

# GOD against the gods

o n o u r n e a r h o r i z o n



## ONE GOD REIGNS SUPREME

“The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloud burst, thunderstorm and hail. For Assyria will be shattered at the voice of the LORD; He will strike them with His scepter” (Isaiah 30:30-31).

The battle of Almighty God against the rebellious gods given rulership over the nations is evident in the remains peeking out of the wind-swept, sandy mounds across vast lands on earth.

21<sup>st</sup> century scholars refuse to acknowledge the reality of heavenly rulers over nations on earth. And yet, ancient civilizations knew and feared disobeying the god ruling over them.

Written on the cylinder of Nabopolassar, the king recorded, “When I was young, although I was the son of nobody, I constantly sought the sanctuaries of my lords the gods Nabu and Marduk. My mind was preoccupied with the establishment of their prescriptions and the complete performance of their rituals. My attention was directed at justice and equity. The god Marduk, the lord who fathoms the hearts of the gods of heaven and the netherworld, who constantly observes the conducts of mankind, perceived my inner thoughts and elevated me, ... the servant who was anonymous among the people, to a high status in the country in which I was

born. He called me to the lordship over the country and the people. He caused a benevolent protective spirit to walk at my side. He let me succeed in everything I undertook”

To future kings, King Nabopolassar said, “Any king, at any time, whether a son or a grandson who will succeed me, and whose name Marduk will call to exert rulership of the country do not be concerned with feats of might and power. Seek the sanctuaries of Nabu and Marduk and let them slay your enemies. The lord Marduk examines utterances and scrutinizes the heart. He who is loyal to Marduk, his foundations will endure. He who is loyal to the son of Marduk (i.e. Nabu) will last for eternity.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbFSuO7KHLy>



**Clay cylinder of Nabopolassar  
(c. 626–605 BCE; Trustees of the British Museum, London)**

Nabopolassar acknowledged his insignificant beginnings. He addressed Nabu and Marduk as lords, those who hold a priestly role and thought deeply on establishing their prescriptions, that is, instructions that bring healing and health, likely spiritual healing and health. It was shortly after that time of Babel, when mankind was returning to the old ways that brought the great flood. He admitted to putting his trust in Nabu and Marduk to slay his enemies as he believed in their good judgement and knew they could scrutinize his carnal thoughts and know his wayward heart. He was not set of seeking might and power, rather justice and equity recognizing the benefit of a “benevolent protective spirit walking at his side.”

King Nabopolassar’s son, Nebuchadnezzar, too, respected the gods ruling over Babylon. The arrival of the Jewish exiles introduced him to the Supreme God—God over all gods. This has been the challenge of Almighty God since Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden. The Supreme God is all powerful and His radiance is pure light preventing mankind from seeing Him and living. King Nebuchadnezzar experienced Almighty God’s power to humble the mighty. After his seven-year sentence to live as a wild animal drenched in dew and his gods that he worshipped were powerless to thwart the sentence, King Nebuchadnezzar declared across the

whole of his kingdom, “The dominion of the Most High is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the people of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?” (Daniel 4:34b-35)



King Nebuchadnezzar is represented as the head of gold in the great statue that symbolizes earth’s kingdoms used by God to illustrate the rapid progression of earth’s rulers into corruption and evil. The reign of king Nebuchadnezzar was precious because he acknowledged the God of Israel as the supreme and all-powerful God over all gods. The God of Israel saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the burning furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar declared, “I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way” (Daniel 3:29).

The gods have significantly less power than the Almighty God of Israel.

King Nebuchadnezzar said to Daniel when God gave him the meaning of the dream of the great statue, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the LORD of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery” (Daniel 2:47).

The battle in ancient times has always been a race for the rebel sons of God ruling over the nations to declare their supremacy over Almighty God.

#### **BABEL, HEAVENLY RULERS GIVEN OVER THE PEOPLE ON EARTH**

Lest we forget, a review of how it came about that the nations on earth were given heavenly rulers over them is a critical piece in the great puzzle that provides understanding into the battle Almighty God fights against the gods. The sons of God in His court in heaven were given rulership over the nations. At the time of Babel, God Almighty divided the people, gave them different languages and separated them from being a collective whole. The people were returning to the sinful ways that caused God to destroy mankind, except for eight people, with a great flood. God gave these people skilful and highly trained heavenly rulers from His headquarters, called Lebanon, in heaven.

