

God's End-Time Church in Jerusalem

Those of us who have spent time in Jerusalem have seen the traditions of the Jews, traditions which, for example, cause them to postpone the true Holy Days of God, and influence many in the Church of God to do the same. Isaiah 29:13, *'Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.'*

Their religion is very apparent but their eyes are blinded to God's word and their minds are closed to its intent, so their hearts are far from God. Just a few have begun to recognize Christ as their Messiah! They place their trust in a wall to protect them and in the process have taken land from their neighbours – Hosea 5:10, *'The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.'*

They retreat into gated and guarded new towns, built inside the West Bank of the Palestinians, but God has warned them that their defences will be of no use in the day of His wrath. Hosea 8:14, *'For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.'*

That day is coming, just as soon as God will bring the West low, and with the world's policeman gone, Judah's neighbours will be emboldened to move against their hated enemy. Those gated communities in the West Bank and any Jews in East Jerusalem will be taken captive, many ending up hostage in Jordan or Turkey. Amos 1:6, *'Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom.'* Amos 1:11, *'Thus says the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever,'* For even Jordan will join in! Verse 13, *'Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border.'*

Fortunately for the Jews, moves are already afoot in Germany to make a treaty with Israel (Judah). This will likely come into effect even before America and the West fall, very close to the time that the angel of Revelation 14, brings the dreams and visions to the world. Daniel 11:23, *'And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.'*

After Israel (USA, Britain, etc.) is brought down, the Jews will immediately appeal to Germany to honour their treaty, and the one who will become the Beast will oblige, rushing a token force to the nation of Israel, supposedly to provide security, but with ulterior motives of his own. The marauding Arabs will advance no further!

By this time, some seven or eight months or so will have passed since the angel brought the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6-7, and the faithful of God's church will already be in Jerusalem as we saw in 'Come out of her My People' (See the timeline at the end of these articles).

With the sure and certain knowledge, after the angel has miraculously provided that worldwide witness of Christ's imminent return, that there will be only 3 ½ years until the return of Christ for His saints, ample funds from the sale of their assets in USA, Britain etc., will enable the publishing of the

church's watchman commission to Judah, Israel and the world, which was detailed in the previous article.

That message is the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God and the need of mankind to repent, for the Great Tribulation is then only 3 ½ years away. Joel 2:1,13, *'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. 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.'* *'A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.'* Isaiah 40:6, 9-11 (NIV).

God will enable His people to carry out a worldwide witness from Jerusalem. Isaiah 29:14, *'Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.'*

It will be a warning to Judah, yes, but also a message of hope to a nation in distress that has undergone great troubles ever since it's re-founding in 1948. Zechariah 1:12, *'Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?'*

Even now, God regards the city of Jerusalem with deep feeling – verse 14. *'So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.'* He will have us cry that she yet has a great future, which those who repent may share! - verse 17, *'Cry yet, saying, thus sayeth the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.'*

Zechariah 8:3-5, *'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. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.'*

The situation in Israel (Judah) at that time may be dire, but worldwide, chaos and war will reign. (The Seals of Revelation chapter 6). The one world power organized and stable enough to take advantage, will be Europe. It will quickly grow into the world's one super-power, under the leadership of the one man ruthless, inspired and powerful enough to unite its disparate nations. Daniel 2:42, *'And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.'*

In this he will have spiritual help - Revelation 13:2, *'And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.'* Revelation 16:13, *'And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.'*

From the start this dictator will work with a great church which down the centuries has also epitomized dominion and rulership - Revelation 17:4-6, *'And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.'*

But at this point, the Beast of Europe will be just arising, and in 'protecting' Israel he will then flex his military muscles by venturing into some of the surrounding nations, just as Antiochus Epiphanes did in the duality of this prophecy, long ago, coming into conflict with two emergent Islamic combines, one of them led by the King of the South.

One group is described in Psalm 83:4-7, *'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. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre.'* These are the nations which surround the nation of Israel in the Middle East. It may be that the remnants of Assyria, who remain in Iraq, may help them.

Secondly, we see a conflict begin with a powerful Islamic combine led by the King of the South, Daniel 11:25, *'And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall devise plans against him.'* This confrontation concludes with a conference between the two leaders, verse 27, *'And both these kings' hearts shall be to do evil, and they shall speak lies at the same table; but it shall not prosper: for the end shall yet be at the time appointed.'*

The result of the Beast's forays across the borders of Israel will be booty, which he then takes back to Europe - verse 28, *'Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.'* We see here the Beast's growing hatred of God's people and their witness.

