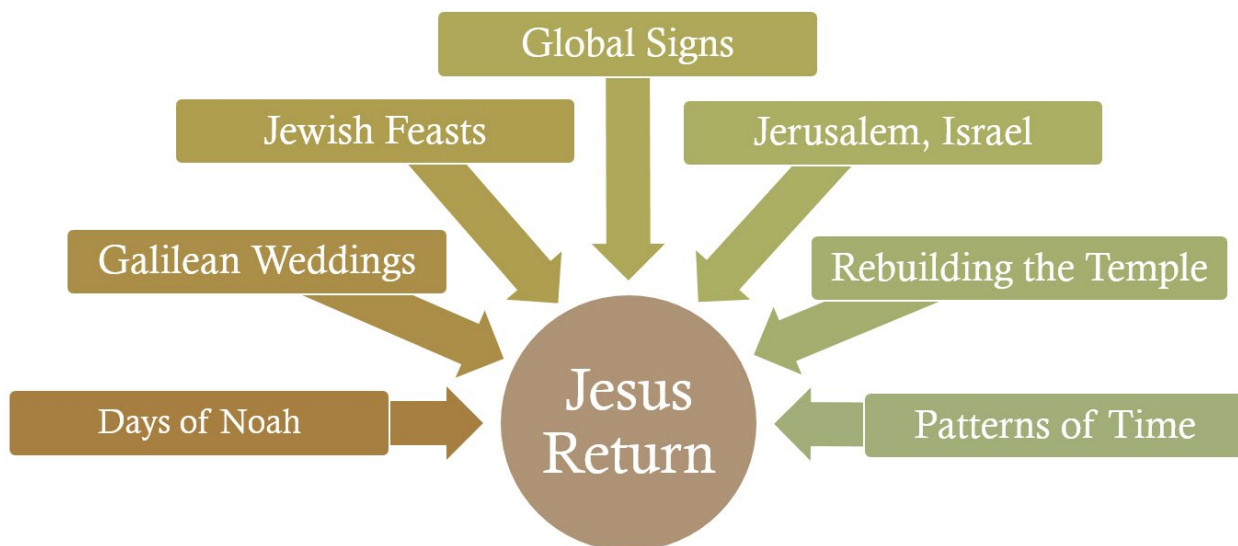


# The Great Convergence

## The Generation That Sees Jesus Return

Matthew 24:34 (ESV) Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

## The Convergence of Signs, Clues, Events, Patterns and Times



Not just a few signs, or a couple of clues or coincidences... all the Biblical indicators are converging!

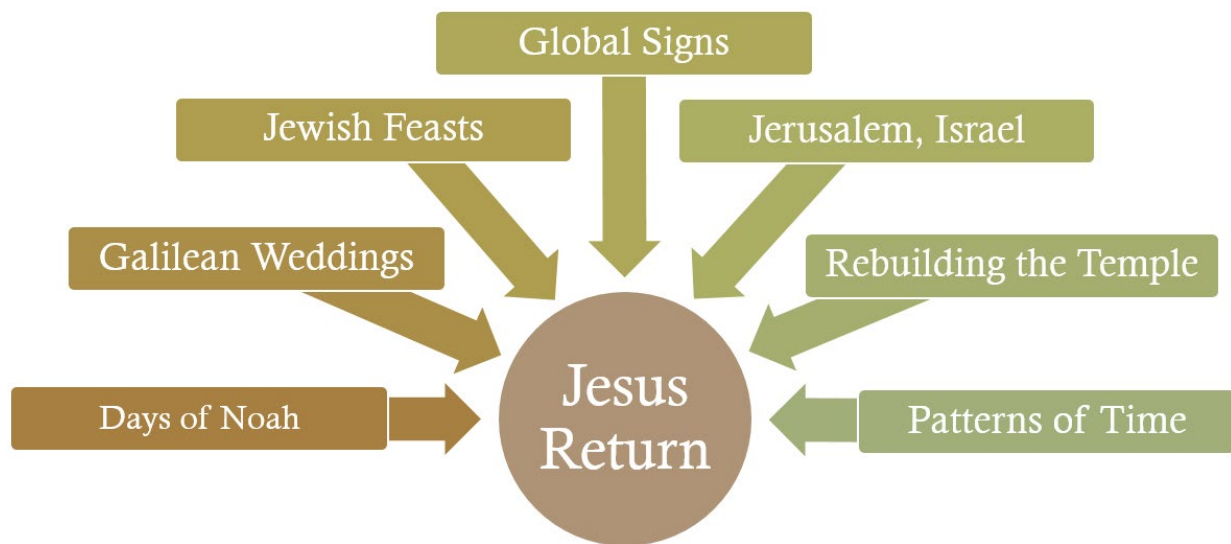
# The Great Convergence – Why Prophecy Matters

*Note: this is not going to be written in typical book form. It is written how I write my sermon and teaching notes so you can use it to teach.*

For the first time in human history we are seeing not just a few signs, or one set of signs, or a few prophecies coming into focus.

**We are seeing a convergence of every prophetic consideration in Scripture and world events.**

## The Convergence of Signs, Clues, Events, Patterns and Times



Not just a few signs, or a couple of clues or coincidences... all the Biblical indicators are converging!

We typically hear about the “signs of the times” and that is accurate but there is so much more.

- We have returned to “as in the days of Noah”
- We see the pattern of the Jewish Galilean Wedding play out
- We are seeing the imminent fulfillment of the final three Jewish feasts
- We are seeing all the global signs that the Scripture clearly lays out
- God’s timeclock, Jerusalem, points to the midnight hour
- We are seeing plans for the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple
- And patterns of time seem to clearly point to Jesus soon return.

If the typical Christian is not passion about this, and cannot describe/explain why it appears Jesus will return very soon (when, how, why) then how can we expect unbelievers to be convicted, excited or moved to respond?

## This Generation

### Matthew 24:32–35 (ESV): The Lesson of the Fig Tree

32 “From the fig tree **learn its lesson**: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, **you know that summer is near**. 33 So also, **when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates**. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

- Just like the fig tree becoming tender and sprouting leaves means summer is near, “when you see all these things”, the time is near, Jesus is at the door!
- “At the very gates” – not a hundred miles down the road on the way but standing right outside the gate!
- Comparing “the time is near” to “at the very gates” we know Jesus is not saying “I’m just a few centuries away”. He’s saying “get ready, here I come!”
- **The generation that see “these things”** (the signs Jesus describes, in particular the “abomination of desolation” in Daniel 9) **will not pass away before Jesus returns**.

## Watch Therefore

Jesus said we don’t know the exact time, the “day or hour” but Jesus clearly tells us we should be looking for the signs so that we know when the time is near.

- *Note: “day or hour”, is there a clue is found in the Feast of Trumpets? More on this later.*

## Watch, Be Ready

**What is everyone talking about?** What do you talk about a lot? Elections, politics, viruses, current events, media, sports. Why?

- Because they are deemed important, relevant, critical, concerning, interesting.

How many times have YOU talked about politics, money or pandemics?

- Have you only talked about these things once or twice?
- When it comes to these topics you don’t hear “Oh I’ve already discussed that... no need to talk about it again”

I often teach a group and ask them “What things are most people are really knowledgeable about?”

- I get the typical answers of our professions, hobbies, sports, entertainment, news which is correct for most including Christians.

Then I have them tell me, “what’s THE most important thing in life?” Of course the answer is “Jesus” or “salvation” or “Christianity” which is correct.

