Persia, the second beast. Then, the fall of Persia and the rise of Alexander's Empire are in view, which was over two hundred years in the future at the time of Daniel's vision. At this point, part of Daniel's prophecies has been fulfilled, except for the fourth Babylonian kingdom – the rise of the Antichrist, the fourth great beast.

A mighty king of Greece, Alexander the Great, conquered Persia, subduing three kings. Then, after Alexander's death, the Greco-Babylonian Empire was divided into four kingdoms, to include: Seleucid (Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran), Macedonia (and Greece), Ptolemaic (Egypt) and Thrace (Bulgaria and Turkey) [See map on page 316]. Among one of these nations will arise the little horn, who is the future Assyrian Antichrist (**Daniel 7:8; 8:8, 9**), and who will subdue three more kings. Then in **Daniel 11:5**, the angel speaks in detail of these three kings that will arise and fall (king of the south; king of the north; and raiser of taxes), subdued by the little horn, who is the vile king -- the Antichrist. The conquest of these three kings, along with the previous three other kings or horns mentioned in **Daniel 7:8** will place the Antichrist as the "seventh head," seen in **Revelation 12:3** and **13:1**.

Daniel 11 depicts Egypt (king of the south) and a nation from the Seleucid, Macedonia or Thrace kingdom (king of the north) going into

battle against each other with Palestine in the midst. First, Egypt will gain control of Palestine, and then a kingdom of the north will conquer them in battle. After this ruler is killed, another who imposes taxes will arise in his place, but only for a short time. Then, the Antichrist will come to power:

And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. (Daniel 11:21)

Daniel 11:21 describes the future Assyrian Antichrist who will become king after the untimely death of his predecessor. His identity will become evident when he arises on the scene, and will be according to Daniel's predictions:

1. The Antichrist will come to power after the untimely death of his predecessor. **(Daniel 11:20)**
2. He will not be an heir to the throne, *"to whom they will not give the honor of royalty"* but he will *"seize the kingdom by intrigue."* By flattery, he will appeal to the masses, and the people will give in peaceably. **(Daniel 11:21)**
3. He will be an immorally evil and repulsive man, having fierce features, and who understands sinister schemes. The number of his name will be "666." **(Daniel 8:23; Revelation 13:18)**
4. The hostilities of the Antichrist against the Jews will occur several times during conflicts with Egypt **(Daniel 11:28-30)**.
5. He will take military control of Jerusalem and the temple as recorded in **Daniel 11:31**,

"And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress..."

6. He will cause the daily sacrifices to be taken away from the holy temple **(Daniel 11:31)**.

7. He will commit an abomination of desolation (literally means “*the abomination that makes desolate*”) in the holy temple—he will desecrate the temple and set up an image to be worshiped by all (**Daniel 11:31**).
8. Many Jewish people will forsake and do wickedly against the holy covenant, in whom Antichrist will corrupt with flattery (**Daniel 11:32**).
9. He will kill many, many Jews (**Daniel 11:33**).

These are the actions that the ultimate “man of sin” will execute during the future Tribulation. Beginning in **Daniel 11:5**, all of these events are *future*, with the Antichrist arising on the scene in **Daniel 11:21**. He will appear as a man of peace who has the answers for the long going battle in the Middle East; between Israel and its surrounding enemies. This will allow him to make a covenant with many in Israel. In order to bring peace among the Jews and the Moslems, it may be possible that the Antichrist will allow the Temple to be rebuilt if Israel gives up some of their land. This will allow not only Antichrist and the Gentile nations to become very wealthy, but also Israel, who will become intertwined with them in terms of trade and commerce, and eventually become that “great harlot” or “mystery Babylon.” In his ploy to get control of the people of Israel and their territory, Antichrist will go to the heart of the matter --- Israel’s desire to regain their Temple. But shortly after the Temple is rebuilt, the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and things will begin to change rapidly. For three and one-half years, the Antichrist will continue in his deceitfulness until “*the middle of the week*,” when he breaks his covenant with the holy people.

He will have power over the kings of the world through his deceitfulness and riches causing them to acknowledge and worship him. He will have authority over their nations and cause them to divide their land for his gain (**Daniel 11:37-39**), including the Holy Land. He shall enter the Glorious Land, kill many Jews, and continue on to conquer Egypt. He will dwell in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**). He will be controlling, vicious and very arrogant; a self-made god (a son and prince of Satan), and he will speak against God the Father.

Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the wrath has been determined. (Daniel 11:36)

Like the previous Antichrists, this “man of sin” will also desecrate the temple and set up an image in the Most Holy Place. When that occurs, everyone in Judea must flee to the mountains. Half of the population will be killed, and unless those days are shortened, no flesh will be saved. But God will place a limit on the Tribulation. Christ will intervene and prevent complete genocide. Antichrist will assemble a great army and gather them outside of Jerusalem, near Mount Zion (the site of the Holy Temple) to make war against Christ and His army (**Daniel 11:45; Revelation 19:19**). Christ will defeat him and his army, and cast him into the lake of fire.

...yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.
(Daniel 11:45b).

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
(Revelation 19:19, 20)

The Book of Daniel concludes with the *Prophecy of the End Time* in **Daniel 12:1-3**. At the time of the end, Michael the great prince shall stand firm and watch over the people of Israel. It will be a time of great tribulation such as never before prior to the return of Christ. The people of Israel who are found written in the Book of life for the righteous (during this judgment the Book will deal strictly with millennial verities) will qualify to enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. The dead will be resurrected and judged, some to age lasting life (Millennial life) and some to shame and age lasting contempt (counted unworthy to enter Millennial life). Those who are wise and faithfully obedient to His Word will shine in glory as kings-priests in Christ's kingdom. And those who turn others to the way

of righteousness will rule and reign in higher positions from the throne of Christ.

"How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" **(Daniel 12:6b)**

The Great Tribulation will last three and a half years, the last half of the seven year Tribulation. When the people of Israel have been totally shattered and have cried out to God, then Christ will return and restore them. Then, the end of Man's Day will be.

But Daniel did not understand what the end actually meant. *Many shall be purified, made white and refined* --- these are the ones found worthy to reign with Christ. But the wicked people of God will continue in their wicked ways and not understand why they have been cast out. Only the wise will understand; those who abided in the wisdom and commandments of God.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But you, go your way, till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days. **(Daniel 12:11-13)**

The time period from when the Holy Spirit (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**) and the daily [Levitical] sacrifices (**Daniel 8:11d; 11:31**) are taken away and the abomination of desolation (image of the beast in the Temple) is set up, to the return of the Lord, will be 1,290 days or three and one half years. At the time of the end, Christ will return with a rod of iron (**Matthew 24:29-31**). Forty five days later, the faithful ones will enter into the Millennial kingdom of Christ. In **Daniel 12:13**, the Lord reassured Daniel of his future inheritance:

But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days. **(Daniel 12:13)**

Comparison Chart of Daniel's Visions

1st Dream	4 Beasts	Ram & Goat	70 Weeks	Persia & Greece	North & South	End Time
Daniel 2 4 powers shall arise in the Babylon kingdom	Daniel 7 4 powers or beasts shall arise from the sea	Daniel 8	Daniel 9:20	Daniel 10:10	Daniel 11:5	Daniel 12
1st power from Babylon --Head of Gold	1st power or beast is Babylon--like a lion					
2nd power is Media-Persia — Chest & Arm is silver	2nd power or beast is Media-Persia — like a bear	Ram w/2 horns is Media-Persia---conquered west, north & south		4th king of Persia was the richest and fought against Greece		
3rd power is Greece-Ruled over the earth--Belly & Thighs of Bronze	3rd power or beast is Greece-like a leopard w/4 heads: Seleucid, Egypt, Macedonia, and Thrace	Goat w/horn is Greece--conquered Media-Persia and divided into Seleucid, Egypt, Macedonia and Thrace		Greece defeated Persia then Greece divided into 4 parts: Seleucid, Egypt, Macedonia and Thrace	Two of the four divisions of Greece: king of the North and king of the South in constant battle, with Palestine in the midst.	
4th power --strong as Iron, will break in pieces and crush all others. This 4th kingdom shall be divided, yet will have power over all. Satan will give power to the Assyrian Antichrist.	4th power or beast is different from all the others. Most dreadful and strong with iron teeth--will break in pieces and trample all. Has 10 horns and a little horn arises from one of the 4 heads, and will subdue the other three.	Among one of these nations arises the "little horn" who is the Antichrist --Will invade Egypt, Iran, and Palestine. Will persecute the saints, take away daily sacrifice, and set up image for 3 1/2 years.	"The <i>prince who is to come</i> "--the Antichrist--shall confirm a covenant of peace with Israel for 1 week -7yrs. But after 3 1/2 years, he shall take away daily sacrifice and set up abomination of desolation (image) in the holy temple until the end.		A vile king will take the throne through treachery; conquer Egypt and the Glorious Land, defile the temple, kill many Jews, exalt himself as high as God. He will set up an image in the holy temple, and an army against God and Israel.	Michael, the archangel, shall stand watch over Israel during the great tribulation, a time of Jacob's trouble such as never before. Afterwards, many Jews shall rise to God's judgment and restoration.
God & His kingdom defeats all and stands forever	Kingdom of God will be given to the saints	God will destroy the horn and cleanse His temple	Vision of the Glorious Man-Christ the Savior		Antichrist will come to an end; Christ will defeat him.	Israel shall rise to Millennial life

In the previous comparison chart of Daniel's visions, it is interesting to note that under the vision of the four beasts, each kingdom is identified with an animal. If you compare the animals with the description of the beast from the sea in **Revelation 13:2**, you will notice that the beast who is the Antichrist has the exact form of all these animals in Daniel's visions:

"Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion."

