

THE REDEMPTION STORY

30 LESSONS

From Genesis to
Revelation that tell the
story of redemption

*The story of God's plan to
redeem you because He
loves you and wants to be
in relationship with you*

God's Promise of Redemption

70 Key Events and Scripture References in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation that Point to the Theme of Redemption.

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meditate.with.power@gmail.com. Visit

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1

God Created The Earth!

Genesis 1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"



1. Before 4000 B.C.



2. Before 4000 B.C.



3. Before 4000 B.C.



4. Before 4000 B.C.

It has been said that these ten words in the Bible are the most important in the entire Bible. If you can believe that God created everything out of the word of His mouth by faith, you can believe the rest of the Bible. **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."** **Genesis 1:1-2** It is believed that this event occurred around 6,000–10,000 years ago, while some believe even longer because of the theory of evolution. The key point is that God created all things.

Our story continues with the creation of Adam and Eve. **"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being . . . And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."** **Genesis 2:7, 21-22** God had given man everything he needed and God also gave man the free will to obey or to disobey God. God could have created man to love Him but God wanted a real relationship with man, which gave man the freedom to choose.

Adam and Eve had everything they needed and were told there was only one thing they could not do and they chose. **"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."** **Genesis 3:4-6**

On that sad and tragic day, man decided to disobey God and sin entered into the world. **"So the LORD God said to the serpent: 'Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.'" **Genesis 3:14-15** However on that sad day, God's plan and promise of redemption had begun. It was a promise that would eventually lead to the restoration and forgiveness of all mankind through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. While man chose to sin, God chose to love and to extend that love to all who read these words today and believe by faith that Jesus died for the sins of mankind.**

2

God Destroys Mankind, Noah Finds Grace!

Genesis 6:5 "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."



5. 4000 B.C.



6. 2091 B.C.

Adam and Eve had many children and the world's population continued to grow. In time mankind consistently chose sin over obeying God and the evil on the earth grew worse. **"And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"** **Genesis 6:6-7** In order for God's promise of redemption to be fulfilled toward mankind, someone had to survive this great flood that was sent around 3500 B.C. **"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."** God then re-establishes His promise of redemption and covenant with Noah and his sons. **"And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."** **Genesis 6:17-18**

God spares Noah, his wife and three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their families. They lived long lives and re-populated the earth. As the world's population grew again, evil and sin began to grow again. God then scattered the nations around the world when the people tried to build a tower to reach to heaven. **"So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth."** **Genesis 11:8-9**

God's promise to send a redeemer was yet to be fulfilled, and God needed someone He could trust to follow Him and God's promise and plan. He found a man from the family line of Shem, whose name was Abram around the year 2100 BC. **"Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"** **Genesis 12:1-3** Noah, Shem and Abram heard and listened to the call of God. As a result of their obedience and God's grace, the promise of redemption continues today to all who trust and believe by faith in the promised fulfilled by Jesus! Will you believe?

3

Abraham Believed God!

Genesis 12:1 "Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.'"



7. 2060 B.C.

The year is 2091 BC and God calls a man from whose lineage the Messiah would come, Abram, who would become Abraham. Noah and Abram heard and obeyed the voice of God. God's promise of redemption and everlasting covenant was established and ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ. **"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** Genesis 12:2-3

To fulfill another promise, God gives Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac, when he is one hundred years old in the year 2066 BC! **"Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him."** Genesis 21:5 Now Abraham is tested by God when God asks him to sacrifice his only son to God. In spite of the fact that it is his only son with Sarah and the son of the promise, Abraham obeys God! **"Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.' ¹² And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.'"** Genesis 22:9-12

One of the greatest acts of faith is demonstrated by Abraham at this time of his life. He was now one hundred years old. Abraham believed that if God could give him a son at the age of one hundred and make an everlasting covenant with him, then God could surely raise his son from the dead! With this confidence and faith Abraham obeyed God! **"Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering, instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'"** Genesis 22:13-14

As a result of Abraham's faith and obedience, God responds to Abraham. **"Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: 'By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son (Isaac) ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.'"** Genesis 22:15-18 The picture and the promise is that Abraham was willing to offer his only son as a sacrifice to God, as God did when He sent His only Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will never perish, but have everlasting life."** John 3:16 Will you believe as Abraham did by faith and accept God's sacrifice for your sins? Come by faith and believe in what Jesus did for you on the cross. God will never turn you away!

4

The Promise Continues: Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph!

Genesis 28:12 "Then Jacob dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it."



8. 1990 B.C



9. 1898 B.C.

God continues the covenant He made with Abraham and then his son Isaac. **"Then the LORD appeared to Isaac and said: 'Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. ³ Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵ because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.'"** Genesis 26:2-5

Isaac and Rebecca have two sons, Jacob and Esau. Esau decides to follow his own path in life and some of the nations that will later trouble and harass the nation of Israel, come from the bloodline of Ismael and Esau. God continues the covenant with Jacob. As Jacob runs from his brother Esau, God reconfirms the redemption promise during Jacob's dream. **"Then Jacob dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: 'I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.'"** Genesis 28:12-15

Time passes and Jacob and Leah have twelve sons. When Isaac dies at the age of 180, his sons Jacob and Esau bury him. Jacob and his sons live in the land and about one hundred years later, around 1898 BC Joseph, the eleventh of twelve sons, loved by his father and by God, is sold into slavery because of the jealousy of his brothers. **"And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. ²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.' And his brothers listened. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt."** Genesis 37:25-28

God knows the beginning from the end and now an epic journey begins for a seventeen-year-old boy named Joseph and the nation of Israel to protect the promise of redemption He made to Adam and Eve to redeem mankind. The fulfillment of that promise ends when Jesus returns to establish a new heaven and earth and when you decide to trust in the One who gave up everything to fulfill God's promise of redemption for you! **"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** Romans 5:8 Will you believe by faith and come to the One who loves you?

5

The Promise Continues Through Joseph!

Genesis 41:38-40 “And Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?’³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.’⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.’



10. 1886 B.C

11. 1859 B.C.

God allows Jacob's sons to take a seventeen-year-old boy and send him on a journey into slavery for a purpose that only God can see. After Joseph is sold for twenty pieces of silver, the Ishmaelites sell him to an Egyptian captain around 1898 BC. **“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. ² The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.”** Genesis 39:1-4

After serving and obeying God in Potiphar's home, Joseph ends up in prison for a crime he didn't commit. While in prison he serves Potiphar but also is serving God for several more years. One day the Pharaoh of Egypt calls him out of prison to interpret a dream that no one else in the entire kingdom can interpret. At the age of thirty, after almost seventeen years God's plan is fulfilled when Pharaoh makes a stunning appointment. **“Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. ³⁵ And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. ³⁶ Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine.’ ³⁷ So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?’³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.’⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.’⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.’⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, ‘Bow the knee!’ So he set him over all the land of Egypt.”** Genesis 41:33-43

A few years later Joseph, as second in command to Pharaoh, finds his brothers in front of him, begging for food because of a drought in the entire land. Joseph brings his brothers and father into Egypt to protect them from the devastating effects of the drought. After Jacob dies, Joseph demonstrates the love and forgiveness that will be demonstrated by Jesus about 2,000 years later on the cross at Calvary. **“Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?’²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father’s household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.²³ Joseph saw Ephraim’s children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph’s knees.²⁴ And Joseph said to his brethren, ‘I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’”** Genesis 50:19-24

God’s promise of redemption continues to move through time until Jesus arrives on earth as promised in Genesis 3 in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve. If you feel God is calling you today through this story, He is, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for you! **“Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”** Matthew 11:28 Will you believe by faith and come to the One who loves you?