- Given that answer, I ask them to consider how much time they talk about Christian things?
- Do they wake up thinking about God, go to bed thinking about Jesus (like those other topics)?

Is the “Return of the King” on their mind constantly (and I don’t mean the Lord of the Rings which sadly most Christians know more about than prophecy)?

- Interesting side note: often I give out “test” that lists the 17 most basic concepts in Christianity (faith, sanctification, redemption, etc) and ask them to do a simple “match the term to the definition” test
- Invariably, very few can define even half the list (included at the end of this study if interested).

If I do a “fill in the blank” straight definition test, most cannot define even 3-4 basic Christian terms.

- What does it say about Christians when we know little about “the most important thing in life” but reams about temporal stuff that doesn’t matter in eternity?
- Not saying knowing stuff about this life is unimportant; I’m only comparing it to our lack of Godly knowledge

What is more important? More critical, more relevant?

- Whether your guy won the election, or if your football team made the playoffs, or even being an expert at your job?
- Being an expert at your job, sports, hobbies or culture?
- Or is Jesus’ Return, the Tribulation, the Rapture, salvation more important?

We often say one thing, but the manifestation of our life declares something else entirely.

## Prophecy Ignored

People think prophecy is a “fringe” topic focused on by the “extremists”.

- Prophecy does not grow churches because there is so much Biblical illiteracy, disunity and controversy.

- Studies have shown that only 2% of sermons today teach from prophetic passages though roughly 1/3rd of the Bible is prophetic.
- Prophecy is what sets the Bible apart from all other “holy books”
- Perhaps our lack of knowledge about prophecy is why we are not more excited about the Bible or the Rapture!

Hosea 4:6 (ESV) 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

When we see prophecy being fulfilled (we have to know it first) it gives us confidence in God’s promises and that Jesus is who He says He is!

### **The Laodicean Effect**

Revelation 3:14-07 *The Lukewarm Church*

14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

We have it so good now [prosperous, in need of little or nothing], we don’t want to talk about leaving it behind and there is no critical circumstances or suffering making us long for heaven.

- We want to experience things first, get married, watch our kids grow up, get everything out of this life first.
- Christians who suffer in poverty, persecution and neglect want Jesus to come back every moment of every day.
- We don’t want the world to dislike us or reject us because we going around announcing “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!”

2 Peter 3:3–4 (ESV) 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

- Growing worldliness, decreasing relevance, and powerlessness in the Church coupled with increasing evil in our world cultivates scoffers who declare “where is your Jesus?”
- “You’re a lunatic!” (Like Noah, more on that later)

- “You’re just like all those other ridiculous religions!”

Or worse, we dilute Christianity down to self-help therapy, devoid of topics like “sin” and “Hell”, perfectly comfortable with other beliefs.

This is the great apostasy the Bible declares of the last days:

### 2 Thessalonians 2 *The Great Apostasy*

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

### What’s the Point?

Think about it... what’s the point of the entire Bible story if we leave out the end (prophecy)? If we stop the story at “personal salvation” rather than seeing it all the way through to “Jesus is Glorified!”, then we change the focus.

- We leave out the result, the purpose: to prepare a Bride for the Son and to fulfill the promises God made to His Chosen People of Israel.
- For many, it’s simply fire insurance against ending up in Hell making the Bible story and God’s plan ABOUT ME instead of about JESUS.

### The Purpose of this Message

Isaiah 46:10 (ESV) 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

My goal with what I'm about to teach you is to hopefully convince you that:

1. Prophecy is important
2. Prophecy validates Scripture
3. Prophecy proves God is the only one and true God
4. Prophecy builds our confidence in our faith and
5. The Bible seems to be screaming that Jesus will return VERY soon!

I hope to get your mind fixated on the one thing that really matters:

- Jesus return and telling people He is coming back.
- We need "Noah's" who will sound the call (more on that later).

You could sum it up as:

- Jesus is about to return, do you really believe that?
- If yes, do you have an appetite to learn all you can about it?
- If yes, does your conversation, thoughts and use of time give evidence that you genuinely believe it?
- Are you ready for His return not only with regards to repentance but also "going about your Father's business"?

Will Jesus say to you, "well done good and faithful servant" and catch you up to be with Him? Or will you be left behind to face God's judgment and wrath on the world who has ignored His plea to repent?

I'm going to take you through overwhelming Scriptural and logical evidence that the return of Jesus seems to be very, very near.



# The Days of Noah



Matthew 24:37–39 (ESV): For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

What was situation in “Noah’s day”?

- By conservative population growth estimates, the world was populated probably with about as many people as today
- The world was so wicked there was only one family who cared about God. Think about that... one family in the whole world.
- The world wasn’t just “not good”, they continually thought of ways to be wicked.
- They were only concerned for the flesh: partying, doing whatever feels good, accumulating wealth, comfort, security and indulgences.
- They mocked the one who was not like them or spoke against it.
- They ignored any warnings that judgment was coming.

But maybe most revealing, they were apathetic.

**Apathy**



Apathy is a disinterest, lack of passion or genuine concern.

- Noah preached the coming judgment for 120 years and no one cared
- No one considered it and probably grew bored after really making fun of Noah at first
- No one had any concern or interest in what God had to say or what He was about to do

2Peter 3:3-4 (ESV): knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

- Isn't this the message of today?
- Christians have been preaching "repent" and the "coming judgment" for 2000 years and the only result is the world cares less and less

"Hey Noah, you've been saying God was going to destroy us for over a hundred years! When are you going to give up? Where is your God?"

"Hey Christian, you keep saying Jesus is coming soon but I've been hearing that all my life. Why don't you quit being a religious nut and admit that there is no God? Better yet, quit being intolerant of other religions and join us."

### **Marriage and Given in Marriage**

"Marrying and given in marriage" – complacent, unconcerned about potential disruption or anything that might ruin your plans or make it hard to be married.

- You don't plan a wedding if you think a pandemic or world war will be happening
- You don't plan a wedding if you believe God's wrath is about to rain
- If anyone would have believed Noah, they wouldn't have been making life long plans

We have truly returned to the days of Noah.

- We probably have roughly the same population.
- It has been 2000 years since Jesus was on the Earth (same amount of time from Adam to Noah; more on that later)
- The world is ignoring obvious truth and embracing a sea of lies (politics, religion, science, news, media, big tech, etc)

- The world mocks anyone who declares Jesus is about to return (even much of Christianity snickers at the “fringe religious nuts”)

The world is waiting until its too late and then there will be no escaping the wrath of God and the Judgment that follows.

- No one thought what Noah was saying would ever happen.
- After 100+ years of hearing the same thing, each day was confirmation that things would “go on like they always have”.
- No one believes the “Noah’s of our day” ...

### **There Has to Be Some Noah’s**

I have heard a lot of teaching about “the days of Noah” describing how our current times clearly parallel those times.

What I rarely hear is someone say the obvious: just like there was a “Noah” then, there must be Christians being “Noah” today.

- At the end of times, there must be some who are the “Noah” of their day.
- There must be Christians willing to be called “nuts”, “fringe”, “extremists” for preaching the coming judgment.
- There must be Christians who are willing to declare consistently without losing heart, maybe for years or decades, that Jesus is about to return and unless the sinner repents, they will face the wrath of God poured out on the Jesus-rejecting world.

Are you “Noah” to your friends, family, community and Church?

