

God's End-Time Work in Jerusalem

Today it is generally recognised by God's people that we are rapidly approaching what is commonly referred to as the End Time, which many understand to include the most dangerous period ever for mankind, called in the Bible 'the great tribulation,' when much of mankind will perish, Matthew 24:21, *'For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world . . .'*

Many who believe themselves to be Christians expect to be 'raptured' away to heaven before these troubles start. Others expect to be protected in a 'place of safety,' on earth, while just a few have heard of something called the 'sea of glass,' which they believe to be their destination during this time.

The Bible, however, provides the only full knowledge about this period, and has a clear warning for us today, Jeremiah 23:16-18, 20-22. *'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, "It shall be well with you"; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, "No disaster shall come upon you." "For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? . . . The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds."'* ESV. This message is for us. Don't ignore any part of God's word!

In that regard, a word here about the 'Babylon' Jeremiah refers to in his end time prophecies. It is readily apparent that he is not always referring to the Babylon of his day, because of God's instructions in Jeremiah 29:4-7, *'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.'*

Neither can he be referring to the spiritual Babylon of Revelation 17, because both it and Europe fall at the end of the 7 years of tribulation, but Jeremiah's Babylon, if it does in part also picture the Babylon of Revelation 18, falls almost at the start of those years, Revelation 14:8, *'Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."'* Notice this is before the Beast arises and before the Great Tribulation starts—same chapter.

In Daniel chapter 8:13-14, we read of a period of 2300 days during which, for some six years and three months or so, the sanctuary and the host, God's Church and people, will be trodden underfoot. *'Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacri-*

fice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.' Although this closely defines the career of Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163 BC) who oppressed Jerusalem, it also parallels what the Bible elsewhere describes as the career of the Antichrist or Beast, who will appear during the last 7 years prior to the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. He too will oppress God's church and God's people in Jerusalem, for cf. 8:17, just a few verses down, *' . . . Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.'*

Indeed, Daniel was the recipient of several visions regarding the Great Tribulation (12:1), the final return of Christ for His Kingdom (7:9-10) the establishment and destruction of the Beast's Europe (2:33-35) and the Messianic Kingdom (2:44-45). Like much prophecy in the bible, they are dual in character, as we saw.

That same final seven years is also referred to in Daniel 9:27 as *the last week* of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy, after an extended hiatus covering the period of Judah's diaspora, "even until the consummation." *'And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation . . .'* This is Daniel's famous 70th week of 7 prophetic days (years) during which the Jews will experience their conflict with their last and greatest foe, the Antichrist, while amongst them, some of God's faithful servants will also perish at his hands, Daniel 11:33-35, *'And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder . . . so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.'*

As we have seen, it is halfway through this last 7 years that the work of God's faithful servants in Jerusalem will be brought to a close by the Beast.

So—we have seen mentioned a 2300 day period just prior to the establishment of Christ's Kingdom, during which the 'daily sacrifice,' the work of God's people in Jerusalem, is carried out, but cut short by the "transgression of desolation," the Beast's intervention, almost halfway through the last 7 years (Daniel 8:13).

The 2300 days is actually 220 days short of 7 years. What occurs during those 220 days? Revelation 6 provides a chronology of the first half of those 7 years, made up of 6 Seals. (The 7th and last Seal covers the last 3½ years and is called the Great Tribulation.)

Both Revelation 6:12 and Matthew 24:29 speak of the same heavenly signs which we read of in Joel 2:28-31, where they precede the 'terrible day of the Lord'—the Great Tribulation. Rev 6:12, *'And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.'* Matthew 24:29, *'Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.'* Joel 2:28-31, *'And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spir-*

it. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.' calling to the mountains and rocks, *'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.'*

These heavenly signs are immediately followed by the return of Christ for His Saints, as we see in Matthew 24:30-31, and Revelation 6:16. *" . . . 'The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;*



the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' *'Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other,'* Rev 6:16 . . . *calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."*

The earlier dreams and visions referred to here by Joel at the very start of the seven years were the method by which the first angel of Revelation 14 delivered his miraculous message to the whole world in Rev 14:6-7, *'And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.'* These dreams and visions are the *real fulfillment* of Matthew 24:14, *'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end[time] come.'*

This miraculous event astounds the whole world and presents the knowledge to all that Christ is soon to return. It is time to repent. This is the very starting point of the last 7 years, graphically portraying in vivid dreams and visions the tribulation ahead for those who fail to act, and it is followed by 5 more angels in Revelation 14, chronicling the whole 7 years of tribulation: 3½ years of *'the tribulation of those days'* (Matthew 24:29), and 3½ years of the Great Tribulation.