The beast from the sea (Antichrist) will have power over these Gentile nations. In addition, the beast from the sea has 10 horns (**Revelation 13:1; 17:3**) just like the fourth beast from Daniel's vision. Forty-two months (3 1/2 years) is the duration of the beast's worldwide supremacy and persecution of the Jews in keeping with the prophecy of **Daniel 7:25; 12:7, 11**, a companion to this seen in **Revelation 13:5, 7**.

The first dream was a great image that was made of gold (Babylon or Iraq), silver (Media-Persia or Iran), bronze (Greece) and iron (Assyrian Antichrist) reflecting again Gentile world power headed by the Antichrist, the image of the beast.

Example 28) Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Malachi

The central theme of the prophets **Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah** and **Malachi** is the "*Day of the Lord*." What does this day signify? The word "day" in Scripture means "a time period." The Day of the Lord is a time period lasting 1000 years that will begin *in the heavens* and surrounds 1) Christ's return, 2) judgment and 3) redemption. When will the Day of the Lord begin?

Irenaeus was the disciple of Polycarp, the pupil of John and he wrote this: "In whatever number of days the world was created, in the same number of thousands of years it will come to its consummation. God on the sixth day finished His work and rested on the seventh. This is a history of the past -- and a prophecy of the future -- "*for the day of the Lord is as a thousand years.*"

The theme of eschatology covers the six days of creation, which represent six thousand years of work, followed by a one thousandth-year of rest. It is the basic doctrine of the Word of God, beginning with Moses who wrote **Genesis** and following through to the end of the Scriptures. It simply cannot be denied.

But many theologians view the "Day of the Lord" to mean judgment from the Lord throughout *past* history. But if we look in the Book of **Revelation** as well as all the prophets, we can see that the events clearly prophesy "the Day of the Lord" as strictly being the *future* millennial reign of Christ.

Behold, the day of the Lord is coming...And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the Lord shall be KING over all the earth. In that DAY it shall be---"The LORD is one," and His name one. (Zechariah 14:1, 8, 9)

Theologians view the Lord's Day as something entirely different from the Day of the Lord. They view the Lord's Day as the first day of the week, because this was the day that Jesus rose from the dead. But there is absolutely no difference in the meaning of the Lord's Day and the Day of the Lord. Strong's #2960 provides a definition which reference both the "Lord's Day" and the "Day of the Lord" to mean "*the day belonging to the Lord.*" They both are one and the same. And because the Book of **Revelation** deals with *future* events that have not yet occurred and the fact that "the Lord's Day" is first and *only* mentioned here in **Revelation** and nowhere else in the New Testament, it is clear to see that the reference to the Lord's Day and the Day of the Lord can mean only one thing---the *future* "Day of the Lord." The Lord's Day or the Day of the Lord will begin *in heaven* with the removal of the Church and it will begin *on earth* when Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation, bringing Man's Day to a close.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day... (Revelation 1:10)

In the Book of **Revelation**, John recorded events revealed to him not on earth but in heaven. He was removed from his own time and placed in the

future Day of the Lord or Lord's Day. John was "*in the Spirit*" meaning that he was no longer in the natural state of man but in the supernatural state, such as angels. The definition of *spirit* in Strong's #4151 is "breath" and also "superhuman, i.e., an angel or (divine) God." And while John was present in the Lord's Day, he wrote down the events he witnessed surrounding the end of this present age.

The writings of the prophets form a complete word-picture of the future Tribulation and the beginning of the Day of the Lord. One cannot help but feel emotion when visualizing the beginning of that Day when Christ returns with a rod of iron. It will be "a day of darkness and gloominess, of persecution and pestilence, the heavens tremble with God's wrath and the entire earth is shaken with the fall of *all* the nations!"