Someone has to be the “lunatic down the street” who constantly talks about Jesus coming back soon and “you better be ready”.

Now, let’s look at the overwhelming amount of prophetic evidence that is converging right before our eyes today.

# The Galilean Wedding



2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (NKJV) 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

While the Old Testament is the story of God's redemption of fallen creation, and His unilateral covenant to His chosen people, the Jews, every bit of that story, their customs, feasts, worship and daily lives was a shadowy picture of Jesus.

- The New Testament brings that “mystery” into focus.
- One very clear picture is that of Jesus coming to earth the first time for one purpose, and then to return again to fulfill another... we find this veiled description in the Galilean wedding tradition.

## The Galilean Wedding Tradition

The pattern of the Galilean wedding helps reveal the mystery of the Rapture and the 2nd Coming of Jesus. It is a remarkable and specific picture of exactly what has, and what will occur between the Bride (Church) and the Groom (Jesus).

### Bride of Christ

The Church is the Bride of Christ. Scripture is very clear on this:

- 2 Corinthians 11:1-2 (ESV): 11 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me! 2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

- Revelation 19:7–8 (ESV): Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” —

The wedding pattern has been followed by Galilean Jews for centuries. Jesus was Galilean. His disciples were Galilean.

- The Galilean wedding is a year long sequence of events that perfectly foretells the events of the return of Jesus.
- In Old Testament times, an engagement/wedding was the most important event in anyone’s life.

**The bridegroom begins the marriage tradition by leaving his father's house and traveling to the home of the prospective bride.**

- Jesus left His Father's house in heaven and traveled to the earth; the home of His prospective Church (bride)
- Jesus came to earth to obtain the Church (bride) through the establishment of a covenant.
- John 6:32–33 (NKJV) 32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
- John 6:51 (NKJV) 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

The father of the bride officiated the betrothal (engagement) between the groom and the bride.

- He would read the conditions of the engagement and pay the price required for the Bride.
- God the Father sets the conditions of salvation and paid the price for Jesus Bride by offering His Son as payment.

The engagement was held at the city gates among the religious leaders along with as many witnesses as would hear and attend.

- The terms of the marriage covenant was publicly read and agree upon by the bride and groom.
- From that point on, neither the Bride and Groom or the witnesses could never claim they were unaware of the terms.

Then gifts were exchanged with the most extravagant being given to the Bride.

- The grooms dowry was a down payment to take care of the Bride.
- Jesus made the down payment for His Bride with the payment of his life.

The groom is handed a pitcher of wine.

- He pours it into a ceremonial cup that is offered to the Bride – called the “cup of joy”.
  - Communion, the shed blood, the grooms “life” blood is shared by the Groom (Jesus) and the Bride (Church)
- The groom presents the cup, and the Bride is now at the moment of choice to accept or reject the proposal.
  - This is a picture of our response to the Gospel; we can accept or reject the Father’s terms, the covenant offer

Unlike all other worldly wedding customs, in the Galilean wedding the Bride got to choose to accept or reject the Groom (the Gospel)

- Once the wine is drank by the Bride, it is an irrevocable covenant
  - Once we partake in the sacrifice of Jesus and are spiritually reborn and His Bride, it irrevocable
- Assurance of salvation paid for by Jesus shed blood

The Groom then says publicly “you are now consecrated to me by the law of Moses and I will not drink this cup again with you until we drink it together in my Fathers house”.

- At the Last Supper, Jesus said the same thing to His Bride after presenting the Cup to the disciples.
- Matthew 26:29 (ESV) I tell you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom”

Jesus established an eternal covenant through His blood. His Holy Spirit is the "ring" (if you will) - sealing the bride with a guarantee that He will return for her.

- Hebrews 13:20 (NKJV) 20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
- Luke 22:20 (NKJV) 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

- Ephesians 1:13 (NKJV) 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

The breaking of bread and drinking from the cup by Jesus would have been instantly understood by the disciples as the event that kicked off a well known series of events.

- The Groom (Jesus) is now betrothed to the Bride (Church) and the Lords Supper foreshadowed a series of events perfectly paralleling the Galilean wedding.

A year long journey begins as people return to their lives as the real work to prepare for the wedding begins.

- They will live apart the entire time up until the day of the wedding feast.
- The Groom is now responsible for all preparation of the wedding feast just as Jesus now prepares our home and our feast.

He acquires materials and plans to build and furnish a new house for his bride that is attached to His fathers house.

- John 14:2 (NKJV) 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"Mansion" is not what we think of as a mansion.

- Wrong: "I've got a mansion just over the hill top"
- Wrong: "I don't want some shack, I'm getting me a mansion!"

This verse uses the term *monai*, which literally means "dwelling places" or "rooms".

- Translations such as the KJV have rendered this as "mansions."
- Many have latched onto this in a very literal way, imagining that Jesus is promising physical palaces for all Christians in heaven.

Jesus says these *monai* are in His "Father's House," using the expression *tē oikia*, which can mean a physical house or a family dwelling.

- The "*tē oikia*" was the fathers house (God).
- Mansion (*monai*) was a room in the Father's house.
- Every person in that time would have immediately and clearly understood what Jesus was saying.
- We don't want to live apart from the Father... we want to live WITH Him in His house!



The Galileans would have instantly understood that the Groom must now go away to prepare a home for his Bride as he declares his promise to return to get his Bride.

- John 14:3 (ESV) 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- Jesus said “I’m going away but I’ll be back to get you and (not so I can be with you but...) take you to be WHERE I AM”

Meanwhile, the Bride goes about preparing herself, keeping her self pure, thinking only of the Grooms return and knows it will be a while and not exactly sure of the “day or hour”... she must always be ready.

- The Bride goes to great expense (personal sacrifice) to prepare and honor the Groom with her lifestyle, purity and vigilance.

Typically about 1 year would pass while the wedding feast and festivities were being prepared at the Fathers house.

- Again, the day and hour of its occurrence was only known to one person: the Father! Sound familiar:
- Mark 13:32 “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Everyone else generally knows the sequence, the typical timing, and could watch the preparations knowing the time was getting closer and closer.

- We see the signs converging, the prophecies being fulfilled, the sequence of events and preparation...
- We don’t know the exact day and hour, but we can know the return of the Groom (Jesus) is getting nearer, and then very near when everything is prepared.

But only the Father could say “Now! Go get your Bride”, even the son (Jesus) doesn’t know.

- Jesus said we could know “the season” and know the time is approaching so we can prepare and be encouraged.

It’s interesting that Jesus says “look up”. You walk around all the time looking up, so Jesus is not saying “look up even though it’s still going to be a very long time”. You look up when something is imminent (a sunrise, a shooting star, a storm, etc).

- Like any Groom (and Jesus is the perfect Groom) can you imagine the excitement Jesus has now that all the preparations are done and Jesus is just waiting for the Father to say “GO!”

- At the same time, the Bride, separated from Groom has equal and growing anticipation and excitement knowing the time is near.

Today we have two extremes: date setters, and those who say “we don’t know, so there’s no point thinking about it or getting overly excited”.

- Date setters are always wrong driving people from God when the dates fail because they make Christians look foolish and seems to declare to the world that Bible cannot be trusted.
- “Don’t know, don’t care” keeps people from being excited and anticipating and totally ignores how a Bride should feel about the long awaited return of her Groom.

### **Parable of the Wedding**

Matthew 25:1-13 (NKJV) 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12 But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

The parable about the groom and his return like a thief in the night is a picture of Jesus return.