Mathematics and Revelation 14 tell us the 220 days begin with the message of this first angel and continue until the events of the very next verse, Rev 14:8, *'And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'* The fall of the physical

nation God here calls Babylon brings about the second seal of Rev 6:4, when world war breaks out as a direct result of the fall of this great, influential and rich trading nation, Rev. 18:2-3, *'And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen . . . For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.'*

The miraculous delivery of those dreams and visions at the very start of the last 7 years is an unmistakable sign to God's faithful servants in the lands of Israel to follow His instructions in Revelation 18:4, *'And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.'* They have then just 220 days to leave 'Babylon' (see our article 'Babylon') and go to where God tells them to carry out His instructions, before world war breaks out and prevents any more international travel for civilians. This 220 days is a period of peace during the 1st seal when false prophets

will assure their followers that God will protect them, but they lie. 1 Thessalonians 5:3, *'For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.'*

Read also Ezekiel 13, which is addressed to the Israelite Western nations, but especially verses 10-11, *'Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar: Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall . . .'* This wall pictures the false scenario of the end times and the resurrection, which is still accepted by the vast majority of God's people, who have been deceived by these idolatrous ministers.

After God's miraculous signal delivered by the angel that flies, it will be an extremely busy time for God's faithful saints. Let us understand that not all of them will be able to follow these instructions. The elderly and infirm may not be capable, and recognise that they must remain at home and play their part in any way they can, knowing that, when the resurrection takes place some three years later, God will remember that their 'spirit was willing, but their flesh was weak!' The willing and able, though, will sell all they have to fund their journey and fulfil God's instructions. Let's examine those instructions, which are quite new to most of God's people who have been blind to them, deceived into believing that the resurrection occurs only at the 7th trumpet of Revelation 11, right at the end of the 7 years. (See our article 'Two Vital Verses Confused'.)

Remember, it is **God's word** that tells us where to go and what to do.

Let us start with Jeremiah 50. Even in the King James margin here, there are links to Jeremiah 3:17-18, obvious references to the millennium, *'At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come*

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together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers' (See also v4, & 19). Jeremiah writes about literal Babylon in his day, and foresaw the future captivities of Judah and Israel, right through to Mystical Babylon in ours, the time of 'Jacob's trouble,' and Christ's final return in glory for His Kingdom.

Jeremiah 50 tells God's faithful that they have a duty to warn their fellow citizens that they are about to be punished because they have acted as the 'daughter of Babylon,' verses 41-42, 'Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.' Russia is already taking steps to militarise its northern shores, just over the North Pole from the American continent.

God's people have been led astray by false ministers, verse 6, 'My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray . . . They have been led into idolatry, Jeremiah 5:30-31, A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way.' Thus only a remnant of them will remain alive and return to Jerusalem to seek the Lord their God, Jeremiah 23:3, 'And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them again to their folds: and they shall be fruitful and increase.'

But before that gathering, God's faithful amongst them, who love His word, will follow God's instructions, 50:8, 'Flee out of Babylon; leave the land of the Babylonians, and be like the goats that lead the flock,' ESV, and 28, 'The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the Lord our God, the vengeance of his temple.' They must not leave it too late for 'in that day' Israel's armies will be cut off, verse 30, 'Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the Lord.' 'In that day' is Bible code for the 'last days' or 'end time.' Israel's cities will be burned, verse 32, 'And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.' Never before in history have both Judah and Israel been oppressed together, verse 33, 'Thus saith the Lord of hosts; the children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go.'

The next chapter, Jeremiah 51, continues this theme, verse 6, 'Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompense.' The clear link to the future in Rev 18:4 is obvious, 'Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.' As is verse 8, to Revelation 18:8. V8, 'Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed,' and Rev. 18:8, 'Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, in death, and mourning, and famine . . . We must consider exactly how much of Jeremiah's prophecy is

dual in the light of this great similarity.'

Those who escaped just before this fall (Jeremiah 51:45) should let Jerusalem come into their minds, verse 50, 'Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the Lord afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.' They have something to declare in Zion, verse 10, 'The Lord hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.'

So much of these chapters is plainly about the end time, 'in that day,' e.g. 50:19, 'And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead,' and Jeremiah 30:24, 'The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.'

God's faithful servants will fulfil the role of a watchman to the world from Israel (Judah), warning of the need to repent and worship the true God, Jeremiah 31:6-7, 'For there will be a day when watchmen on the hills [Lesser nations] of Ephraim call out, 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, To the Lord our God.' " For thus says the Lord, "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise and say, 'O Lord, save Your people, The remnant of Israel.' . . . Is this future? Certainly! The next verse shows this: 'Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.'