“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, **he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court**” (Deuteronomy 32:8).



These heavenly rulers were once the most revered and honoured leaders throughout creation in heaven. Their reign over the nations on earth began well. Kingdoms rose with each heavenly ruler showcasing his talents and skill. But, in relatively a short time, one-by-one they became proud and arrogant and taught the people to worship them, instead of the Almighty God—their Creator. Ezekiel recorded God speaking to the heavenly ruler over Egypt, “Who can be compared to you in majesty?” (Ezekiel 31:2). To the king ruling over Assyria, God said to the king over Egypt, “Consider Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon [once a leader in God’s headquarters in heaven], with beautiful branches overshadowing the forest; it towered on high. Its top above the thick foliage... The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor could the pine trees equal its boughs, nor could the plan trees compare with its branches—no tree in the garden of God could match its beauty. I made it beautiful with abundant branches, the envy of all the trees of Eden in the garden of God” (Ezekiel 31:3, 8-9).

God described the heavenly ruler over Assyria as one of the most revered leaders in His heavenly court in the God-family named Eden. He was a son of God filled with God’s Holy Spirit who judged using the perfect application of God’s law and His righteous ways.

God joined these members of His heavenly court and gave Himself the descendants of Jacob as His people, to rule over them as their heavenly King and teach them His law and His ways. “But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance” (Deuteronomy 32:9).

Abraham was not part of the division of people at the time of Babel; he wasn’t born for another 200 years. The ancient peoples called on the name of the heavenly god ruling over them for help and strength.

### **GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT FILLED THE HEAVENLY LEADERS**

All of the heavenly rulers were filled with God’s Holy Spirit and the people recognized the inferior abilities of the spirit of man compared to having the spirit of holy gods. The mother-queen of Babylon advised her grandson, the king of Babylon when the writing on the wall appeared and he was terrified. “O king, live forever! Don’t be alarmed! Don’t look so pale! There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father, he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods” (Daniel 5:11).

The queen mother had witnessed Daniel interpret king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The kings said to Daniel, “Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you” (Daniel 4:9).

With help from heavenly gods, all of the people, at the time of Babel, departed to their new territories assigned to them by the Almighty God. People were assigned to modern-day northern Iraq where they established a city-state called Ashur, after their heavenly god, Assur.

“While Nineveh may have been one of its notable political capitals, Ashur was always its spiritual base. They called their domain mat-Assur which means land of Assur pointing to the



god Assur whose shrine and later temple was the city's main focal point. The people of Assyria considered that the land belonged to the god Assur. The mortal on the throne was only the vice-regent on earth." (History with Cy).

### **MYTHOLOGY VS REALITY**

Modern day scholars discredit the belief and worship of gods by the ancient people, but this was a reality and it is critical to understanding what rests on our near horizon—a time like no other on earth—a time a great distress unequalled nor ever to occur again (Matthew 24:21).

God watched the members from His heavenly court rule and saw them begin to stumble and sway. He warned them and corrected them helping them to return to God's righteous law and ways. It wasn't long with each of the members from God's heavenly court ruling over the nations began to turn against Him. So, much so, that they raged against Him.