- They Bride was dressed, ready and had “oil in the lamp”, alert to the expectant return of the Groom.

In the Galilean wedding, they knew the Groom would come in the middle of the night (unexpectedly). **Traditionally, she slept in her wedding dress!**

- The symbolism is clear... while the world is “asleep” only the Bride is prepared for an any moment return of the Groom.
- Warning: of the 10 waiting in the bridal party waiting for the Groom, only 5 had enough oil and were not caught off guard.

“Oil” is symbolic for the Holy Spirit.

- Lesson: some people will appear to be part of the Bridal party, but in reality they are not (tares, false Christians, religion).

### **Time To Go**

When the Father says “Go!” to the Groom, the Son gets a trumpet (shofar) and sets off for the Bride with the wedding party in a wedding procession.

- Most likely symbolized in the Feast of Trumpets, the next feast to be fulfilled (more on that later).

Two men would carry Bride away, lifting her in to the air on a seat (like a medical litter only with a seat).

- The Galileans referred to this as “flying the Bride to the Fathers house”!
- This is symbolic of the Rapture, the catching away.
- It’s not HER effort or her power or her walking, it’s the Father and Groom carrying her away!
- Again, an exact picture of the Rapture.

John 14:3 (ESV) 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (NIV) 13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

- From the moment the Bride is carried away (“flown to the Fathers house”), she is forever with Groom.
- From the moment the Church (Bride) is “caught up” (Raptured), the Church will forever be with Jesus (Groom).

**The wedding feast now begins.**

Revelation 19:6-9 (ESV) The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Upon arrival there, the wedding party would find that the wedding guests had assembled already.

- In the same manner, Christ and the church (bride) will find the souls of Old Testament saints assembled in heaven when they arrive.
- These souls serve as the wedding guests.

Shortly after arrival, the bride (remaining veiled) and groom would be escorted by the other members of the wedding party to the bridal chamber (*huppah*).

- While the groomsmen and bridesmaids would wait outside, the bride and groom would enter the bridal chamber alone.
- There in the privacy of that place they would enter into physical union for the first time ~ consummating the marriage that was covenanted earlier.
- Parallel to the custom of the Jewish groom and bride entering into physical union after their arrival and thereby consummating the marriage that was covenanted earlier, Christ and the church (bride) will experience spiritual union after their arrival in heaven; thereby consummating their relationship covenanted earlier.

After the marriage was consummated, the groom would announce the consummation to the other members of the wedding party waiting outside the chamber.

- These people would in turn pass this news on to the wedding guests.

Upon hearing this good news, the wedding guests would begin the feast and celebrate for the next 7 days.

- During those 7 days of the wedding festivities (sometimes called "the 7 days of huppah"), the bride remained hidden in the bridal chamber.

- In correspondence with the Jewish bride remaining hidden in the bridal chamber for 7 days after arrival at the groom's father's house, **the church (bride) will remain hidden for a period of 7 years after arrival in heaven.**
  - While the great Tribulation occurs on earth, a pouring out of God's wrath that the Bride is protected from
  - **1Thessalonians 5:9 God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**
- While the 7 year tribulation period is taking place on earth, **the church will be hidden from the sight of those living on the earth.**

At the conclusion of the 7 days, the groom would bring his bride out of the bridal chamber, now with her veil removed, so that all could see who his bride was.

- **So Christ will bring the Church (Bride) out of heaven at His second coming at the conclusion of the 7-year tribulation in full view of all who are alive, so that all can see who the true Church (Bride) is.**

**Colossians 3:4 (NKJV) 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

**Jude 14 (NKJV) 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints..."**

**Isaiah 26:20 "Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain."**

**The Father's House along with the new room for the Bride and Groom is exactly what God says He is preparing for us.**

**1Corinthians 2:9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"**

During this time, the Galilean Father closes the door to the house for 7 days to keep out all those who have rejected the invitation or whose commitment to preparing fell short (the lamps with no oil).

- They are left behind.
- No one leaves, no one comes in.

- In Galilean custom, if you were locked out, you could not enter, no exceptions.

Think about it: **everyone in the community would have known** about the wedding, would have been welcome at the wedding **but they rejected the invitation or were too lazy or apathetic or distracted to be prepared.**

### **Why Is Prophecy Important?**

Because it declares God's wrath is coming but says the Bride will escape it and be protected behind the closed doors.

- God in His sovereignty caused the Galileans to practice a wedding tradition for hundreds of years that exactly mirrors Jesus the Groom and His Bride the Church!
- For those with open spiritual eyes who are alert, the symbolism is perfectly clear.



# The Jewish Feasts



## Jewish Feasts Foreshadow Jesus & are Fulfilled in Jesus

There are seven Feasts that have been observed for centuries by the Jewish people.

Keep in mind that every aspect of Jewish life was symbolic of salvation, the Messiah and the events of the “day of the Lord”. The feasts are a perfect picture of not only Christ but also of the sequence and timing of God’s plan for humanity and the ultimate goal of glorify His Son.

In Leviticus 23, God speaks to Moses about **seven feasts**. Observant Jews still celebrate them now.

- **Leviticus 23:1–2 (ESV)** 1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, **These are the appointed feasts of the LORD** that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

The word **moadim** in Hebrew is usually translated feast, but literally means “**appointed times**.”

- These were not traditions thought up by men, these were declared by God.

- The Jewish feasts were arranged in such a way as to remind the Jewish people of God and His ways, **but to also point to a Messiah**, a Savior.
- That promised One is Jesus.

**Four feasts occur in the spring** and are connected to Jesus' first appearance on earth.

- They are **Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits**, and Weeks.

**Three feasts in the fall** are bunched into fifteen days.

- Scholars and theologians believe the symbolism of these last three feasts will be literally fulfilled in connection with Jesus' second coming consistent with the first four feasts very obviously having been fulfilled by Jesus.
- They are the **Trumpets**, the **Day of Atonement**, and **Tabernacles**.

Here's how all seven feasts, described in Leviticus 23, are connected with Jesus.

## **Passover (Fulfilled)**

**In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight, is the LORD's Passover. Leviticus 23:5**

Passover points to Jesus as the Passover lamb.

**1 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) 7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. **For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.****

- An unblemished, perfect lamb's blood was spilled to protect the Hebrews from the tenth plague prior to their release from Egypt.

Jesus' blood serves as our covering against the justice brought against us due to our sin.

- On the 10th day of Nisan, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.
- This happened on the very same day that the Israelites were to select their unblemished lambs to be sacrificed by the whole congregation four days later (Ex. 12:3-6).
- Like the unblemished lambs, Jesus was presented to Israel as being perfect (i.e. sinless) before being sacrificed on the 14th day of Nisan or the beginning of Passover (John 19:14).

**Jesus was crucified on the day the Jews slaughtered lambs in preparation for Passover the next day.**

- The Passover lambs died at twilight (Ex. 12:6; Lev. 23:5) as did Jesus (e.g. Matt. 27:45-50).[1]

If the Bible is not true, tell me how these events were organized using Jews, Romans and the people?

- How could this be manufactured to fit “prophecy”?
- For any reasonable person, it is obvious the Jesus is the Messiah because it is logically and statistically impossible for Jesus to have orchestrated these events

It is amazing that people ignore Jesus IMPOSSIBLE fulfillment of all these things.