For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)

"I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land," says the Lord...I will cut off man from the face of the land...I will stretch out My hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem." (Zephaniah 1: 2-4)

The prophets have revealed that the future Tribulation, a time of unparalleled judgment, concerns God's dealings with the nation of Israel because of their disobedience, unbelief and refusal to repent. The nation's "sick" condition has continued and will continue after this fashion until the end of Man's Day. Israel's sick condition, as well as their cure must be of Divine origin. A Divine purpose lies behind the nation's present decreed condition (a blind condition that must remain), a purpose having to do with bringing a nation unto repentance, leaving the nation with no place to turn but to the God of their fathers.

During Zechariah's day (**Zechariah 1:14, 15**), the Lord set about to chasten His son, Israel, because of disobedience; but, in this case, the Gentile nations stepped in and "helped forward the affliction." God had chastened His son, Israel, in order to bring about correction. And the Gentiles, seeing Israel being chastened, stepped in and sought to intensify the nation's sufferings. This angered the Lord.

Previous to His chastening Israel, God had said that he was a “a little displeased” with Israel; but when the Gentiles stepped in, God said that He was “very sore displeased” with the Gentiles. During the Tribulation, the Gentile nations will interfere once again with God’s chastening of Israel. And God will once again be “very sore displeased,” with the Gentile nations, bringing about their fall. The same principle set forth in **Genesis 12:3** will apply: *“I will curse him who curses you.”*

Example 29) Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Haggai

The central message proclaimed from these prophets surround the Tribulation and Christ's second coming, but the messages were more focused on Israel's disobedience and restoration. God called Hosea to take for himself a harlot as a picture of Israel’s idolatry and unfaithfulness to God. Hosea warned the people of Israel that God would withdraw Himself from them for many years because of their disobedience, but prophesied that in the latter days, they shall return and seek the Lord with fear and trembling:

For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king (a reference to Christ). They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days. (Hosea 3:4, 5)

With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn Himself from them. They have dealt treacherously with the Lord, for they have begotten pagan children. (Hosea 5:6, 7)

“I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.” (Hosea 5:15)

In the latter days, after Israel has been utterly shattered and horribly mistreated, they will fall on their knees and call on the Lord. God reveals that the restoration of Israel will take place after two days, after two

thousand years from the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. On the third day, the beginning of the third one-thousand year period, He will return and restore them. This marks the end of the Great Tribulation and the beginning of Christ's millennial reign.

Come and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth. (Hosea 6:1-3)

In **Micah 3**, the prophet reveals the condition of Israel's rulers and how they will horrendously mistreat their people during the end times. Israel's religious leaders will do evil in the sight of the Lord. They will mingle with the Gentile nations in trade and commerce, becoming a partner with Babylon. They will turn away from the Lord and worship other gods in His temple. Therefore, God will completely devastate their city, Jerusalem. At the time of the end, when Israel repents, the Lord Jesus Christ will return, stand upon His holy mountain and will reign with the nation of Israel forever. **Micah 4 and 5** speaks of the Lord's reign and triumph on the third day.

In **Micah 5:2**, we have part of the prophecy fulfilled as Micah announces the two advents of the Lord. Whereas verse **two** speaks of the birth of the Messiah at His first coming, verse **three** through **five** speaks of His second coming after Israel has been shattered and the people are gathered to Him.

The prophet **Nahum** prophesies on the wrath of God against the enemies of His people. God destroyed Nineveh, the capital of Assyria at the time. Today, it is the third largest city in northern Iraq, a part of Mosul, Iraq. Mosul and the surrounding province of Nineveh are a battleground for unresolved conflicts by Kurdish and Sunni Arab leaders over land, and the city has been hit hard with explosives and debris. Nahum's prophecy makes clear that Nineveh will be destroyed again, never to be rebuilt.

Habakkuk's prophecies depict the Lord's Hand in Babylon's destruction of Israel. Babylon is seen as "terrible and dreadful" --- the exact description of the 4th beast in **Daniel 7:7** --- which "*marches through the breadth of the earth.*" Under the rule of the Antichrist, Babylon will not have any respect for authorities or powers other than their own. They will burst through any defense they encounter and commit an offense by dividing the land for gain (**Daniel 11:36-39** provides a similar picture of this occurrence).

They (Babylon) all come for violence; their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand. They scoff at kings, and princes are scorned by them.

They deride every stronghold, for they heap up earthen mounds and seize it. Then his (Antichrist) mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, ascribing this power to his god. (Habakkuk 1:9-11)

Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him, But the just shall live by his faith." (Habakkuk 2:2-4)

God commanded Habakkuk to write the vision, a prophetic revelation, so that messengers would go and proclaim the divine oracle. In **Habakkuk 2:3** God says, "*The vision is yet for an appointed time*" which refers to the time of the end (a similar answer is given in **Daniel 8:19**). Because of Israel's disobedience, impending judgment will come upon them from the Lord. And the time is near.