6

The Promise Continues, God Calls Moses!

Exodus 3:2-4 "And the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, 'I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.' ⁴ So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.'"



12. 1446 B.C



13. 1446 B.C.

God gives Joseph a long life of over one hundred years and his brothers and their families live in Egypt in relative safety. **"And Joseph said to his brethren, 'I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.'** ²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, 'God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.' ²⁶ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt." Genesis 50:24-26 Then after a few years things changed for God's people. **"Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, 'Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; ¹⁰ come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.'** ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses." Exodus 1:8-11

After another 150 years it was time for God to call a leader to take the people out of the land. A Hebrew baby named Moses is raised in Pharaoh's household. Moses, as a young man, sees the Hebrew people being persecuted by the Egyptians, tries to defend them and kills an Egyptian soldier. He then flees into the desert in Midian to hide for forty years until God calls him into service. **"Then God said, 'Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.'** ⁶ Moreover He said, 'I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.⁷ And the LORD said: 'I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.'" Exodus 3:5-10

Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh and plead multiple times on behalf of God to let God's people go and Pharaoh refuses nine times. On the tenth visit God sends a terrible plague and punishment on the land of Egypt and Pharaoh finally lets Moses and the people leave Egypt. Before they leave, God establishes the Passover as another picture of the Redeemer who will come to redeem all mankind. **"For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass**

over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.¹⁴ So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, 'Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.'" Exodus 12:12-14, 21-23

God protects the nation by the blood of the lamb on the doorposts when the angel of death passes through the land as God protects those who have trusted in the blood of God's lamb, Jesus. **"Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."** John 1:29 Jesus is God's Passover lamb for the sins of the world. Will you trust in Him by faith and come?

7

God Delivers Israel Out of Egypt! Picture of the Cross!

Exodus 14:21 "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided."



14. 1446 B.C.



15. 1446 B.C



16. 1410 B.C.

As the nation of Israel fled the Egyptian army, God protected them while this large mass of people were alone in the desert. **"And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night."** Exodus 14:19-20 Then without lifting a weapon, God did what only God could do, He defeated the elite of the Egyptian army. **"So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all twenty-seven horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.'" Exodus 14:22-25**

After the nation of Israel was delivered by God, they continued to complain and sin against God. They wandered in the desert for forty years. God fed them with manna from heaven each day until they came into the Promised Land. **"And the house of Israel called its name Manna, And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.³² Then Moses said, 'This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: "Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt."³³ And Moses said to Aaron, 'Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.'³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. ³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan."** Exodus 16:31-35

During these forty years, around 1410 BC we receive a clear picture of the promise of redemption and the Redeemer to come, Jesus, and His sacrifice on the cross. **"And the people spoke against God and against Moses: 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.'⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. ⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.'⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."** Numbers 21:5-9

God gave us this clear and simple picture that by looking at the bronze serpent a person would be healed and would not die. It was believing by faith in what God told them to do. This story of the brazen serpent is a snapshot or prophecy of the promise of redemption of Jesus dying on the cross 1400 years before it happened. In fact Jesus referred to this story as He spoke to Nicodemus. **"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,"**¹⁵ **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:14-15.** As the people looked to the bronze serpent, so we look to the cross of Jesus Christ for our salvation. Will you look at the cross of Jesus and believe?

8

God Delivers Israel into the Promised Land!

Joshua 1:1-3 "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ² 'Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I aid to Moses.'"



17. 1405 B.C



9. 1190 B.C.

As the nation of Israel nears the Promised Land the promise God first made to Abraham is about to be fulfilled. **"I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ⁸ Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."** Genesis 17:7-8 The promise that God would give the land to Abraham and his descendents to establish an everlasting covenant with His people, is moving closer to fulfillment. The promise made to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 that a Redeemer or the Messiah would come not only to crush Satan but to free mankind from the penalty of sin and separation from God. **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."** Genesis 3:15

Moses sees the beautiful Promised Land and dies before entering because he disobeyed God. Joshua, over eighty years of age in the year 1405 BC leads them into the Promised Land by another miracle: when God divides the Jordan River as He divided the Red Sea for Moses. **"Joshua said, 'By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: ¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), ¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.'"** Joshua 3:10,14-16

As the years pass the nation is led by God and a series of Judges for over 350 years. In 1190 BC a young man named Gideon is called by God and leads the nation to victory over their oppressors with three hundred men. **"Then Gideon divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: ¹⁸ When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!'"¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands. ²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!" ²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. ²² When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every**

man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath." Judges 7:16-22

As God's promise to send a Redeemer is fulfilled by first bringing the nation into the Promised Land and keeping them there over hundreds of years, so is God's promise to those who call on the name of Jesus. **"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name (Jesus) under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12** Will you like, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Gideon believe by faith in the promises of God? God promised to Adam and Eve to send His Redeemer, Jesus to take your place on the cross and to pay the price for your sin. Will you believe by faith that God promised to send a Redeemer and that Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise? That choice is yours to make today!

9

God Calls Samuel, Saul, David and You!

I Samuel 16:10 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."



19. 1018 B.C.



20. 1010 B.C



21. 1010 B.C.

God continues to expand the territory the nation of Israel occupies, based on His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through a series of Judges that ruled Israel. The nation reaches an apex of power through the leadership of Judge Gideon and then begins to slip back into sin. There are a total of twelve Judges for a period of over three hundred years. God then calls a young boy names Samuel at a very early age to become His prophet to the nation. **And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you did call me. Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel answered, 'Speak, for Your servant hears.'¹⁹ So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.²¹ Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD. I Samuel 3:8-10,19-20**

Samuel fills the role as God's prophet but the people complain that they want a king like the other nations and God responds. **But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to judge us.' So Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, 'Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. I Samuel 8:6-7** So God answers their complaint and gives them a king in 1050 BC. **There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. ² And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. I Samuel 9:1-2**

King Saul consistently disobeys God and displeases Samuel and God because he follows his own selfish ambitions and does not follow God's will or heart for the people. Finally, God directs Samuel to go to the family of a man named Jesse to anoint the next king over Israel who would become known as a man after God's own heart. He is the youngest of the sons of Jesse, a shepherd boy named David. **But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all the young men here?' Then he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.'¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!' ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. I Samuel 16: 7, 11-13**

David rules the nation for forty years from 1010 BC to 970 BC and in spite of his shortcomings and episodes of sin, God continues to use him. David, nearing the end of his life is so grateful to God that he wants to build a temple for God. God sends Nathan the prophet to tell David that he will not build the temple. Instead, God has a wonderful surprise for David. **“Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰ Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, ¹¹ since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. ¹² “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you, Your throne shall be established forever.”** 2 Samuel 7:8-16

The promised Redeemer, the Messiah, will come from the house of David as God’s promise is protected and preserved until Jesus arrives in about one thousand years. Perhaps today, as God called Samuel and David, God is calling you? Will you listen, hear, and obey His voice? **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”** John 10:27-30

10

King David's Prophecies about the Suffering Messiah!

Psalm 22:16-18 For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷ I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.



22. 1000 B.C.



