

2. AN ENTHRALLING PROPHECY

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And so all Israel will be saved as it is written ... (Romans 11: 26).

The kingdom of God is not some vague or abstract myth like **Camelot**. Just because it's called "the Kingdom of heaven" doesn't mean it's going to be located somewhere "up there in the ether".

It's called "the kingdom of heaven", because it has its **origin** in the God of heaven. It's called "the kingdom of heaven" because it will bear the **character** of the God of heaven. It's called "the kingdom of heaven" because it's **safely kept** there in God's heart and purposes far away from all thieves and earthly corruption and no earthly power can stop its coming (**Col. 1: 5**)!

But "the kingdom of heaven" will be located upon this renewed earth when the Lord Jesus comes in the glory of His Father and with His angels. It's centre of operations (the Bible calls it a **throne**) will be situated in Jerusalem. It will be a material city inhabited by embodied people --- the redeemed --- walking on a ground of real dirt. (¹)

The reason why the promise that **all Israel will be saved** is so enthralling is because the world's future prosperity hangs upon the destiny of Israel. God will never forget His promise of progeny, property and protection to Abraham for, **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Gen. 13: 3)**. (²)

Therefore, the Land of Israel is hotly disputed real estate. The Devil is well aware of our Father's dream for the new world. He knows that a resurrected Abraham will be **the heir of the world** --- along with all his saved progeny (**Rom. 4: 13**). For good reason then, Israel has been called God's prophetic timepiece!

Since 1948 when the **Diaspora**, or Dispersion of the Jew officially ended, Jews have continued to return from all round the world to their traditional Homeland (it's called **Aliyah**) as the prophets said.

Jerusalem will become the new world's geo-political epicentre. The Bible calls Jerusalem **the centre of the world** --- the Hebrew is literally, **the navel of the world** --- an endearing term of affection in the Ancient Near East (**Ez. 38: 12 NASB**)! Israel is still **the apple of his**

¹ The prediction that the streets will be paved with gold is probably an allusion to the fact that all roads will conduct the royal business of the King of kings (**Rev. 21: 21**).

² Many passages connect the world's redemption with the regathering of the nation of Israel in these last days. For starters, try **Isaiah 11: 6-12**. It speaks of an age in which the nations of the world will come to the knowledge of God after the regathering of Israel from her international exile. Of course, the critical element in our earth's new genesis is Messiah's kingship with his saints --- i.e. Jewish & Gentile Christians who have been "justified" through allegiance to the God of Israel.

eye and those who say God has finished with the Jew and that He has replaced Israel with the Church speak in ignorance. It is saved Gentiles who are grafted into the main root.

GOAT AND SHEEP NATIONS

Have you ever wondered what will precipitate **the Day** when all the nations will be **gathered** to stand before **the Son of Man in his glory and all the holy angels with him?** Jesus said he is going to **separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats (Matt. 25: 31-46)**. But when?

We know the criterion which will determine the destiny of all peoples. It will be how they have treated the Jewish people --- and by extension all God's people in Christ --- who have been, by and large, treated as **the least of these who are members of my family (Matt. 25: 40 NRSV)**.

Those peoples who have welcomed the Jews in their exile and rejection will be accounted worthy to enter the kingdom. Those peoples who have persecuted and ill-treated the Jew will be excluded from entering the Messianic Kingdom. Reaction to Jews, whether it has been positive or negative, will be the litmus test when Christ comes again to set up the kingdom of God.

But I ask again. What event(s) will lead up to this momentous separation of the nations? Well, the prophets indicate that just before His **Parousia** the nations of the world will by and large be obsessed with an anti-Israel spirit which culminates in the battle of **Armageddon**.

The Bible predicts that immediately before the Lord Jesus returns to set his feet upon the earth that there will come a final, sharp, short blast upon Israel. It's called **"Jacob's Trouble"**. Most Christians call it **"The Great Tribulation"**.

So, the historic fulfillment of this sheep and goat event will, I believe, come immediately after the armies of the nations have tried in one almighty effort to wipe Israel off the map. In our first article we showed how the stage for this final drama is already being set.

THE CUP ...

The prophet Zechariah foretells that God is **going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling (Zech. 12: 2 NIV)**. The Hebrew word "cup" [*Saph*] would be better understood as a bowl-like dish. This is not like one of our tea or coffee cups which allows for a single sipper only!

The metaphor conveys the idea that all the nations which surround Israel are going to come to drink and toast together over how their confederation will annihilate the Jew from the Holy Land. It's a picture of many peoples celebrating the prospect of Israel's destruction, but reeling back to stagger around like intoxicated drunks.

Zechariah then changes his metaphor.

AND THE ROCK.

On that Day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves ... (vs. 3).

In the ancient world, they did not use iron weights for training. They lifted, or to use the modern terminology, they “pumped rocks”! And this is a picture of the nations trying to heave Jerusalem away into the sea, but the rock is so heavy that they will rupture themselves, thus causing serious injury to themselves. Anybody who has ruptured a disc in their spine or herniated their abdomen or seriously pulled a muscle off a bone when lifting a heavy object gets this graphic metaphor.