O Lord, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction. (Habakkuk 1:12)

Example 30) Jonah

The prophet Jonah is revealed as a type of Israel *and* the Lord Jesus Christ. In **Jonah 1:1**, God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh, a Gentile city, and preach against their wickedness for it had reached up to God in heaven. As a prophet, Jonah had been called to carry God's message to the Gentile nations, particularly to those within the city of Nineveh. However, Jonah did not heed God's call. Rather than going to Nineveh as the Lord commanded, Jonah fled to Great Britain, as far as he could from Nineveh.

In the type, Israel had been called by God to preach to the Gentiles (**Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 43:9-12**). However, Israel failed miserably at this. Rather, they continually fell away from the Lord in unbelief, disobeying God's will. But recorded in **Matthew 24:14**, we see that Israel's mission in the future to be ministers of the Lord and preach to all the Gentile nations of the world will finally be accomplished.

"Therefore you are My witnesses, says the Lord, that I am God...This people (Israel, My chosen) I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise." (Isaiah 43:12b, 21)

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:13)

Jonah's disobedience to God is a type of Israel's disobedience in refusing to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. Rather, they went in a completely different direction, in acts of self-righteousness. Therefore, God scattered them in the midst of the Gentile nations where they served other gods and had no rest. And while Israel is in the land today, out of God's will, there remains an unrest among the Gentile nations (nations through which Satan and his angels rule).

While Jonah was in a ship sailing to Great Britain, God sent a great storm over him which caused the other crew members to become afraid. The crew asked a series of questions to Jonah, seeking to discern the reason for the great storm. When Jonah told them that he had fled from the presence of the Lord, the crew became terrified and threw him overboard. After this, there was relief for the ship and its crew, and they were saved.

In the antitype, Israel had fled from the presence of the Lord when they disobeyed, rejected and crucified Him. Because of this, God scattered them amongst the Gentiles and cast them aside, offering salvation (the heavenly portion of the kingdom) to the Gentiles.

Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it! (Acts 28:28)

But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Romans 11:11)

Although Jonah was cast into the sea, his tribulation was not permanent. God still had a purpose to be fulfilled in Jonah, which was to preach His Word to the Gentiles. Therefore, God preserved Jonah by preparing a great fish to swallow him. While Jonah was in the belly of the fish (the place of death), he repented to God and cried out because of his affliction. God heard his cry and on the *third* day, God resurrected Jonah and commanded the fish to put him on dry land.

Likewise, God still has a purpose to be fulfilled in Israel, which is that they preach the Word of the kingdom to the Gentiles. God has preserved a remnant, just as He preserved Jonah. During the Great Tribulation, Israel's affliction will bring them to call upon the Lord. He will hear their cry and deliver them. On the *third* day, He will resurrect them and place them back into their land (**Jeremiah 30:10**).

The death and resurrection of Jonah on the third day typifies the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day as well as Israel. Since the setting aside of the nation at the beginning of this dispensation, Israel has remained in the place of death. However, on the third day, at the end of this dispensation, Israel will be raised to newness of life.

I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

After two days, He will revive us. On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. (Hosea 5:15-6:2)

After two thousand years, beginning the third one thousand-year period, Israel's resurrection will take place. The veil will be removed from her eyes and she will see. The Lord will give her a new heart and put a new spirit within her (**Ezekiel 36:26**); and He will put His laws in her mind and write them in her heart (**Hebrews 8:10**). He will cleanse her and restore her to her land where she will live in His sight, in His holy city, Jerusalem.

After Jonah was restored to his land, God commanded him again to preach the message to the city of Nineveh. This time Jonah entered the city and cried out,

"Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (Jonah 3:4a)

When they heard Jonah's cry, the Gentiles believed. Likewise, when Jesus ministered to all, preaching the kingdom of heaven, it was the Gentiles who believed. And, in the end times, when the 144,000 Jews preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the Gentiles, they will choose to either believe or be overthrown. With Jonah, the Gentiles repented and God kept them from destruction.

At the time when Jesus was preaching the kingdom of heaven to the nation of Israel, the scribes and Pharisees asked for a sign because they had evil intentions. During this time, Jesus mentioned Jonah:

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here." (Matthew 12:39-41)

In **Matthew 12:39-41**, Jesus prophesied His death and resurrection, revealing the sign of the third day. Jesus prophesied of His resurrection after two days (on the third day) just as Jonah was resurrected after two

days. This typifies the future resurrection of Israel and the Church on the third day. Following, *the men of Nineveh* (the Gentiles) will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it (as rulers with Christ) because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed "a greater than Jonah" is here, who is Jesus the Christ.