23. 966 B.C



24. 722 B.C.

King David, called a “man after God’s heart” ruled the nation for forty years. He struggled in life, sinned, confessed, and was restored and forgiven by God multiple times. David wrote the majority of the psalms three thousand years ago. In Psalm 22, before crucifixion was ever used by nations for capital punishment, we find this vivid description of what Jesus would suffer on the cross. **I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷ I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.** Psalm 22:14-18 We also find these powerful words written by David, one thousand years before Jesus lived. These words were actually spoken by Jesus and His tormentors as they mocked Him before He died, as He hung on the cross. **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? ² O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent. ³ But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. ⁴ Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted, and You delivered them. ⁵ They cried to You, and were delivered; they trusted in You, and were not ashamed. ⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. ⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸ “He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”** Psalm 22:1-8

David’s son Solomon, is charged with building the temple for God in Jerusalem and it is completed in 960 BC. **But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence. ⁵ And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name.’ ⁶ Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians. ⁷ So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, for He has given David a wise son over this great people!** I Kings 5:4-7

After Solomon rules the nation with great prosperity and victories over their enemies, he dies in 930 BC and turmoil springs up between Solomon’s two sons, Jeroboam and Rehoboam. The kingdom is split between the ten northern tribes ruled by Jeroboam called Israel and the two southern tribes ruled by Rehoboam called Judah. The northern tribes are ruled by a series of kings who did not serve God and the nation continues to fall further and further into sin and away from serving God. One of the kings was named Omri. **In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah. ²⁴ And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria,**

after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill.²⁵ Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.²⁶ For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols. I Kings 16:23-26

For over two hundred years the nineteen kings that lead the northern ten tribes moved the people further and further away into sin and away from serving God until Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrian army in 722 BC. **In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years.²⁸ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them away captive to Assyria. II Kings 15:27-29**

As God warned the nation through the prophets that they would be punished for their sins, God fulfills His warning. In spite of this terrible event, the southern two tribes of Judah and the temple in Jerusalem continue to stand until the time God's promise of redemption is fulfilled. The promise of redemption made to Adam and Eve is yet to be fulfilled. The promise that God made to send His suffering Messiah is reinforced by the prophet Zechariah around 600 BC. **And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.¹¹ In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. Zechariah 12:10-12** God was reaching out to the nation of Israel as He is reaching out to all today to all who will come to Jesus and believe that He is God's Redeemer. **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8** Will you come?

11

Isaiah Predicts the Redeemer and the Suffering Messiah!

Isaiah 42:6-7 I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.



25. 711 B.C.



26. 711 B.C.



27. 604 B.C.



28. 586 B.C.

Isaiah was a prophet called by God to warn the nation of Israel of the danger of falling away from God and serving other gods. He served God as a prophet for over sixty-five years around 760 BC to 675 BC. His writings, inspired by the Holy Spirit, predicted the coming of God's promised Redeemer in a time to come in the future. **I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. Isaiah 42:6-7**

These were some of the very words initially spoken by Isaiah the prophet and later used by Jesus when He announced His public ministry 775 years later. **So Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD. Isaiah 61:1 & Luke 4:16-18**

One Isaiah's most powerful prophecies about Jesus was written around 750 BC and foretold the purpose and mission of the suffering Messiah. **Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4-6** This is the clearest and most vivid picture in the entire Old Testament of the price Jesus would pay for our sins.

The last two remaining tribes in the south, referred to as Judah was ruled by nineteen kings for a period of over 330 years. Now, after 130 years since the exile of the ten northern tribes in 722 BC, Judah is taken into captivity to Babylon. During this time, there were a few good, holy, and godly kings that ruled over Judah and delayed the judgment of God. One of these good kings was Josiah. **Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 2 Chronicles 34:1-2** All of the prophets in the Old Testament were sent by God to warn Israel and Judah to return to worshipping God but they were all ignored, yet God's promises hold until the Redeemer Jesus comes. Even Daniel the prophet, taken in captivity during this time around 600 B.C.

wrote these words about the future Redeemer and Messiah. **And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Daniel 2:44**

However, sadly and ultimately the nation fell apart because of sin, and they were taken into captivity to Babylon in 586 BC. **Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God. ⁶ Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon. ⁷ Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon. ⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.” 2 Chronicles 36:5-8**

Even though the nation is carried away into captivity and the temple is destroyed, God's promise to give them the land and to send a Redeemer will be fulfilled because God gave His Word. No matter how far you have wandered or how much you have sinned in your life, God is calling you back home again through the blood that Jesus shed for you. Or perhaps He is calling you for the first time. **In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7** God loves you and even though you feel you have lost everything, Jesus is there waiting for you to come home again for perhaps for the first time. Come, Jesus is waiting for you with open arms!

Jeremiah Predict Seventy Years of Captivity!

Jeremiah 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.



29. 586 B.C

30. 586 B.C.

Jeremiah faithfully served as God's prophet to the nation of Judah from 627–582 BC. In 609 BC Jeremiah predicts the destruction of the temple and seventy years of captivity, years before these events happened, according to the word from God spoken through Jeremiah. **Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, ⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰ Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Jeremiah 25:8-11**

The Babylonians invade the land starting in 605 BC and begin to take the nation into captivity in phases to Babylon, until the destruction of the city and temple was complete in 586 BC. Did God forget His promise to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden of a Redeemer and the promise extended through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Absolutely not. God had brought the nation into the land originally and He promised that they would return again to finish what He started and promised. During this time of waiting, God also promises to give the people a new heart and the power to live a life filled with His power. **But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."** Jeremiah 31:33-34

Then God, through Jeremiah, gives us a picture of how Jerusalem will once again be restored in the near future and will never be destroyed in the distant future. **Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that the city shall be built for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹ The surveyor's line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. ⁴⁰ And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever. Jeremiah 31:38-40**

So what about you? Have you wandered so far from God that you think God could never forgive you? Have you as a Christian fallen into sin again and think that God could never restore you? Let these words comfort you today and come if you have never trusted in Jesus. **And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.'**" John 6:35-38

Or for the believer who has fallen into sin again. **So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you. ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. Joel 2:25-26** Let God either welcome you into the kingdom of heaven today through Jesus or let God heal and restore you again. God loves you beyond description. **The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.'**" **Jeremiah 31:3** God's promise of redemption is brought together in the Old and New Testament through Jesus!

Daniel Predicts the Coming of the Messiah!

Daniel 9:24-25 Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.²⁵ Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.



31. 539 B.C.