It's unbelievable what unbelievers have to believe in order to not believe.

## Unleavened Bread

And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. But you shall present a food offering to the Lord for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.” Leviticus 23:6

The feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th of Nisan and lasts for seven days.

- The first and last days of the seven day feast are identified as holy convocations or high Sabbaths.
- The feast looked to recall how the Israelites were not able to add yeast to their bread as they fled from Egypt (Ex. 12:33-34).

The prohibition against eating leavened bread during the feast was so severe that the all of it had to be removed from the Israelites homes.

- If any person did eat leavened bread then he or she was cut off from Israel (e.g. Ex. 12:15).

Recall that Jesus died only hours before sunset on Nisan 14.

- He would have been buried on the 15th of Nisan and thus on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- While the burial of Jesus clearly fulfilled this feast, it is not immediately obvious as to how.
- The answer lies in that Scripture often uses leaven as a picture of sin and its corrupting nature.

- Jesus Himself used leaven in this sense on a few occasions including Mark 8:15 where he compares the Pharisees to leaven.

The burial of Jesus then concluded the Messiah's sinless life and He became the perfect sacrifice.

- The buried body of Jesus was likened to a kernel of wheat planted in the ground that would soon burst forth as the bread of life (John 6:35-51).
- Even the Matzo bread used by Jews in celebrating Passover today is crushed, filled with piercings and wounded.
  - Isaiah 53:5 (ESV) But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

The Unleavened Bread describes Jesus' sinless life.

- Leaven is symbolic of sin throughout the Bible.
- Jesus was without sin and therefore a blameless, spotless, perfect sacrifice for our sins.
- For 3 days Jews must remove leaven (sin) from their home
- Jesus' body remained in the grave during the beginning days of this feast.
- He, like a planted seed, would resurrect into new life.

## First Fruits (Fulfilled)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. Leviticus 23:9-11

The feast of Firstfruits is on the 17th of Nisan.

- On this day the harvest was celebrated by waving a sheaf of the first ripened grain before the LORD.
- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and therefore on the feast of Firstfruits.
- His resurrection was like a wave offering before the Father that signaled that there would be many more to follow (Rom. 8:23).

Romans 8:23 (ESV) 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

James 1:18 (ESV) 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Jesus was **resurrected on the day of First Fruits**, becoming the first to defeat death and offer us new life.

This is one reason Paul refers to Jesus as the "firstfruits" of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20).

- 1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) 20 But in fact **Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

## Feast of Weeks (Fulfilled)

"You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the Lord. Leviticus 23:15-16

Fifty days after the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the 6th of Sivan Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (Greek for fifty) was to be observed.

- This feast commemorated the birth of the nation of God's Chosen people when Moses received the 10 commandments on Sinai.
- **The next "holy nation", the Church was also born on this day.**

Several sacrifices were made during the Weeks Festival, which is tied to the theme of harvest.

- It was at Pentecost (Acts 2) that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit.
- Peter preached and about 3,000 Jews responded to his proclamation of the gospel.
- This Pentecost is considered to be the birth of the church.

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The first four feasts are in Spring (beginning) and the last three are in Fall (end). It is interesting the fulfilled and unfulfilled are grouped together and in sequence.

- Does the long gap of time (summer) also represent the 2000 year gap for the “times of the Gentiles?”
- Romans 11:25 (ESV) 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: **a partial hardening has come upon Israel** [dispersion after rejecting Jesus for 2000 years until now], **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in** [when the age of the Church is over and the Bride is caught up to the Groom, then the hardening of Israel will be dealt with via the Tribulation].
- Spring (Israel, Israel, Israel, Israel), Summer (Church), Fall (Israel, Israel, Israel)

Everything happening beautifully fits the pattern, the logic, the literal version of what the Bible says.

- No need to spiritualize or declare the Church is now Israel.

## Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah (Yet to be fulfilled)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the Lord.” Leviticus 23:23-25

The Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah, is the **first fall feast**.

- *Scripture never tells us what this feast was meant to commemorate* but identifies it as a holy convocation or high Sabbath but many connect this to the rapture, when Jesus appears as He returns for the Church, as it is announced by the blast of a trumpet.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (ESV) 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, **and with the sound of the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in



the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:52 (ESV) 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

- The trumpet reminded the Jewish people of their past, such as God's giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 20).
- It was a reminder of God's power and, as the start of a new religious year, meant to remind the people to remain faithful to God.

The feast is also associated with God's coming judgment.

- The prophet Joel tells Israel to blow a trumpet because the day of the LORD could come at any moment

Joel 2:1 (ESV) 1 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near

## Day of Atonement (Yet to be fulfilled)

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the Lord. And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the Lord your God. Leviticus 23:26-28

Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement is observed on the 10th of Tishri and is the most holy day among the Israelites.

- This is the last of the high holy days and also the last opportunity during the year for sins to be confessed and atoned for.
- By fasting and refraining from work the people played out what it would be like to receive the death sentence for a day.
- All that could be done was to throw oneself at the mercy of the court and seek the forgiveness of God based on His merit alone.

The Second Coming of Messiah fits the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement best.

- On this day the final remnant of the Jews will look upon Him whom they have pierced and weep bitterly (Zech. 12:10).

Zechariah 12:10 (ESV) 10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. [When has this ever happened?]

- The Jewish people will then come to experience true atonement by throwing themselves at the mercy of Jesus their Messiah.

Jesus required that the Jewish nation say of Him, “blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” before they would see Him again.

- Matthew 23:39 (ESV) 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

At last this requirement will be fulfilled and Jesus will return to Earth.

- Zechariah 14:4 (ESV) 4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. [When has this ever happened in the past? How you can spiritualize this?]

Many believe this festival points prophetically to *Jesus' second coming* when atonement is fully realized and the Jewish remnant recognizes Jesus as Messiah after He rescues Israel from sure destruction (Armageddon).

- Romans 11:1–6 (ESV) 1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” 4 But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.
- Romans 11:25–31 (ESV) 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; 27 “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” 28 As

regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

## Feast of Tabernacles or Booths (Yet to be fulfilled)

33 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the Lord...42 You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, Leviticus 23:33-34; 42

Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles was to be observed on the 15th of Tishri.

- The feast memorialized the Israelites living in tabernacles when the LORD brought them out of Egypt (Lev. 23:43).

The seventh festival, the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths foreshadows when Jesus will once again dwell with His people.

- Micah 4:1-5 (ESV) 1 It shall come to pass **in the latter days** that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; **and peoples shall flow to it,** 2 **and many nations shall come,** and say: "Come, let us go up to the **mountain of the LORD,** to the house of the God of **Jacob,** **that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.**" **For out of Zion** shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from **Jerusalem.** 3 **He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;** **and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore;** 4 but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

Jesus has already come as Immanuel, "God with us", and dwelled on earth among people to be the Sacrificial Lamb for the sins of the world.

- The Feast of Tabernacles will be fulfilled by the Millennium or Messianic age.

- This is a glorious period when Satan is bound and God in the person of Jesus will tabernacle with His people the same way.
- **Jesus literally tabernacles with man** by being the divine word and taking on flesh.
  - We have two other examples of God tabernacled with humanity: the Garden of Eden, and the Shekinah Glory in the Jewish temple.

Jesus will come to reign for 1,000 years on earth and ultimately live with His people (tabernacle) for all eternity in the new heavens and new earth.