### **THE gods REBEL**

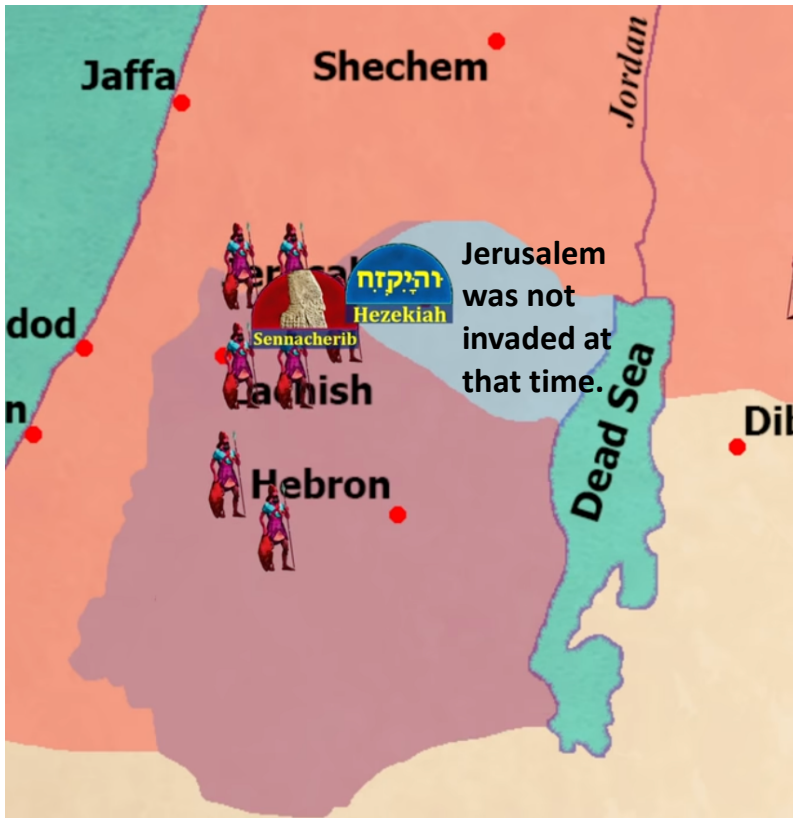
God said to King Assur over Assyria, "By **your messengers** you have heaped insults on the LORD. And you have said, 'With my many chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon'" (Isaiah 37:24a). The descriptor of a mountain is God's image for a federal government. This rebel ruler in heaven bragged about his military success of battling against the honoured and revered members of God's central government and overthrowing them.

This vile heavenly ruler boasted, "I have cut down its tallest cedars, the choicest of its pines. I have reached its remotest heights, the finest of its forests" (Isaiah 37:24b).

All of the trees described by this rebel are images of the different leaders in God's headquarters; His finest leaders have all been destroyed. While this rebel boasts and rages against the Almighty God, God said, "Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone" (Isaiah 37:26).

At the time that God spoke to this raging rebel, the Assyrians had surrounded Jerusalem. King Hezekiah prayed to Almighty God, the God of Israel for help and God said to this fallen ruler, "But I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me. Because you rage against me and because of your insolence has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came" (Isaiah 37:28-29).

The God of Israel, the Supreme God, shielded Jerusalem because the good king Hezekiah prayed to Him and pleaded for protection. The king and the righteous prophets put their trust in their God, and He saved them this time around. The kings of the house of Judah progressively defied God, which led eventually to their captivity by king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The terror seen in the Valley of Vision did not turn the senses of Judah to their God, instead they



hardened to hearts and shouted in celebratory joy, “Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die!” (Isaiah 22:13)

Both houses of Israel: Judah and Israel went into captivity because of their evil ways and rejection of the LORD’s instruction. God used the wicked heavenly rulers over the nations to punish His people as well as the weaker nations led by fallen, rebel heavenly rulers.

### THE MAD KING SENNACHERIB

The mad king Sennacherib was an image of the rebel and raging king Assur in heaven. “Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And

will you be delivered?” The messengers of the heavenly king through earthly his king taunted the Jews in Jerusalem. “Did the gods of the nations destroyed by my fathers rescue those nations—the gods of Gozan, Haran, and Rezep, and of the people of Eden in Telassar? Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?” (Isaiah 37:11-13).

The gods of those fallen nations were not powerful enough to protect their earthly nations. The Almighty God used the stronger rebel kings to take down the weaker rebel kings.

God reminded the raging rebel king Assur, “Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it; in days of old I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, that you should crush fortified cities into piles of rubble. Therefore, their inhabitants, devoid of power, are dismayed and ashamed” (Isaiah 37:26-27).

Ancient Assyria was the rod of God’s anger against the rebellious northern houses of Israel and Judah. While Assyria brought the house of Israel to an end; it was Babylonian king that God used to take down the southern house of Judah and bring them into captivity.

### THE GOD OF ISRAEL REIGNS SUPREME

King David understood the battle of God against the gods. He acknowledged the God of Israel as the supreme God above all other gods. “For **the LORD** is the great God, the **great King above all gods**” (Psalm 95:3).

King David was frustrated with the idols made by the people to call on the gods they worshipped. "**Let all those be ashamed** who serve graven images, who boast themselves of idols; **worship Him, all you gods**" (Psalm 97:7).