Daniel, another of God's prophets, lives from 620–540 B.C. and faithfully serves God for eighty years. He is taken captive to Babylon as a young man to Babylon around 609 BC. The powerful King Nebuchadnezzar has a vivid and troubling dream and no one in his kingdom can interpret his dream. In his anger he threatens to kill all of the prophets in the nation and Daniel offers to interpret his dream. **"Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; ¹⁵ he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, 'Why is the decree from the king so urgent?' Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. ¹⁶ So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation."** Daniel 2:14-16

Daniel interprets the dream with vivid detail and tells the king of four great kingdoms to come and the final one that will dominate and destroy all of the kingdoms on earth. This is the kingdom that the Messiah Jesus will establish on earth. **"This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷ You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."** Daniel 2:36-45

Daniel faithfully serves the Babylonian king and the Persian king, Cyrus the Great. While in a time of deep prayer, Daniel realizes the time of the seventy years of captivity is about to end, he prays intensely and God gives him another vision. God gives Daniel the timeline for when Jesus will come as the Messiah to Jerusalem in 30 AD. God then reveals to Daniel that Jesus will come again the second time as the conquering Messiah who will establish His kingdom on earth. It is one of the most complex prophecies in the entire Bible as God gives Daniel a rare insight into Jesus, the Messiah, at different points in history in

God's timeline for mankind and the world. **"At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, ²⁰ now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, ²¹ yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. ²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, 'O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: ²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.²⁵ Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.'"** Daniel 9:19-27

While the complexity of this vision is difficult to explain and understand, we can take great comfort in knowing that God is in complete control. **"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'" Isaiah 46:9-10** Even as God's clock is ticking until Jesus returns again there is still time to accept and believe in the One who will reign on earth as He currently reigns in heaven. Will you accept and believe by faith? **"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."** John 10:14-16

14

God Restores the Temple and the Hearts of the People!

Ezra 1:1 "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing."



32. 538 B.C

33. 535-515 B.C.

What a beautiful picture we have of God moving according to His Word. God called Cyrus by name through Isaiah over 140 years before God moved the heart of King Cyrus in 538 BC to let the people go back to the land that God gave Abraham. **"Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, 'You shall be built,' And to the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"** Isaiah 44:28 **"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held. To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut."** Isaiah 45:1:11-12 God defeated the mightiest nation on the earth, Babylon, and one of the mightiest kings in the history of mankind, King Nebuchadnezzar, as He said He would. Jeremiah repeats God's prophecy around 605 BC about the seventy years of captivity. **"And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.'" Jeremiah 25:11-12**

God moves again toward completing the promise made to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to send a Redeemer. **"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."** Genesis 3:15 **"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."** Proverbs 21:1 Now God moves the heart of another mighty nation and King Cyrus to send the people back to the land. **"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,² Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. ³ Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem."** Ezra 1:1-3

About twelve years later the temple is rebuilt and dedicated by two men sent by God to lead the people, Zerubbabel and Joshua. **"Now in the second month of the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the house of the LORD. ⁹ Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers, Kadmiel with his sons, and the sons of Judah, arose as one to oversee those working on the house of God: the sons of Henadad with their sons and their brethren the Levites.¹⁰ When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. ¹¹ And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: 'For He is good, for His mercy**

endures forever toward Israel.’ Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.” Ezra 3:8-11

God then sends Ezra back to rebuild the temple and to lead the hearts of the people back to God. Ezra the priest now leads a series of reforms where the people realize they have sinned against God and they begin the process of cleansing and repenting. **“Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly. ² And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, ‘We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this. ³ Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.’” Ezra 10:1-3**

God’s promises are true. God will move the heart of the king to restore you and to bring you back into fellowship with the God who created you and loves you deeply. As God spoke to the nation of Israel, He is speaking to you today. **“Thus says the LORD: ‘The people who survived the sword and found grace in the wilderness. Israel, when I went to give him rest.’ ³ The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice.’” Jeremiah 31:2-4** Will you come to Jesus today? **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30**

15

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls Around Jerusalem and the Hearts of the People!

Nehemiah 12:27 "Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps."



34. 443 B.C.

Over ninety years have passed and Nehemiah, the cupbearer for the mighty King Artaxerxes, is saddened to hear what is happening in Jerusalem. "And they said to me, **'The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.'**"⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven." **Nehemiah 1:3-4** As the king's cupbearer it was important to always stay positive but Nehemiah, at the risk of death, is sad and appears before the king. "And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before." ² Therefore the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.' So I became dreadfully afraid, ³ and said to the king, 'May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?'⁴ Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.'⁶ Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.'" **Nehemiah 2:1-6** Nehemiah returns with another group of captives back to Jerusalem in 444 BC. Once again God moves the heart of the mighty King Artaxerxes of Persia to send Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer back to Jerusalem to repair the walls, temple, and the hearts of the people. Despite tremendous opposition from their enemies that surrounded Jerusalem, Nehemiah leads the people to complete the task for what God has called them to do. "Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, ⁸ and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. ⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night." **Nehemiah 4:7-9**

About a year later the walls are rebuilt and the city is dedicated back to God. "Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps." ²⁸ And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, ²⁹ from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem. ³⁰ Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall. ⁴⁰ So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me; ⁴¹ and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Minjamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ⁴² also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director.⁴³ Also that day they offered

great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.” Nehemiah 12:27-30, 40-43

Nehemiah stays in Jerusalem for twelve years then returns back to his position to serve the King of Persia. About seven year later in 425 BC Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem one more time to lead a reform of the hearts from loving idols and pagan worship of their neighbors back to a true worship and love of God. **“And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me. ²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites. ³⁰ Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service, ³¹ and to bringing the wood offering and the first fruits at appointed times. Remember me, O my God, for good!” Nehemiah 13:28-31**

God had promised to send the captives back and He moved the heart of the kings to rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem. God delivers on His promises. As the nation of Israel continually drifted into sin, God continually reached out to them because of His great love, mercy, and grace. No matter what you have done in your life, no matter how far you have drifted, God is waiting for you to come to Him through Jesus for salvation the first time or for the hundredth time for restoration. Will you trust in the name of Jesus today to do what only God can do, forgive and restore you? **“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. ⁹ He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.” Psalm 103:10-13** As God used Zerubbabel, Joshua, Ezra, and Nehemiah, let God use His Son Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to do what only God can do: forgive, cleanse, purify, restore, and strengthen you to serve Him!

The Messiah, Jesus Is Born!

Luke 2:11-12 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."



35. 4 B.C



36. A.D.

As we near the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption and the birth of Jesus, the nation of Israel is anxious. It has been over four hundred years since Nehemiah led the nation to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, to repair the temple and to rededicate their lives back to God. Various powerful governments continue to rule over Israel in the land and they long for the Messiah who will lead them to victory over their oppressors. The governments include the Alexandrian Empire, the Ptolomies of Egypt, the Seluecids of Syria and then the dreaded and feared Roman Empire. As Rome rules with an iron hand and is led by Caesar Augustus, the Holy Land or Judea is ruled by Herod the Great. The stage is being set for the birth of the Messiah as predicted by the last prophet Malachi, over four hundred years before Jesus is born. **"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. ² 'But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.'" Malachi 3:1-3** In this powerful prophecy we have a picture of John the Baptist, Jesus' first coming, and His second coming in power to reign and rule over the earth.

The angels alert the shepherds tending their sheep that something great is about to happen! **"And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.'" Luke 2:9-12** Another Old Testament prophecy written over seven hundred years before this time and hidden from those looking for the conquering Messiah, comes to life; **"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me, the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2**

While the nation waited for the Messiah to deliver them from Rome, only the angels and shepherds celebrated what God was doing on this special day. **"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!' ¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds." Luke 2:13-18**

Jesus grows up as a young man and quietly obeys His parents, Mary and Joseph, and spends time in the temple, learning about God, until the time is right for Jesus to begin His public ministry. He is about thirty

years of age and it is time for Jesus to begin His ministry by becoming baptized by John the Baptist, who predicts the suffering Messiah spoken of in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. **“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’³⁰ This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.”** John 1:29-31 This story is so important that it is told again by the Apostle Matthew with some additional insights about the importance of this event to God the Father. **“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.¹⁴ And John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?’¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he allowed Him.¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”** Matthew 3:13-17

God’s Redeemer and promise of redemption is about to move toward that fateful day three years in the future as Jesus would bear the sins of the world. **“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.¹¹ He came to His own and His own did not receive Him.¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”** John 1:10-14 God’s own Son, Jesus, God’s lamb to take away the sins of the world is about to complete the promise made by God four thousand years before His birth to Adam and Eve. Will you believe in God’s Lamb, Jesus?