- Revelation 19:11–15 (ESV) 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! **The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.** [This cannot be Heaven, no judging or war necessary] 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, [This cannot be Heaven because there will be no worldly nations that need to be judged] **and he will rule them with a rod of iron.** [This cannot be Heaven, the Eternal time because no rod of iron is necessary] **He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.**
- Revelation 20:1–7 (ESV) 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him **for a thousand years,** 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the **thousand years** were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. 4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for **a thousand years.** 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will

reign with him for a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison

Jesus is flesh and dwells among us:

And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

The Greek *σκηνώω* is translated as *dwelt* here. However, it literally means to **abide in a tabernacle**.

- It is for this reason that Jesus may have even been born of the Feast of Tabernacles.

On the first day of the feast, branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm and other leafy trees were gathered to make the booths (Neh. 8:15).

- Saints coming out of the tribulation to enter the Millennium are described as holding palms in their hand.
- Revelation 7:9-17 (ESV) 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

During the Messianic age there will still be unbelievers on earth and they will be forced to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles or Messiah will allow no rain to fall on their land.

- Zechariah 14 describes events that will take place during the Millennium or Messianic age.
- Zechariah 14:17-18 (ESV) 17 And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. 18 And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

Only one feast is mentioned as being celebrated; **tabernacles** (booths).

- The importance of observing the feast during the Messianic age among even non-believers is striking.
- The fulfilled feast is so connected with the Messianic age that the two are virtually indistinguishable.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the last feast, the last fulfillment, there is nothing left for the Messiah to fulfill (**nor is anything left UNFULFILLED!**)

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See how beautifully a literal understanding of Scripture fits all the different aspects of prophecy, the Jewish life and real life events?

The first four feasts occur in a tight group just like the historical events:

- Feast of Passover – Fulfilled in Christ our Passover lamb
- Feast of Unleavened Bread – Fulfilled in Christ who removed our sin
- Feast of First Fruits – Fulfilled in Christ who was the first fruit of God
- Feast of Pentecost (Weeks) – Fulfilled in Christ when His Bride was born

Then chronologically there is a gap of time (Summer) that perfectly fits the timing of the Church Age.

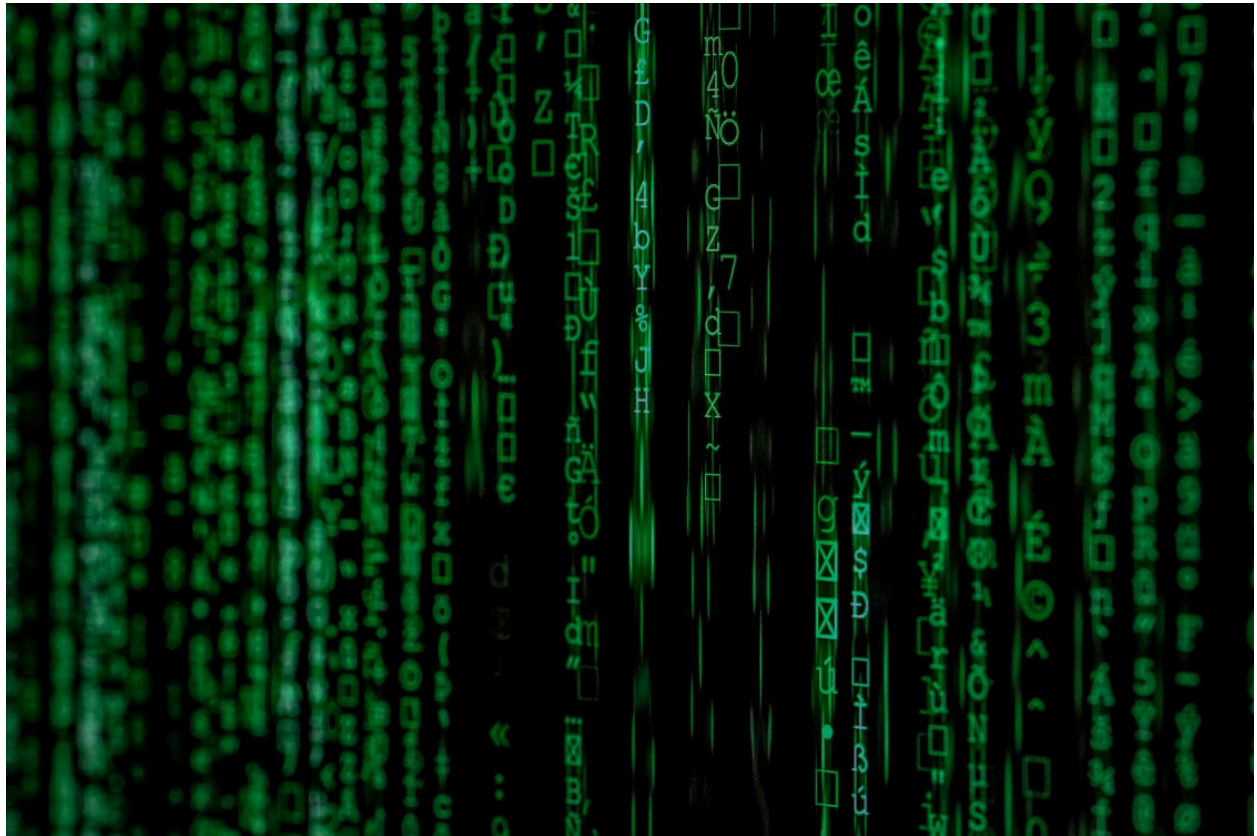
The final three feasts are also grouped tightly just like the events they fulfill:

- Feast of Trumpets – will be fulfilled when Jesus returns with the sound of the trumpet
- Day of Atonement – will be fulfilled when Jesus rescues Israel from sure destruction and they nationally accept Him as Messiah
- Feast of Tabernacles – will be fulfilled when Jesus again tabernacles with His Bride and Chosen People in the Millennial Kingdom

The pattern, timing and consistency is remarkable. Everything is lined up for the final three feasts to be fulfilled.



# The Global Signs



## Jesus Answers

Matthew 24 gives us Jesus longest and most complete answer to when the events of the final days will come to pass. Here are some excerpts from that chapter:

### Matthew 24 (ESV): Signs of the End of the Age

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

### The Abomination of Desolation

15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)...

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. 23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

### The Coming of the Son of Man

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

### The Lesson of the Fig Tree

32 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### No One Knows That Day and Hour

36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

### Birth Pangs

Jesus says the signs will proceed like birth pangs. They will increase in frequency and intensity as the end draws near.

### Instant Global Communication

Revelation 11:9–10 (ESV) 9 For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

- The Bible prophesies that the entire world will simultaneously see certain events unfold.
- The invention of the television and the deployment of global satellite networks during the 20th century allow news to travel the world at the speed of light for the first time ever.
- Remember that in the Apostle John's day, news traveled at the speed of horseback.

For thousands of years, news traveled at the speed of messenger, horse, boat, or runner.

- News could take months or years to spread

Now we have instant global communication where the individual knows the news faster than the news can present it to us.

- Notice in Jesus description the whole world views one event
- The whole world responds in unison to one event
- The whole world buys and ships gifts all over the world

Has this ever been possible until recently? Has there ever been a time when you could send gifts all over the world until now?

## **Global Gospel**

**Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

Most of the world is reached now with the Gospel, and this will be 100% fulfilled during the Tribulation with the 144K Jewish evangelists, 2 witnesses and angels all calling for repentance.