GOD SAYS, “THE DAY COMES WHEN I WILL GATHER ALL NATIONS AGAINST JERUSALEM”.

In our last article we also saw how the Arab nations dedicated to Islam currently surround Israel and make their bold threats of annihilation against that beleaguered State. We saw that **Psalm 83** predicts a final confederacy of **all** these historic enemies of Israel still waiting fulfilment. Those peoples who are contingent to Israel’s borders will attempt a hostile invasion with overwhelming military force **in that Day**.

Although on the surface the Moslem nations currently appear divided along the lines of the Shias and the Sunnis, make no mistake about it, that when push comes to shove the underlying spirit that will bring them all together, is their greater hatred and jealousy of the Jewish nation. It seems it’s perfectly okay for Moslem to fight Moslem, but as soon as anybody else gets in the middle, Moslem combatant becomes Moslem brother!

We must keep in mind other Biblical predictions that it will not only be the surrounding Arab peoples from every direction who are hell-bent on Israel’s eradication. Other nations further afield also want to come to the party! Other nations want to drink from the intoxicating “cup”. Other nations want to help heave the stone into the sea. Zechariah predicts that **all these nations of the earth** will agree **to gather against** Jerusalem (**Zech. 12: 3; 14: 2**). (³)

FROM THE NORTH ... Many Bible students concur that there will be an overwhelming invasion from the north in a confederacy of peoples led by **Gog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal** --- i.e., Moscow and Russia. **Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39** is the classic passage predicting this northern invasion. It will be like **a storm cloud covering the Land to spoil and plunder (Ez. 38: 12)**.

Whereas Zechariah says God is going to **gather** the nations against Jerusalem, Ezekiel uses the striking metaphor of how God will **put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your**

³ As the phrase **all Israel** does not mean every single Jew will be saved, just so the phrase **all the nations** does not mean every single nation in the world. It likely means a large, representative gathering of the world’s nations. It’s the same idea as when **Mark 1: 33** says **all the city was gathered together at the door** and that, **all men seek for you (Mk. 1:37)**.

whole army (Ez. 38: 4). Rather a graphic image, don't you think? God is dragging the nations from the north of Israel to an inevitable showdown of judgment.

FROM THE EAST ... The Bible also predicts a massive invasion from the East, coming from across the Euphrates River (Rev. 16: 12f). Many Bible students see this army numbering 200 million originating from the Orient, specifically China (Rev. 9: 16).

AND FROM THE WEST ... A European or Western confederacy under the ultimate leadership of the Man of Sin (whom we know more popularly as the Antichrist) will also emerge to converge on tiny Israel **on that Day**. They will **lay siege** against her (Zech. 12: 2). He is the one who makes desolate, "the Beast", "the abominable one" who blasphemes the Living God and who persecutes Christians and Jews alike. (⁴)

All these nations are going to coalesce to the north of Jerusalem in the **Valley of Megiddo** --- **Armageddon**. This will be God's way of bringing His judgment upon the nations for their ill treatment of His Land and people, **the battle of the Great Day of God Almighty** (Rev. 16: 14).

It will be the moment when the nations drink from **the cup of the wine of the fierceness of God's wrath** (Rev. 16: 19).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

You ask, "But how will it be that **all these nations of the earth** will agree **to gather against** Jerusalem (Zech. 12: 3)?" Why such an overwhelming orchestrated force? You don't need a steamroller to crush a peanut! The Bible answer for such overkill is that all these nations will have the one Commander-in-Chief --- the super arch-enemy of God --- the Devil who is roaring mad having been cast down to the earth (Rev. 12:9).

When we read the book of **The Revelation** we see the pit opened, the chains of darkness released, and hordes of demonic powers unleashed upon the earth. (⁵) So, behind the material battle, behind the human jealousies and machinations of the nations, lies the spiritual dimension;

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the Dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him (Rev. 12: 7-9).

The answer then, as to why and how the nations of the world, from north, south, east and west, are hellbent on Israel's obliteration is found in global demonism. We are forewarned **the mystery of lawlessness is already at work** and it works with **the activity of Satan, with all**

⁴ We read about this Man of Sin who comes on "**the wing of abominations**" in Daniel chapters 9: 26f; 11: 36f; 2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13. Jesus himself calls "**the abomination which defiles**" spoken of by Daniel the prophet as a man who **stands where he should not**" (Mk 13: 14 --- "**standing**" is a perfect active singular masculine participle).

⁵ For example, Rev. 9 mentions scorpion-like demons ascending up from the bottomless pit, and Rev. 16: 12f speaks of frog-like unclean spirits being dispatched to wreak havoc upon the world by influencing a great eastern army.

power and signs and wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish ... (2 Thess. 2: 7,9). The battle is more than just human flesh and blood (Eph. 6: 12).