Jesus Announces His Public Ministry!

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."



37. 27 A.D



38. 27 A.D.

After Jesus had been baptized by John the Baptist, God's presence in the person of the Trinity, three persons in one God, is manifested. **"When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."** Luke 3:21-22 Jesus then goes into the desert, where He is tempted by Satan for forty days. **"Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry."** Luke 4:1-2

It is now time for Jesus, at thirty years of age to begin His public ministry, so Jesus goes to His hometown of Nazareth and walks into the synagogue. **"So Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.'"** Luke 4:16-19; Isaiah 61:1-2

As is the custom in the synagogue there are two readings per service, one from the law and one from the prophets. Jesus takes the words written by the prophet Isaiah, who wrote these words seven hundred years before Jesus was born. Jesus stops and only reads half of verse two, as this amazing prophecy reveals the dual purpose of the promised Messiah: one as the suffering Messiah and the other as the conquering Messiah. The nation of Israel was only looking for the conquering Messiah. **"To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn."** Isaiah 61:2 Jesus finishes reading only verse one and half of verse two and then closes the book. **"Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' ²² So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, 'Is this not Joseph's son?'"** Luke 4:20-22

The people were angry because Jesus was claiming to be God. **"So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,²⁹ and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. ³⁰ Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way. Luke 4:28-30** Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary, by this reading in Isaiah was claiming equal lineage with God. Jesus knew who He was and in the Gospel of John we find this Word: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."** John 1:1-3

Jesus soon after is approached by one of the Jewish leaders, who comes to Him quietly in the night to ask Jesus a critical question. **“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’³ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’”** John 3:1-4 Then Jesus answered Nicodemus with one of the most important stories in the entire Bible: the story of Moses in the desert in 1410 BC when the nation of Israel wandered in the desert for forty years until God brought them into the Promised Land. It is found in Numbers 21:5-9 as Jesus speaks of this scripture. **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”** John 3:14-17

God’s plan of salvation for all mankind and God’s promise of redemption was and will be fulfilled by and through Jesus. The people who were bit by the serpent in the wilderness only needed to look at the symbol by faith and believe to live. So now, God is asking you by faith to look to Jesus on the cross and believe that Jesus was God’s lamb and sacrifice for your sins. Will you look and believe at the cross of Jesus Christ and believe by faith?

18

Jesus Teaches About God's Love for the Lost and Proves He is God!

Luke 15:7 "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."



39. 29A.D.



40. 30A.D.



41. 30 A.D.



42. 30 A.D.

Jesus continues to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God and the importance of repentance and turning back to God. The outcasts of society come to hear Him, while the religious leaders continue to despise Him. In one of the parables Jesus uses the analogy of a shepherd familiar to the Jewish people that King David wrote about in the beloved Psalm 23 around 1000 BC. **"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake."** Psalm 23:1-3 Jesus begins to teach about God's love for the lost using a story about a shepherd and his sheep **"Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, 'This Man receives sinners and eats with them.' ³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying:⁴ 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!" ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.'" Luke 15:1-7**

Jesus continues to use parables to teach how God loves to seek out those that are lost, in trouble or danger and need God's help. Next, Jesus teaches about how heaven rejoices when one sinner repents. **"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."** Luke 15:8-10 God loves to seek what was lost. God's love is so great that He pursues us, even before we admit that we need help. **"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."** Luke 15:20-22

Now only does God love the lost and pursue them but Jesus also teaches about how God will give the nation of Israel a new heart and provide the believer power to know God's will and to resist sin through God's Holy Spirit. **"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."** John 16:13-14 Jesus reveals the promise of the Holy Spirit being given to believers through the Old Testament prophets.

As we study the Old Testament prophecies we find these key scripture starting with Isaiah around 725 BC. **“For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring.”** Isaiah 44:3 Then through Jeremiah around 600 BC. **“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”** Jeremiah 31:33-34 Then again through the prophet Ezekiel, another powerful promise, also around 600 BC. **“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”** Ezekiel 36:25-28

Finally, as Jesus continues to teach there is still much confusion over what Jesus’ message is and who Jesus? So Jesus asks Peter; **“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ ¹⁴ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’¹⁵ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”** Matthew 16:13 Then Jesus responds with an answer that shows that God will bring all nations, all people, Jew and Gentile together through Jesus and His church, that no one, not even Satan and the demons of hell can defeat. **“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’”** Matthew 16:17-19

Finally in one of the most powerful stories in the New Testament Jesus proves He indeed is God, as He brings someone who has been dead three days in the grave back to life. First He asks Lazarus’s sister Martha, who is grieving a key question. **Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”** John 11:25-26 Then he raises Lazarus from the dead, proving He is God! **Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”** John 11:41-44

The love of God the Father for you is so strong that Jesus freely gave His life for the sins of the world and for you. Every parable, every promise and every miracle is confirmation and evidence of God’s love for you! All that is left for you to do is believe that Jesus is God, He died for your sins and He desires to have a relationship with you the moment you accept Him and believe by faith. This is the story of redemption and of God’s great love for you!

Jesus Prays for Us and Predicts His Death on the Cross!

Matthew 16:21 "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."



43. 30A.D.



44. 30 A.D



45. 30 A.D.

As Jesus prepares to go to the cross as He often does Jesus goes into a time of deep prayer and intercession with God the Father. During this time Jesus prays for all who believe in Him and in His mission and purpose that God would protect us from evil and to sanctify and strengthen us. **I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** ¹⁵ **I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.** ¹⁶ **They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** ¹⁷ **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.** ¹⁸ **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.** John 17:14-18

As Jesus moves from village to village He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1 that was written 750 years before Jesus was born. **"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."** Luke 4:16-19; Isaiah 61:1-2 Everywhere Jesus travels He fulfills this scripture written in Isaiah 61 and then Jesus again quotes Isaiah about His true purpose and mission on earth. **"But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. ¹⁶ Yet He warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ 'Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; ²¹ and in His name Gentiles will trust.'"** Matthew 12:15-21 (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Jesus on multiple occasions clearly and specifically would teach His disciples about His true mission and purpose on earth. **"From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."** Matthew 16:21 Even though Jesus was clear that He would die on the cross, their eyes were blinded to His words because they were so overwhelmed with the power that Jesus had to do things that only God could do. Jesus not only demonstrates His power with miracles that only God could do but He claims equality with God. **"Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one.'"** John 10:25-30

Jesus moves closer to the fulfillment of the suffering Messiah written about in Zechariah around 550 BC. **"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and**

supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10 And then in this powerful prophecy from David written one thousand years before Jesus lived; “I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me.¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.” Psalm 22:14-15 The Old Testament prophecies explode off the pages of the Word of God and come to life as Jesus nears His journey to the cross for the sins of mankind. Now one of the most significant prophecies from the book of Daniel written around 600 BC is about to be fulfilled in front of their very eyes as Jesus nears Jerusalem. ”And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, ‘O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: ²⁴ “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.” Daniel 9:22-24

The fulfillment of God’s promise of redemption for all mankind is about to take place. “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, ‘Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. ³ And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, “The Lord has need of them,” and immediately he will send them.’ ⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”’” (Zechariah 9:9) ⁶ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. ⁸ And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” Hosanna in the highest!’” (Psalm 118:26) Matthew 21:1-9 As the people see the prophecies of the Old Testament being fulfilled they have just one simple question. “And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, ‘Who is this?’”¹¹ So the multitudes said, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.’” Matthew 21:10-11

There are some simple questions to answer here. Did Jesus know His purpose? Yes. Did Jesus fulfill the Old Testament Scriptures? Yes. Was Jesus God? Yes. Lastly, will you stop fighting God and accept the fact that what Jesus did on the cross over two thousand years ago wasn’t for someone else but for you! Let God’s love, mercy, and grace overwhelm you today as you receive what Jesus did for you as He died on the cross for a very specific purpose, your redemption.