- **Revelation 14:6 (ESV) 6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.**

Today, portions, or the entire Bible, have been translated into over 2,400 languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world's population.

- We certainly have the capability of sharing the Gospel worldwide, only sinful mankind keeps that from occurring in the open.
- **Mark 13:10 (ESV) 10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.**

## Global Travel

**Daniel 12:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."**

- Global Travel has not changed much in 6000 years until this century
- Mass global travel could not have even been imagined 200 years ago and barely imagined 100 years ago

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, few individuals traveled beyond their own communities.

- 3000 years ago, wind power & boats, walking, horse
- 2000 years ago, wind power & boats, walking, horse
- 500 years ago, wind power & boats, walking, horse
- 200 years ago, wind power & boats, walking, horse
- 100 years ago, steam, combustion, rail
- 2019+ Over a billion people will traverse the world through air
- Yet today we travel by car, bus, plane, train, subway, etc.

Millions and millions are running to and fro just as Daniel prophesied 2500 years ago!

## Global Knowledge

**Daniel 12:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."**

We are witnessing an explosion of available knowledge.

- With the advent of the Internet, it is estimated that our cumulative knowledge available to any single person is doubling every five years.
- This exponential increase is beyond what anyone could have imagined!

## Sum of All Knowledge in Your Hand

Several years before high tech and the Internet became known to the public, I was already using and testing Internet-connected phones with email and web browsing.

- It was expensive, simple and limited by today's standards but even then I said many times to people, "one day this device will have everything about us on it, connected to everything about everyone, and will be like carrying around your own computer in your pocket".
- I also knew it would become our "leash" for those in control.

- Even that observation falls far short of what it has become.

### **Growing Interest in “End Times” – Biblical or Otherwise**

Another interesting possibility for the meaning of “knowledge shall increase” is the rediscovery and interest of the knowledge of the “end times”.

- It could be that God meant this in both general terms, and an increasing in prophetic knowledge and/or interest.
- The Bible often gave us shades of something in the Old Testament and the early Church (“mystery”) which has now become crystal clear as we near the end.

Think of all the interest in the “end of human history” by the whole world:

- Biblical (rediscovery of PreMillennial doctrine)
- Pagan versions of the last day by the Aztecs, Myans, etc
- Fantasy end of time (aliens, climate change, apocalypse, evolution)

**Note:** I believe through movies and games (superheroes, aliens, Star Trek, Star Wars, etc) we are being primed to believe in “alien life” (watch for “alien life deniers” to start being a new label).

- As of December 2020, there are news reports now appearing that soon the government is going to “tell us the truth” about their UFO/Alien secrets.
  - Barack Obama recently “joked” that he knows secrets about aliens/ufos that he is not allowed to talk about.
- Once the government weighs in with “facts” then the belief that alien life has already visited us, or is about to, will take hold of the world who already wants to believe it.

This primes the pump for the Antichrist to appear and save us from ourselves announcing “I’m from an advanced civilization; you are destroying yourselves and I’m here to save you.”

- Far fetched? Conspiracy kook?
- Survey the people you know ask how many believe in “life out there”.

### **Global Weather**

**Luke 21:25–26 (ESV) 25 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**

Jesus foresaw the seas and the waves roaring in the last days. He also likened these signs to birth pangs:

- Matthew 24:8 (ESV) 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.
- Romans 8:22 (ESV) 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

As delivery draws near, birth pangs always increase in both intensity and frequency.

- Therefore, the creation itself would travail as the time of delivery draws near.
- Of course, chaotic weather is not new, but there are indications that we are witnessing an increase (or at least the perception of an increase thanks to the media) in strange weather.

Hurricanes, fires, famines, pestilence, droughts, floods, etc; every major weather event is now pronounced proof we are “destroying the earth”.

Luke 21:10–11 (ESV) Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

World sources often say the Bible is wrong because there is no historical increase but this up for debate.

- However, because of “global” everything, the world now notices and responds to weather events all over the earth instead of having isolated knowledge about only their local weather events.
- So, the increase could just be collective perception and perception is reality.
- The world is once again hypocritical: when it comes to Bible prophecy, they claim there is no increase; but when it comes to increasing government control, only “deniers” don’t see the obvious increase.

Is “climate change” (now just a generic term to describe all weather that fits the narrative) caused by man?

- No (or at least it does not matter), God causes it to fulfill His prophetic declarations.
- Man is just using weather to FURTHER GLOBAL CONTROL which in turn is fulfilling even more prophecy.



Be it weather or now viruses, the fear produced by each “world endangering crisis”, causes us to give up our freedom, faith and logic in order to be protected by the same people declaring the crisis.

- The “world” is using this for political goals, God is using the schemes of man to fulfill prophecy.
- We “must” conform to the new “rules” because “climate change is destroying the world” ...
- We “must” do what we are told because COVID is going to kill us all...

Those who disagree or resist are “denier” and increasingly criminalized.

Deadly diseases (which the Bible calls pestilences) will continue to become common occurrences and change the way we live.

- Anyone paying attention the last 30 years knew this was coming it was just a matter of time.

“Public health crisis” are very clearly becoming a means of global control.

- Emerging diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, Hanta virus, Dengue, West Nile, SARS, bird flu, COVID, etc., underscore this fact.
- Ironically, just a few decades ago, some scientists were forecasting that advances in medicine might soon eradicate deadly diseases.
- But close watch of the situation made it very clear we were on the verge of unleashing massive death via viruses.

Luke 21:26 (ESV) 26 **people fainting with fear** and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Fainting with fear literally means “hearts failing” (*apsucho*):

- AP – out of
- SUCHO – psyche, spirit
- “out of inner person or spirit”, a deep fear engulfing the entire person

## **Global Finance**

Revelation 13:16 Also it causes **all**, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that **no one** can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

In the past few decades as discussion of the “end times” gained interest, we were often told that there would end up being one currency, one bank, one



type of money across the globe, just like we were told there would be a “one world government”.

- The reality is that we are seeing right before our eyes is not “one” of anything but “global” everything.
- We don’t need a “one world government” when all the governments of the world can act together as one (as they did recently with COVID).
- We don’t need “one currency” when all the world’s currencies are becoming digital and controlled by computers.

The controls are already in place for global finance and governance. It is ready and waiting for a world ruler that everyone acknowledges.

Revelation 13 tells us a global economic system will exist.

- This was unthinkable in the Apostle John's day.
- This was unthinkable even a hundred years ago.

The Bible predicted 2000 years ago there would be global government, global finance, global communication and a finally a global ruler.

- This seemed like a fantasy before our computer-driven society emerged.
- If the first three have materialized, is hard to image how one person will end up as the global ruler?

“Global” is happening technologically across the board, all over the world.

- Digital tracking and profiling
- Satellites, drones and cameras everywhere tracking people and vehicles
- Sin is exported and promoted globally
- Media – seen instantly and globally
- Digital banking
- Face, fingerprint and DNA recognition building a global database
- News and information controlled by a few

### **COVID – Global Governance Leap**

Daniel 7:23 (ESV) <sup>23</sup> “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.

Revelation 13:7-8 (ESV) 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and

language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

COVID showed us a lot of things for the first time:

- First time in human history the entire globe reacts to the same event
- First time all governments work together for the same reason
- First time all governments assume emergency dictatorial powers without (initial) push back
- Test run for global control

This is not nutty conspiracy-theorist-Illuminati nonsense. These are real events with real people happening right before our eyes.