Meantime, Judah, and the remnants of the fallen Israelitish 'Babylon' nations, will listen with some respect to the church's message. No one else had predicted the dreams and visions, the fall of 'Babylon', the league of Judah and the Beast, and his 'rescue' of Judah from total invasion. Hosea 1: 6-7, *'And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.'*

At this point, the *nation* of Israel will still be under the control of its own government, and the church will freely warn people about the Beast, and not to take his mark - Revelation 13:16-17, *'And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, except he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.'* Revelation 14:9-10, *'And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.'*

Around the world, Western Israelites, many of whom are taken in slavery from their own nations, will take courage from the church's broadcast good news that they will be rescued at the final return of Christ, and gradually some will begin to repent.

Some may wonder why the events described by Daniel the prophet should help us to understand end-time events. His visions certainly came about some hundreds of years later, after 200BC, in type, but God says those events are only a type of the latter days and the Anti-Christ's rise. Daniel 10:14, *'Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.'*

We can also know that the Beast will attack the leader of God's church, the 'Prince of the covenant', at some relatively early point – Daniel 11:22, even as the death of the Jewish High Priest was ordered by Antiochus, so it is clear from Daniel 11 that the Beast will gradually obtain more and more power in the land by his intrigues, as time goes by. Daniel 11:22, *'And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.'*

Antiochus attacked Egypt but was forced to withdraw by a delegation from Rome. Humiliated, the Beast will similarly vent his wrath upon those who refute his growing claims of divine inspiration, which are inspired and encouraged by the false prophet, leader of the great false church – Revelation 13:14, *'And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast.'* Daniel 11:30, *'For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.'*

From this latter verse it seems as though he will have agents or apostates planted in God's church, who feed him the information he will need to persecute and even begin to kill God's people as the 5th seal of Revelation chapter 6 arrives, verse 9, *'And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.'*

At that point, the end of the church's witness is then in sight. By this time the Anti-Christ will have almost taken over all power in the land with the help of Satan. Finally he will cut off all access to the media, preventing the church's broadcast, and begin to claim that he himself is the returned Christ – Daniel 11 verse 31, *'And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, [the work of God's Church] and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.'* The church will go underground at this point, verse 32, *'And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.'* This is likely to be 1290 days from Christ's final return, and 30 days before the resurrection. Daniel 12:11, *'And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.'*

Part of the reason for the Islamic King of the South's rising threat is the fact that the Beast has begun to claim that he himself is God, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, *'Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, [in Jerusalem]. shewing himself that he is God.'*

This event is mentioned by Christ as a signal for God's people in Jerusalem to flee to the mountains. Matthew 24:15-16, *'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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.'* The Anti-Christ's claim to be God, at Jerusalem, is one step too far

for the Islamic combine and the King of the South, and their forces will begin to assemble to attack. The Beast will return to Europe to organize his armies, and then, with them, return – *Daniel 11:40* *‘And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over,’* and 43, *But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.*

It is at this point that God’s people will warn the repentant Jews and all Christians (many Christians will have escaped to Jerusalem) to leave, before the armies surround the city – Luke 21: 20-21, *‘And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.’* There is indication that the church pauses at Tekoa some 12 miles South of Jerusalem to broadcast the last warning to flee before the surrounding armies as they approach from Haifa and move South around Jerusalem. Jeremiah 6:1, *‘O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.’*

The Beast’s armies will land at Haifa and move South to surround Jerusalem. God’s church will now have blown the trumpet in Judah for three years, but few will have repented. Verse 17, *‘Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.’*

Now come the days of the Lords vengeance - Luke 21:22, *‘For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.’* God’s church will lead the way into the mountains of Judea, West of the Dead Sea, closely pursued by the Beast’s armies, Revelation 12:15, *‘And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.’* But God is in control! Water here is a biblical symbol for armies.

God has promised to save those who place their trust in Him – Zechariah 9:16, *‘And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.’* He will scatter many of the pursuing troops, verse 14, *‘And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the LORD God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.’*

And also Psalm 18:14, *‘Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.’* King David experienced this vision of God’s intervention! Psalm 18:6,8,10,16,17, *‘In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.’* 8. *There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.* 10 *And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.* 16-17 *He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.’* At last the longed for resurrection of Christ’s Bride-to-be is about to occur!

The earth will open up to swallow the pursuing armies, Revelation 12:16, *‘And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of*

his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'

Now will take place a division, for the day of salvation has at last arrived – Psalm 18: 19-21, the time of the 1st resurrection! *'He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.'* Revelation 12:14, *'And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.'*

Not all who escaped from Jerusalem will take part in the first resurrection. Some will not yet be begotten by God's Holy Spirit. Some few will be parents of young children. God alone knows who will be part of the 144000 who will stand on the sea of glass before God's throne in Heaven, in Revelation 14 and 15. Nevertheless those who are not taken to God's throne in Heaven, had the faith to follow God's instructions, and He will not let them down when the division takes place, as we will see in the following article!

We have reached the half-way point in Daniel's 70th week, when the Beast has 42 months left, Revelation 13:5, *'And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months,'* 42 months to fulfil Revelation 12:17, *'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'* This is the arrival of the Great Tribulation!

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