The gods ruling over the nations had taught the people to worship them as the Supreme God, the Creator. "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, you great monster lying among your streams. You say, "The Nile belongs to me; **I made it for myself**"' (Ezekiel 29:3).

King David pleaded, "Arise, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are Your inheritance" (Psalm 82:8). He was tired of the ancient rebellion. God assured king David that their rule will end but according to His timeline. "I have said, 'You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High.' But like mortals you will die, and like rulers you will fall" (Psalm 82:6-7).

God's grand plan was to give the Son of God of whom He gave His great power to create heaven and earth and all that is in these two realms, a kingdom. It would be this Son of God who would demonstrate God's perfect love and to take the beatings and pay the life-sacrificing price to save mankind on earth. Through his sacrifice, he won the decisive battle. Christ gathered and imprisoned the remaining rebel sons over the nations and took them to the lower parts of the earth, where they await judgment today.



"None of the **rulers of this age** [the principalities and power in high places] understood it, for if they had, **THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY**" (I Corinthians 2:8). Remember, "when Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" (Matthew 27:24)

Note, Pontius Pilate was a Roman governor who declared Jesus' innocence. It was the Jewish Sanhedrin that pushed for the crucifixion of Jesus.

The job God Almighty gave to these heavenly rulers was to teach the nations on earth God's law and His righteous ways. They failed. Christ has won the kingship over all the nations on earth. He has already given the church within God's people, the job that was given to the members of God's heavenly court.

**CHRIST REDEEMED GOD'S PEOPLE AND ALL OF THE NATIONS AND DISARMED THE REBEL gods over the nations—freeing them from their enemy.** "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code [that is, the Law of Sin and Death is no longer applicable], with its regulations, that war against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, **nailing it to the cross** [Christ's sacrifice paid the price for mankind]. And having **DISARMED THE POWERS AND**



**AUTHORITIES, he made a PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM [the rogue sons of God], TRIUMPHING OVER THEM BY THE CROSS”** (Colossians 2:13-15).

The Apostle Paul understood this 21<sup>st</sup> century mystery. “This is why it says: ‘When He ascended on high, **He led captives** [rebel heavenly rulers] **away**, and **gave gifts to men** [authority to teach the word of God].’ What does ‘He ascended’ mean, except that **He also descended to the lower parts of the earth**? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fulfill all things” (Ephesians 4:8-10).

The silence of the gods for over 2,000 years is due to Jesus Christ imprisoning them. Satan took the opportunity to mythicize them so that mankind would only look to each other as the enemy and ghost their real enemies. The Apostle Paul said that mankind’s only enemies are the rulers, powers and authorities in heaven and on earth (Ephesians 6:12).

**THE AUTHORITY ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO THE gods TO TEACH GOD’S WAY TO THE NATIONS WAS TAKEN AS BOOTY BY CHRIST AND GIVEN TO HIS CHURCH.** “Some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors and teachers**, to **prepare God’s people for works of services**, so that the **body of Christ may be built up until we ALL reach unity in the father and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature**, attaining to the **whole measure of the fullness of Christ”** (Ephesians 4:11-13).



A time is coming; it is resting on our near horizon when fallen angels and rebel gods will be thrown out of heaven and arrive on earth to finish their war against Almighty God. “Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him... Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! But **woe to the earth and the sea; with great fury the devil has come down to you, knowing he has only a short time”** (Revelation 12:7-9, 12).

God’s people have been warned by Jesus, who said, “For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again.

If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short" (Matthew 24:21-22).

The whole world will be astonished and follow this rebel alien force because it will be so powerful that all of the nations, collectively would not be able to overpower it. "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" The nations will surrender.

This alien invasion from heaven will come fully loaded with ten powerful rebel kings who will rule for one hour with the beast. "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but will receive one hour of authority as kings, along with the beast" (Revelation 17:12). During this time, Mystery Babylon the Great, the great prostitute will surface on the international scene. She will be a religious body who will set up business, trading expensive goods for her wares. The merchants performing the exchanges will lavish in the profit from her business.

The ten kings will wait to receive their promised kingdom until the last days. God Almighty knew they would rebel against Him. He likely promised them rulership at the time of Babel, but they had to wait until He was ready to use them.