Earlier, as we saw, after God's work has begun in Jerusalem and Babylon falls, world war immediately breaks out and parts of Israel (Judah) are invaded. This brings about the arrival of the European token force to 'protect' Israel, led by the one who will become the Beast. Daniel 11:23, "After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people.'

Our God-given task is also made clear in Ezekiel chapter 36, which is very clearly end time. Please read it all. God's work then continues in Jerusalem, from where His message of God's coming Kingdom is broadcast, Isaiah 62:6, 'I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.' A message of salvation reaches out to God's captive people, verse 11, 'Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." " That will be a sorely needed encouragement to those amongst God's people who did not follow God's instructions to carry out this work from Jerusalem, for they have no alternative but to endure the oppression of invasion in their homelands, Isaiah 10: 5-6, 'Woe to Assyria [among others], the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hands is My indignation, I send it against a godless nation and commission it against the people of My fury To capture booty and to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets.'

The good news of God's Kingdom will go forth from Jerusalem, Isaiah 40:1,3, "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God . . . A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the

desert a highway for our God.' We are told what to proclaim, verse 9-11, 'You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news 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 . . . He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers his lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart . . .' (NIV).

All of this will take time, effort and money—impossible without the recognition of these scriptures as our responsibility, and the courage needed to actually bring these things to pass, for though we know not the exact time, it takes forethought and planning to prepare ourselves for such action, and co-operation when that first angel flies.

As the first 3½ years pass, we read in Daniel 11 of the Beast's increasing power and influence in Judah and the Middle East. Our work will be a growing annoyance and threat to him, especially as we begin to warn of the Great Tribulation to come, Joel 2:1, 'Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near,' and the need for the Jews to repent, verse 13, 'And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God.'

We will warn of the dangers to those who begin to follow and worship the Beast, who is closely allied with the leader of the great false church of Revelation 17:4-5, which is spiritual Babylon. This will really antagonise the Beast, who increasingly relies upon the power given to him by Satan, Revelation 13:4-5, . . . 'They worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him . . .'

As we are advised in 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'), Daniel's visions reveal what will befall his people at the end time. The continuum from Daniel 11:21 till the end of the chapter is prophetically dual, as Christ tells us in Matthew 24:15. Compare, 'So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)' to Daniel 11:31, 'And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.'

The deeds of Antiochus Epiphanes (175-136 BC) provide a kind of pattern for those of the wicked 'prince that shall come,' i.e. The Beast, Daniel 9:26-27, 'And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease . . .' Despite setbacks, (Daniel 11:30) he will grow in power until he is able to control events in Jerusalem.

Thus, towards the close of the first 3½ years, he begins to persecute God's faithful in Jerusalem. This is the beginning of the 5th seal of Revelation 6, the martyrdom of the Saints.

Daniel 11:33,35, 'And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days . . . to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end.'

Effectively, this persecution forces the Church to end God's work in Jerusalem, called the 'daily sacrifice,' in the first part of Daniel 11:31. We are told that this is 1290 days from Christ's final return from heaven with His Bride, the Saints, in 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.'

One month later, at the 3½ year point, the Beast decides that he is powerful enough to take complete control in Israel and defeat his enemies. After returning to Europe he marshals his armies and returns with them to Israel (Judah), Daniel 11:40-41, '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. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.'

It is time for God's people in Jerusalem to flee, before they are encircled by the Beast's armies, Luke 21:21, 'Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it.' Their God given task has been carried out, but their journey is not finished yet, Revelation 12:15-16, '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. 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.' To continue, read our article, 'From Jerusalem to the Sea of Glass.'

Whether or not you agree with this message in every point, many of God's instructions are indisputably clear, from God's word. God will ensure that an end time work is proclaimed from Jerusalem by His faithful watchmen. It will be during the time that 'the children of Israel and Judah are oppressed together,' having suffered war and captivity.

In Israel, this will bring persecution from the Beast upon God's messengers until he is powerful enough to cause that witness from Jerusalem to cease. Soon after that, God's people in Jerusalem will be found fleeing from there with the Beast's armies in pursuit, though God destroys those armies.

Obviously, a good deal of planning and preparation is needed for this Jerusalem work, but there is no evidence that the Churches of God even recognise these instructions, because they don't fit into their false concept of the rapidly approaching end time.

It is time, then, that God's ministers bow before God's word and repent of their mistake of looking instead to a man and his words, no matter who he was or what he achieved, for no man is without error, and failure to recognise God's clear instructions is no light error. If that repentance is not forthcoming, fulfilling Jeremiah 23:17, God will raise up those faithful servants who do look to His word and will enable them to fulfil His commands.

'Because you have kept the word of my patience (patiently), I will also keep you from the hour of trial, which shall come upon all the world' (Revelation 3:10).