Jesus Celebrates Passover – The Lord’s Supper!

Luke 22:19-20 “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’”



46. 30A.D.



47. 30 A.D.



48. 30 A.D.

The time is drawing near for the completion of God’s promise of redemption, Jesus’ death on the cross as predicted by Isaiah 711 years before Jesus was born. **“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Isaiah 53:5-6 Jesus gathers with His disciples for the traditional Passover meal, celebrated since the first Passover from Egypt fourteen hundred years prior to this time. The Old Covenant of an innocent lamb as an animal sacrifice for the payment of sin is about to be replaced by the sacrifice of God’s sinless lamb, Jesus on the cross for our sins. This is what Jesus came to do, to fulfill God’s will. The first Passover from Egypt involved marking the doorposts with the blood of a lamb to protect the families in the home from the angel of death. **“And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.”** ²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.” Exodus 12:22-23

Now the blood of God’s lamb Jesus protects us from the penalty of sin and eternal separation from God. The new Passover ceremony or communion will now replace the old Passover meal that commemorated the nation’s deliverance from Egypt; **“Then He said to them, ‘With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.’ ¹⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ ¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ ²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. ²¹ But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. ²² And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!’”** Luke 22:15-22

During the Passover meal one of Jesus’ disciples, Judas, is restless and quickly leaves the meal when Jesus identifies Judas as the betrayer. **“The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”**²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, ‘Rabbi, is it I?’ He said to him, ‘You have said it.’” Matthew 26:24-25 After betraying Jesus, Judas tried to return the thirty pieces of silver. **“Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What is that to us? You see to it!’ ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’ ⁷ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled**

what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ‘And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, ¹⁰ and gave them for the potter’s field, as the LORD directed me.’” Matthew 27:3-10 Jeremiah 32:6-9

Jesus, knowing His time is short, goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane to God the Father in heaven. While praying His agony is so great, His sweat is so intense it is as blood and begins to pour from His body. **“And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Luke 22:41-44** During this short time of prayer Jesus prays one of the most short powerful prayers that is a model for us today. **“Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ ³³ And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. ³⁴ Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch’³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’” Mark 14:32-36**

Jesus is then led to an illegal trial, scourging, and ultimately to the cross to fulfill God’s promise of redemption made in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve. **“Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.’” Luke 22:52-53**

As Jesus told His disciples, **“Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?” Matthew 26:53-53** The only question left is what will you do with this information? Will you share it with others? Will you finally accept and believe that, yes, Jesus died for you? What will you do now that you know the truth and how much God loves you?

“It Is Finished! He Is Risen!”

John 19:30 “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”



49. 30 A.D.



50. 30 A.D.

God’s long awaited promise of redemption is about to be completed on a lonely hill outside Jerusalem called Golgotha or Calvary. **“And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, ¹⁸ where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. ¹⁹ Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”** John 19:17-19

The promise made to Adam and Eve over four thousand years before this epic event is about to be fulfilled. **“So the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’”** Genesis 3:14-15

The perceived victory of the Sanhedrin, the Roman government, and Satan of Jesus’ death on the cross is soon to be shattered as God raises Jesus from the dead three days later! **“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’ ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”** Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, **“Not one of His bones shall be broken.” ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”** John 19:28-37, Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20, Zechariah 12:10 The significance of not one of Jesus’ bones being broken fulfills the instructions given to Moses 1,450 years prior to this time regarding the Passover lamb, to not break any of the lamb’s bones. In addition, the prophecy of King David in the psalms, written one thousand years before Jesus’ death, was fulfilled. Finally the words of Zechariah the prophet are fulfilled which were written about 550 years before this time. God’s word and hundreds of years of prophecy are now complete and fulfilled as promised, predicted and prophesized.

So Jesus’ body is lovingly prepared for burial by some of His dear disciples and buried. **“After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹ And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. ⁴¹ Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been**

laid.⁴² So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.”
John 19:38-42

While the disciples scattered and hid in fear, not knowing what to do, God was preparing an event, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead that would forever change the history of the world and anyone reading these words today! **“And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’”⁸ And they remembered His words. ⁹ Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.”** Luke 24:4-9

What was about to happen would forever change the world as Peter ran to the grave to see if what the women told him was true. **“ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.”** John 20:3-10

God was about to open the eyes of the disciples and anyone reading these words today to the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption made thousands of years ago. The only question left today is will you believe in the six most significant words that you will ever hear in your lifetime? **“It is finished, He is Risen!”** Yes, Jesus died for you!

Jesus Opens Their Eyes on the Emmaus Road!

Luke 24:27 "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."



51. 30 A.D.

On this day after the death of Jesus, all appears lost. Then the disciples hear that Jesus is no longer in the grave. Hope begins to spring within their hearts and souls that something great and marvelous has happened and Jesus may be alive. These two disciples are about to hear something from a traveler they meet that will change not only their lives but the lives of all who read this story. **"Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?' ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, 'Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?' ¹⁹ And He said to them, 'What things?'"** Luke 24:13-19

Can you imagine the fear but at the same time the sense of hope that rises in their souls as they think about the possibility that Jesus may still be alive. **"So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.'"** Luke 24:20-24

The people were looking for the Messiah to deliver them from the Roman Empire, while God had a different plan, to send His Son, Jesus, to redeem mankind from sin. **"Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."** Luke 24:25-26 Then Jesus opened their eyes on that walk over two thousand years ago as He will open your eyes to God's promise of redemption through Jesus!

Jesus began to reveal to them how God's promise of redemption began in Genesis around 4000 BC to Adam and Eve. **"So the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'" Genesis 3:14-15** Next, the story of the promise made to Abraham in 2091 BC. **"Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" Genesis 12:1-3** Jesus then shares another unique prophecy made to Moses in the

desert around 1430 BC. **“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ¹⁶ according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’” Deuteronomy 18:15-16** Then this powerful story when the people sinned against God in the desert and the picture of Jesus hanging on the cross in the future and the importance of faith. **“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.’ ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.” Numbers 21:8-9 John 3:14-16**

Jesus continues to share about when King David wrote around 1000 BC the prophecy about the resurrection of Jesus from the grave; **“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, or will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” Psalm 16:9-10**

Jesus continues to share more scriptures and pictures of Himself hanging on the cross that were written one thousand years before it actually happened. **“For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷ I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” Psalm 22:16-17**

He then shares with even more prophecies from Isaiah written around 750 BC. **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:6-7** Finally, one of the most powerful pictures of the sacrifice of the Passover lamb for sin that happened in the history of mankind when Jesus became God’s Passover lamb as God’s sacrifice for the sins of the world. **“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” Isaiah 53:4-7**

After sharing all of these scriptures, Jesus opened their eyes. **“Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.” Luke 24:30-31** God loves you beyond any words that any human writer could ever begin to explain. Let God open your eyes to the promise of the promise of redemption story that was fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God’s lamb. Will you look at Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross for you and believe?