God's people, both houses of Israel and Judah into the 21<sup>st</sup> century—twelve nations, will be the target of Satan, the ten kings and the beast. This horrific force will be like the oppressive blows of ancient Assyria. The king of Babylon will rise and "**On the day** that the LORD gives you rest from your pain and torment, and from the hard labor into which you were forced, you will sing this song of contempt against the **king of Babylon**: How the oppressor has ceased, and how his fury has ended! The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, **the scepter of the rulers**. It struck the peoples in anger with unceasing blows; it subdued the nations in rage with relentless persecution" (Isaiah 14:1-6).



The Antichrist, the little horn in the book of Daniel, will take the lead. He will overthrow three of the ten kings and establish himself as the supreme ruler over the beastly coalition on earth. This vile character will surpass all previous rebels. "He will speak against the Most High and oppress the saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time" (Daniel 7:25). He will rise and set himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God (II Thessalonians 2:4b).

This will be a time of great confusion. The saints will have the truth and remain strong when the little horn reaches the "host of the heavens"—God's army in heaven and battles to throw some of the "starry host"—radiant angels down to earth. It will set itself up to be as great as the "Prince of the host"—Jesus Christ and take away his daily work and his sanctuary will be considered inferior and ineffective. Jesus Christ works daily in heaven

to forgive sins and intercede for mankind (Daniel 8:10-11), as well as, to lead the righteous angelic sons of God in heaven. This vile rebel will be allowed by Almighty God to be successful because God is testing the angelic sons of God in heaven as well as mankind on earth. Judgement will be in progress during this time.

The Antichrist, the little horn in Daniel, will attempt to change God's law to acquit himself, along with Satan and those within the beastly coalition. This will be a terrible time when deception on earth will be a display of the work of Satan "in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (II Thessalonians 2:9-10).

The set time of God for these rebels is a time, times and half a time. They will not be able to change set times. The very moment that set time has ended, the courts in heaven will sit, and the power of the little horn will be taken away and completely destroyed forever (Daniel 7:26). It is impossible for creation to overthrow the Great Creator.



After that time of judgement, God Almighty will turn to His people and rescue them. "For the LORD will have **compassion on Jacob; once again He will choose Israel and settle them in their own land. The foreigner will join them and unite with the house of Jacob.** The nations will escort Israel and bring it to its homeland. Then the house of Israel will possess the nations as menservants and maidservants in the LORD's land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors. On the day that the LORD gives you rest from your pain and torment, and from the hard labor into which you were forced, you will sing this song of contempt against the king of Babylon: How the oppressor has ceased, and how his fury has ended! The LORD has broken the staff of the

wicked, the scepter of the rulers" (Isaiah 14:1).

It will happen "on that day" after God's people are struck down. Their ally will betray them. They will be caught off-guard; they will be vulnerable and weak; unable to save themselves, then, they will look to their invincible and loving God.

"On that day **the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob** will no longer depend on him who struck them, but **they will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return—a remnant of Jacob—to the Mighty God**" (Isaiah 10:20-21).

The reference to the remnant of Israel has always pointed to a small group of people within the kingdom of Israel. They are not the complete house of Israel, rather, a small group—the overcomers, who have always remembered Almighty God, the God of Israel. Joseph said to his



brothers that he was sent ahead of them, though it was through his brothers' evil actions that he ended up in Egypt, still by God's will, to preserve a remnant on earth. He added his presence in Egypt was also to save them by a great deliverance (Genesis 45:7). Joseph was not preserving all of them, only a remnant, but all are saved by a great deliverance. I am making a distinction between two different groups of people.

God said through the writing of Micah, "I will surely **gather all of you, O Jacob**; I will **collect the remnant of Israel**. I will bring **them together** like sheep in a pen, like a flock in the midst of its pasture—a noisy throng" (Micah 2:12).

God is very careful in His use of language. He will **gather the people of Jacob** and **collect the remnant of Israel together**, that is **two groups of people**. **To gather people means they are scattered and brought together in one activity. To collect people means they are one-by-one coming together into a group over time as they reflect what the collector values.**

The gathered and the collected people will become a very large group of people, excited to be united under the rulership of Almighty God. Christ will set them free from their captors. "One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate, and go out by it. Their King will pass through before them, the LORD as their leader" (Micah 2:13).