THE TWO STATE SOLUTION

Now, back to the human aspect. It would take too long to list all of the anti-Israel organisations masquerading behind popular movements, but think of **Black Lives Matter** who are known to promote anti-Zionism through connections with **Antifa** and **The Black Panthers** to name but two.

However, it's not only these subgroups which threaten Israel. Think about the governments of the world and the **United Nations** who unanimously support a **Two State Solution**. **The Vatican** also officially supports this policy for division (not to mention how Rome cooperated with Hitler against the Jews with its pro-Arab support).

It seems that there is only one nation in the entire world that is against dividing up The Land --- Israel herself! Every other nation on earth proposes **dividing** Israel up.

This offends the God of Israel who pronounces judgment upon those who would do this;

For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather the nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of my people, my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land... (Joel 3: 1-3).

So, one of the reasons God gives for judging the nations is their insistence upon dividing up My land --- **Two State Solution!** --- which God says is the **heritage of My people [Israel]**. Bad as this is, God says that even *speaking against* His land is a blasphemy! He says;

I have heard all your blasphemies which you have spoken against the mountains of Israel saying, "They are desolate; they are given to us to consume." Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me; I have heard ... (Ez. 12:13).

I believe that in the Palestinian schools this very day Israel is not even shown on their maps. Arabic maps only show "Palestine". Israel is a non-existent entity **to consume**. God calls this "blasphemy" -- a slander and irreverence against His holy Name.

As **Gerald Rowlands** aptly comments, **Nations that call this area [land] where the Jews live the "occupied territories," are blaspheming, bringing themselves into the Valley of Jehoshaphat (see Joel 3: 1-2), the place of God's righteous judgment. (6)** Even to speak against the Land of Israel is to **boast against Me**. The LORD God takes any talk against the Land and her people personally! He calls Israel **"My people, My heritage"**.

So, what is going to happen when this vulnerable nation of Israel is invaded by the nations of the world from north, south, east and west, in the coming Day of the LORD? Zechariah

⁶ Gerald Rowlands, *The Messiah Comes to Israel: Will a Major Prophecy Soon Be Fulfilled in Israel?* Destiny Image Europe, Italy, 2010, p136

gives us the history of these developments before it happens. And the good news is that God is telling us that through these international machinations He is going to bring national salvation to Israel.

Oh sure, all the actors in these developments believe they are in control. But notice it is really the LORD God (the One **Who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and Who forms the spirit of man within him**) Who is working His eternal purposes out through human history (**Zech. 12: 1**).

Notice all through **Zechariah 12: 2-10** how the LORD stresses that He is the Orchestrator. **"I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling ... [he says this again in v. 3]... I will strike every horse with panic [the horse represents military power] ... I will open My eyes ... I will make the leaders of Judah ... the LORD shall save ... the LORD shall defend ... I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem ... I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication."**

God is in control of these international events. He is the One aiming to bring **all Israel** to her promised destiny. God is Sovereign! Our God reigns! Of course this does not mean that individuals and nations will not be active players in the events. But history is His story! For the one who lives by faith in God's revelation these things are *inevitable*.

The predictions of science that tell us our world will disappear in a whimper of black extinction when the sun burns out are way wide of the mark. The doomsayers who predict that our world could be wiped out by a massive cosmic collision which would smash our planet to smithereens are wrong.

ISRAEL WILL BE 'BORN AGAIN' IN A DAY!

God likens His plans to bring Israel to her glorious destiny, as being like a midwife who assists in the delivery of a baby;

"Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God. "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her" (Isaiah 66: 9-10).

The astonishing speed of Israel's new birth into national salvation at the end of this Age is noted; **"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day: Or shall a nation be born at once" (Is. 66: 8)?**

The miracle of Israel's spiritual transformation is likened to the miracle of a new birth. And the speed of this restoration will cause all to wonder. People will be lost for words, for the long millennia that have been Israel's gestation period will suddenly culminate in a single day. **On that day** Israel's heart will be renewed in a moment of time.

But like all births, the nearer the moment of delivery approaches, the mother's birth contractions become more frequent and more intensely painful. The birth of the

regenerated Israel will be no exception. Nations and nature are going to heave in violent contractions the nearer Israel's day of salvation draws (see [Matt. 24:-8](#); [1 Thess. 5: 3](#)).

Israel is not going to arrive at her glorious rescue and national repentance except through the fires of the refining furnace of judgment;

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your [i.e. Israel's] spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem. The city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women raped. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations ... (Zech. 14: 2-3)

Evidently, just when it is certain Israel is going to be wiped off the map and driven into the sea, the remaining Jews will let out a collective, last gasp plea to their God for salvation.

This will be the moment, when the LORD God will supernaturally fight for Israel and miraculously intervene in this world's history.

This will be the moment, I believe, when Jesus' own prophecy will come to pass; "You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the LORD' (Matt. 23: 39)?"

This will be the moment, when Jesus "touches down"!

Stay tuned for the grand finale of this [Enthralling Prophecy](#).