Jesus Gives the Great Commission!

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



52. 30A.D.



53. 30 A.D.



54. 30 A.D.

Jesus spent considerable time with His closest disciples, encouraging and strengthening before He gave them the great commission that would change the world! **"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"** Amen. **Matthew 28:18-20** As the time was drawing near for Jesus to ascend back to His Father in heaven He spent forty days teaching His disciples about the kingdom of God. **"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."** Acts 1:1-3

The promise of the Holy Spirit that would be given to the nation of Israel was made by the prophet Joel six hundred years before this time. **"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days."** Joel 2:28-29 The promise of redemption was complete and now the promise of the Holy Spirit being poured out was about to be fulfilled as Jesus ascended into heaven. **"And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'"** Acts 1:7-11 This is the promise of the final redemption of the conquering Messiah's second coming at the end of time. At this time Jesus will return to rule the earth and to create a new heaven and earth. The angels confirmed this prophecy to His disciples as Jesus ascended into heaven that Jesus will come again!

Then the disciples went back to Jerusalem to pray while they waited. **"Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."** Acts 1:12-14

The feast of Pentecost was nearing, fifty days after the Passover meal in Jerusalem they shared with Jesus. Jesus had ascended into heaven while His disciples watched ten days prior to Pentecost. **“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ‘Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’³⁸ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”** Acts 2:1-4, 36-39

The truth that, yes, indeed, God’s promise of redemption was completed by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. This is the message we teach and share with others around the world. **“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”** Acts 2:36, 38 This is God’s plan of redemption for the world and for you. What will you do with this truth?

Steven Is Martyred, Jews and Gentiles Are Saved!

Acts 7:58-59 *"And they cast Steven out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'"*



55. 31 A.D.



56. 34 A.D.



457. 37 A.D.

The early church grows rapidly as Peter, John, and the apostles preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ primarily to the nation of Israel. **"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."** Acts 2:46-47 The church continues to grow but begins to face opposition as the boldness of the apostles begins to irritate the religious leaders. **"So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'" Acts 4:18-20 Finally Steven, full of the Holy Spirit is brought before the religious leaders and charged with blasphemy. **"When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep."** Acts 7:54-60**

While Steven is being stoned to death, a young religious leader named Saul, watches. Saul continues to pursue and persecute the new believers called Christians. **"Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. ³ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison."** Acts 8:1-3 Then a short time later the great persecutor of the Christians, Saul, meets Jesus. **"As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' ⁵ And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'⁷ And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus."** Acts 9:3-8 After Saul received his sight, he was taught by Ananias and the disciples in Damascus and immediately began to preach. **"So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that Jesus is the Son of God."** Acts 9:19-20

While Paul was being trained by the disciples and by the Holy Spirit an amazing thing happens, Peter takes the Gospel to the Gentiles. A new era of grace is about to begin. **“And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. ²⁶ But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. ²⁸ And he said unto them²⁵, You know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.” Acts 10:25-29**

Peter, who until this time had only preached the Gospel to the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, is led by the Holy Spirit to a Roman centurion named Cornelius, who is a Gentile, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” Acts 10:44-46** The most significant event in God’s plan of redemption now fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah, 780 years before Cornelius was saved by God. **“And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.” Isaiah 11:10** God’s amazing grace is now extended to all who believe by faith in the name of Jesus! Is God speaking to you through this study today? Will you believe in the name of Jesus? The door is open to all who come!

Age of Grace Begins!

Romans 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."



58. 57 A.D.



59. 57 A.D.



60. 57 A.D.

As God has now taken the Gospel of grace out to the Gentiles through Peter, the Apostle Paul will soon take the Gospel out to the whole world. **"Immediately Paul preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God."**²¹ Then all who heard were amazed, and said, 'Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?'" **Acts 9:20-21** The Apostle Paul, a few short years later wrote to the church at Rome. The words he wrote have thundered in the ears of those who oppose the name of Jesus and whispered to the hearts of those who seek God, forgiveness, and grace; **"But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith which we preach):⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.¹¹ For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.¹³ For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'"** Romans 10:8-13

So the key question is Has God forgotten the nation of Israel? Has Israel been replaced by the church? This question can only be answered after a complete and thorough search of the scriptures. The Old Testament scriptures explode with the promises of God, which are irrevocable to not only all who call on the name of Jesus, but also to the nation of Israel made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at some time in the future. **"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;²⁷ for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'"** (Isaiah 59:20-21) ²⁸ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" (Isaiah 40:13) ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" (Job 41:11) ³⁶ "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." Romans 11:25-36 As Paul wrote he referenced many of the promises of God made in the Old Testament to Israel. Paul knew God's promise of redemption for the Jews and Gentiles and the nation of Israel will be fulfilled in the future, in God's timing.

The real question to answer today is what do you think about the mystery that God had planned since the beginning of time, God's promise of redemption, fulfilled through Jesus? Isn't it about time that you decided to trust in what Jesus did for you by dying on the cross for your sins. **"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began²⁶ but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—²⁷ to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen."** Romans 16:25-27

Despite Persecution, the Church Grows!

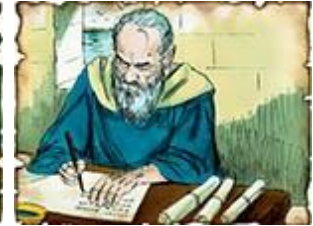
2 Timothy 4:6 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"



61. 67 A.D.



62. 67 A.D.



63. 90 A.D.

All of us like Paul, Peter and the Apostle John have been called by God to stand up and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives. As Mordecai told Esther over twenty-five hundred years ago, God may have called each of us **"for such a time as this. And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: 'Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" Esther 4:13-14**

Around 67 AD after Paul had taken the Gospel around the world he lands in Rome in prison for the second time during the intense persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire by the Emperor Nero. Paul knows that his time on earth is about to end and his time in eternity is about to begin. **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."** 2 Timothy 4:3-7

A short time later, Peter the man who was chosen by Jesus to take the Gospel to the Jews and Gentiles and to establish His church, is also executed in Rome in 67 AD. **"Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.¹⁶ For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'¹⁸ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain."** 2 Peter 1:15-18

The demons in hell cheer and the gates of heaven rejoice as these two saints are ushered into eternity into the presence of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that they have faithfully served until death. We also remember as Satan cheers the death of these two dear saints, the words of Jesus to Peter that will stand the test of time until Jesus returns again! **"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."** Matthew 16:17-19

The attacks on the church, Christians, and the name of Jesus continue as the Apostle John is exiled to the island of Patmos in 93 AD. Here alone on this island John writes the final book of the Bible and reveals God's final victory when Jesus returns in the promise of redemption. **"I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,' and 'What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.'"** Revelation 1: 9-11

As the intensity of persecution continues through today for Christians around the world we are reminded of the words from Paul written over nineteen hundred years ago! **"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** Romans 8:37-39

No world government, power, or Satanic activity and attacks will ever stop God's Word from being fulfilled as will be revealed in the book of Revelation. The key question is will you wait to see how things will end during the Great Tribulation or will you stop fighting and believe in the name of Jesus? Jesus is the only name that will save you from an eternity of being separated from the One who loves you and died for you. What will you decide to do? **For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."** Romans 10:13

Great Tribulation Begins, Jesus Returns!