It is important to take some time to look deeper into God's use of language that refers to Jacob and Israel as two separate groups. "Therefore, **the LORD who redeemed Abraham** says of the **house of Jacob**: "No longer will **Jacob** be ashamed and no more will his face grow pale. For when he sees **his children around him, the work of My hands, they will honor My name, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob**, and they will stand in awe of the **God of Israel**. Then the wayward in spirit will come to understanding, and those who grumble will accept instruction" (Isaiah 29:22-24).

These three verses are a complete sequence of God's careful use of language.

- **God's first point: Abraham is redeemed**

God began by identifying the patriarchal father of the house of Jacob, Abraham. God carefully pointed out that Abraham is redeemed—he is liberated. God is reminding His people that through Abraham, they too, are liberated because He, the Almighty God is their King—their Saviour.

"But **the LORD's portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance**" (Deuteronomy 32:9). God gave Himself an inheritance, kingship over the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob.

"The LORD of Hosts will bless them, saying, 'Blessed be **Egypt My people, Assyria My handiwork, and Israel My inheritance**'" (Isaiah 19:25).

God's people will always remain God's inheritance. They were called to become a holy kingdom of royal priests. God will accomplish all that He has set out to do.

- **God's second point: The house of Jacob failed**

God addressed the house of Jacob. Their wayward leaders, the national and religious leaders, failed and are filled with shame and feelings of powerlessness. Though they failed, God's work continued uninterrupted. The descendants of Jacob are the work of God's hands; they will become God-fearing and God-serving people.

- **God's third point: The wayward leaders within the house of Jacob will bend their knee to the God of Israel; not the God of Jacob.**

God is making a very specific point by identifying Himself as the God of Israel—not the God of Jacob. God's work is the bringing of His people into a people who fear and serve Him. The house of Jacob will bend their knee to the God of Israel because they acknowledge the miracle of transforming carnal man into God's Holy Spirit filled and led people. Even the most stubborn people will bend their knee before the God of Israel—the God of the overcomers; the God who transforms people through trials and tribulation. The God who loves His creation and longs to give them His unique Holy Spirit that opens their eyes to recognize precious knowledge, enables their thoughts to reach unfathomable depths of understanding and empowers the application of His wisdom.

When Jesus Christ died and the veil was rent from the top down, direct access to Almighty God through the Messiah was made possible for all people. God has been working directly with people; these people are overcoming. These overcomers are Israel, like Jacob who wrestled relentlessly with the Angel of the LORD begging to be blessed—begging for protection from his brother Esau—begging for life. The Angel of the LORD changed Jacob's name to Israel because he overcame. Jacob, at that moment, prior to re-entering the Holy Land mirrored his end-time descendants who will do the same prior to re-entering the land promised to their patriarchal father, Israel.

After God's people repent "in that day" and they will say, "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:1-2).

### **ONE FINAL BATTLE**

During the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, one final battle will remain for God against rebel gods. Gog of the land of Magog and all his hordes in the far north of heaven will be called to battle against Almighty God. He and his hordes will have sat quietly for the duration of Christ's millennial rule. God is preparing to create a new heaven and a new earth void of all rebels both in heaven and on earth. The time will come when God calls this heavenly force to arms. This violent but short battle will be anticipated by God's people on earth because all of them will be obeying Him and know His word. God prophesied, "After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were

gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land” (Ezekiel 38:8-9).

This rebel heavenly force will lure many nations on earth to join him in the final attempt to completely wipe out God’s people and the foreigners with them. Satan will be released for the final battle. All who go against the Almighty God are the ultimate losers.

God prophesied, “This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused... In my zeal and fiery wrath, I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains... Every man’s sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgement upon him [Gog] with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulphur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so, I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:18-23).

Nations who join with the rebel heavenly ruler and his hordes will die. The judgement is already known. God’s judgement will not be overturned; He is absolute.

Mankind’s only true battle has been against rulers, powers and principalities in heaven and on earth. As Satan tricked Eve, he continues to trick mankind into warring against each other. Americans have said for years: Russia, Russia, Russia, but truly, no nation on earth is the enemy. Know the real enemy because they will come in full force to attempt to totally obliterate all people on earth. It will be like no other time on earth before.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.*

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