Revelation 13:8-9 "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear."



64. 2015 A.D.?

65. 2015 A.D.?

All hell on earth is about to be unleashed as the final week of Daniel's prophecy from 535 BC written over twenty-five hundred years ago is about to begin. A time of death and terror unlike any time ever experienced in the history of mankind. **"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."** Daniel 9:26-27

Evil will reign and escalate on the earth for three and a half years during the final week or seven years until God's promise of redemption is fulfilled when Jesus returns. Until Jesus returns, death and terror reign. **"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."** Revelation 13:5-10

No one knows the exact time of this fulfillment of these prophecies of John, Daniel and Ezekiel's made over twenty-five hundred years ago, but many believe the time is near. **"And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,"** says the Lord God, **'that My fury will show in My face. ¹⁹ For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: "Surely in that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, ²⁰ so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places will fall, and every wall will fall to the ground."** ²¹ I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,' says the Lord God. **'Every man's sword will be against his brother. ²² And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. ²³ Then I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD."** Ezekiel 38:18-23

Satan wages war against believers and the nation of Israel until the words of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, and the Apostle John are fulfilled as Jesus returns to defeat Satan, the beast, and the false prophet. **"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth**

goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” Revelation 19:11-16, 19-21

There is nothing to fear for those who have trusted in the name of Jesus. Evil will reign for the final seven year time period on earth with an escalation of the ultimate evil for the final three and a half years, until Jesus returns to defeat Satan and his demons. God's Word will be fulfilled, as promised. The key question is are you ready? Do you want to see and go through this period of terror on earth? **Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20** Let the power of God overwhelm you today as you trust and believe in the name of Jesus to save you today from a lifetime of separation from God!

Jesus Rules While Satan Is Bound for One Thousand Years!

Revelation 20:2-3 "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished."



66. 2015 A.D.?

67. 2015 A.D.?

Satan was defeated by Jesus when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of mankind, was buried and resurrected by God on the third day. Paul preached the message and the power of the Gospel to defeat Satan when he spoke to King Agrippa. **"But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."** Acts 26:16-18

Satan's power to try to keep man from experiencing God's forgiveness and grace was broken by Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross. While Jesus' body laid in the grave He descended into hell to announce His victory over Satan. **"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison."** 1 Peter 3:18-19 **"Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."** Colossians 2:14-15

Satan was utterly defeated by Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross at Calvary. Satan knows his time is short and with the pride and arrogance that only the devil can show he still thinks he can defeat Jesus. When Jesus returns on a white horse with His army of saints behind him, God's angel casts Satan into the bottomless pit for one thousand years. **"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."** Revelation 20:1-4

During this glorious thousand year period as the saints rule the earth with Jesus there is one final battle that needs to be completed. So in spite of living for one thousand years with Jesus and the saints ruling the earth, people born during this period still have the free will to choose to believe and follow Jesus. Unfortunately, many are still tricked and deceived and the devil is released for a short time setting up the final battle with Satan and the nations that follow him. **"Now when the thousand years have expired,**

Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”
Revelation 20:7-12

Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Do you want to avoid any possibility of going through the worst terror the world will ever see in the history of mankind? This message is not an attempt to scare you but to make you realize that God's Son Jesus died for you to keep you from going to hell and being eternally separated from the presence of God. “ **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,** ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood,– the forgiveness of sins.¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” **Colossians 1:15-20** This is the message: God loved you enough to send Jesus to the cross for your sins and to give you eternal life in heaven. Will you believe and receive Jesus in your life today?

God Creates a New Heaven and New Earth and Jesus Establishes His New Kingdom and New Earth!

Revelation 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."



68. 2015 A.D.?

69. 2015 A.D.?

In spite of some of the teaching today that there is no literal hell where unbelievers will be separated from God for eternity and tormented day and night, forever and ever, God's Word has this to say. **"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."** Revelation 20:7-12

Now the final chapter in God's promise of redemption is about to take place as He fulfills the promise made in a vision given to John the Apostle on the Island of Patmos, around 90 AD almost two thousand years ago. **"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."** Revelation 21:1-4

Then these beautiful words that many believers have come to love take on a different meaning as God is about to establish His new heaven and earth for all eternity. **"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'⁶ And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.'"** Revelation 21:5-8 Yes, there is a literal heaven and a literal hell that God's Word teaches and it will be fulfilled as God's Word teaches.

The glory, splendor, wonder, and beauty of the new Jerusalem is revealed by God. **"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor**

into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:22-27

Finally, all of God's promises are being fulfilled and enjoyed for all eternity by those who have trusted in the precious blood of the Lamb, shed for the sins of mankind and to those who have believed and trusted in the name of JESUS! **"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."** Revelation 22:1-5

The only question left to answer is: Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? If not, why wait and think that maybe the book of Revelation is a metaphor and will not really happen. It is real and it will happen as sure as the sun rises each day, God's Word will be fulfilled literally, each and every word. So, come by faith and let God's Holy Spirit seal you for all eternity as you participate in Revelation 19, 20, 21 and 22 as a believer! Come! **"But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."** John 6:36-38 Come, there is no better time than now, before the Great Tribulation begins!

Jesus Is Coming Again, Be Ready!

Revelation 22:6-7 "Then he said to me, 'These words are faithful and true.' And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 'Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.'"



70. Perhaps Today?

John is given a beautiful revelation of the new heaven and new earth that is to come. **"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."** Revelation 22:1-5

The curse on humanity because of the sin of Adam and Eve is ended as God recreates the beauty that existed before sin entered into the world. **"So the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.' ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."** Genesis 3:14-15 God's promise of redemption was fulfilled through Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for the sins of the world. **"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."** John 3:14-17

As the book of Revelation closes, Jesus delivers an important message to the church in 90 AD and to the church today. **"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.' Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶ 'I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.' ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."** Revelation 22:12-17

The Lamb slain before the foundation of the world and written about in the Psalms in 1000 BC and in Isaiah in 711 BC is calling out to all who thirst for forgiveness. To come to the only One who can satisfy the thirst within the soul that calls out to God for grace, mercy, and forgiveness. **"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear."** Revelation 13:8-9 King David wrote

these words about Jesus; **“For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. ¹⁸They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”** Psalm 22:16-18 Then from Isaiah; **“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Isaiah 53:5-6

Then a final warning is issued to those who would like to interpret the book of Revelation as fiction, a metaphor, or as an allegory from God. This vision and prophecy from John will happen, and we are to take the Word of God seriously. **“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”** Revelation 22:18-19

So there is only one thing left to do and that is to come to the only One who can feed the hunger and quench the thirst for forgiveness within the human heart, Jesus! **“And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.’”** John 6:35-37 Will you come? Jesus is waiting with His arms open to receive you into the kingdom of God, by faith.