- I believe that “climate change” was the first effort at this push for global control and it fell short because not everyone could be fooled.

Climate change will continue to be used along with “health emergencies” because both produce fear, and the willingness to give up FREEDOM for safety.

- This has been the proven technique of every tyrannical revolution in human history (French, Russian, Chinese, Cuban, etc).
- Anyone who disagrees is criminalized and labeled with “hate”, “dangerous” and “denier”.

Here are more alarming developments that are leading the world right to the door of Biblical “in that day” prophecy:

- Contact tracing, a device connects/enables/tracks you (phone)
- Testing – Building DNA database
- Tracing – knowing your contacts and locations
- “Health Crisis” – no Constitution needed
- Emergency Powers in the name of public safety
- Training people to obey all restrictions and publicly shaming/punishing those who don’t
- Declaring what is “essential” and “non-essential”
- Preparing the world for global control and obedience

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All the signs that Jesus, Daniel and John described can be summed up as “global”.

- Seeing all these things possible on at a global level was literally unimaginable 2000 years ago.
- It was unimaginable 150 years ago.
- It became imagined possibility about 70 years ago.
- It became actual possibility 30 years ago.

And today we see it happening right before our eyes. All of it.

Global.

Luke 21:28 (ESV): Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

# Jerusalem, Israel



The entire Bible is about Jesus Christ and His redemption of fallen man.

- The two subplots involve His chosen people, Israel
- And His Bride, the Church.

In the end, the two come together as the Jesus and His Bride rule from David's Throne in Jerusalem for 1000 years, followed eventually by His rule from the New Jerusalem for all eternity.

The chronology of the plan in Scripture goes something like this:

1. God & Israel
2. God and the Church (Israel is dispersed for rejecting the Messiah)
3. God finishes His plan for Israel and keeps all His promises to Abraham

Given this, the Bible makes it clear that the prophetic timeclock, the prophetic thermometer, the prophetic signposts are encapsulated in what happens to Israel and Jerusalem.

- For those who deny this and say "God is finished with Israel because they rejected Jesus, the Church is now 'spiritual Israel'" you must simply ignore about a third of the Bible that clearly declares otherwise.

You must also ignore so much beautiful symmetry, logic and obvious patterns throughout Scripture

- The belief in the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus ruling for 1000 years on David's throne make perfect and clear sense Scripturally.
- To deny all of that as past history or spiritualize it is to either torture the text or simply ignore the largest spoken of topic in the Bible, the "last days" (end of days, in that day, the day of the Lord, the day of God's Wrath, the time of Tribulation, the Great Tribulation, Jacob's trouble, Jacob's distress, etc)

Those who teach God has replaced Israel today with the Church because the Jews rejected Jesus have to ignore multitudes of Bible verses that declare God's one-sided and irrevocable covenant, not dependent on what the people of Israel do.

- The MIRACLE (and I mean that in its true sense, not how its casually used today) of the rebirth of Israel as a nation and Jerusalem as the spiritual center of the world should cause every Bible Believer to sit up and take notice.

## Jerusalem

Jerusalem is mentioned over 800 times in the Bible.

- To the world, Israel and Jerusalem "belong" to the descendants of Ishmael (Arabs/Muslims)
- No mention of Jerusalem in the Koran
- The U.N. declared Israel has no historical connection to the Jews
- It's interesting to note that Jerusalem is most important to Jews and secondly to "Millennial" Christians, not Muslims
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> most important site for Islam
  - Rome/Vatican more important to Catholics

## God Declares Jerusalem His Own

Psalm 132:13-14; 17-18 **13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: 14 "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine."**

## Even when Israel Forsakes God, He Does not Cut Israel Off

All through the Bible, God never cuts off and rejects Israel, or nullifies His covenant with them because of their sin or rejection.

Ezekiel 16:1–63 1 Again the word of the LORD came to me: 2 “Son of man, make known to **Jerusalem** her abominations, 3 and say, Thus says the Lord GOD to **Jerusalem**: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

4 And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.

[Ezekiel describes the beauty of Jerusalem in the terms of a beautiful woman]

14 And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord GOD. 15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your renown and lavished your harlotry on any passerby; your beauty became his.

[Ezekiel continues to describe the Jewish spiritual prostitution]

23 “And after all your wickedness (woe, woe to you! declares the Lord GOD), 24 you built yourself a vaulted chamber and made yourself a lofty place in every square. 25 At the head of every street you built your lofty place and made your beauty an abomination, offering yourself to any passerby and multiplying your harlotry.

[Lofty places, high places... idols, pagan worship]

[Ezekiel continues describing their spiritual harlotry yet, despite Israel’s idolatry and rejection of God... ]

60 yet **I will remember my covenant** with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an **everlasting** covenant. 61 Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you take your sisters, both your elder and your younger, and I give them to you as daughters, but not on account of the **covenant** with you. 62 **I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD....”**

God will never forget Israel (despite large portions of the Church declaring He has):

Psalm 137:5 **If I forget you**, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! 6 Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, **if I do not remember you**, if I do not set **Jerusalem** above my highest joy!

### **Jesus Himself Says Israel Will Again Be in Play in the Last Days**

In Matthew 24 Jesus said Jerusalem would be destroyed, and it was, 40 years later by the Romans just as Jesus said (God tells the history in advance, that’s the proof He is God, no other holy book does):



- Matthew 23:37 (ESV) <sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- Luke 21:24 (ESV) 24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
- Matthew 23:38–39 (ESV) 38 See, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until [implying they will see him again only after His condition is met] you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”
- Matthew 24:1–2 (ESV) 1 Jesus left the temple [in Jerusalem] and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. [in Jerusalem] 2 But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? [in Jerusalem] Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another [in Jerusalem] that will not be thrown down.”

Then Jesus turns around and tells the disciples they will know his return is near when the “abomination of desolation” occurs, the desecration of the TEMPLE:

- Matthew 24:15 (ESV) 15 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place [in Jerusalem] (let the reader understand),
- Matthew 24:34 (ESV) 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

This event is in the future because a Temple must exist for it to occur, a temple in Jerusalem. But Israel would not occupy the land for the next 2000 years.

- The Jewish–Roman wars of 66–136 CE, the Romans expelled the Jews from the area upon pain of death and replaced it with the Roman province of “*Syria Palaestina*”, beginning the modern Jewish diaspora.

**Question:** if the prophecies of the destruction of the temple in AD 70 were literal and real and were fulfilled, why then do many Christians spiritualize the other prophecies about a future event at the Temple?

- Or apply those prophecies to something that had already happened 200 years earlier (with Antiochus Epiphanes in 175 BC)?
- While ignoring what Jesus said would happen AFTER the “abomination of desolation”:



Matthew 24:21–22 (ESV) 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Jesus believed in Noah's flood, a global destruction of all human life

- What happened in 175BC (or later) that was worse than the Flood?
- What happened that was so horrific God had to step in and stop it or every single human life would end

Nothing fits this description, but you know what does: the Great Tribulation in Revelation 6-19.

### **The Diaspora**

The Jews have spent 2000 years exiled from their promised land for rejecting the Messiah (even after He gave them 40 years to repent).

- The land became desolate as predicted by the prophets starting in AD 70 when the Romans razed Jerusalem

Over the centuries, Gentiles plundered the Holy Land & Jerusalem:

- Romans, Muslims, Byzantines, Turks, Europeans

But God promised He would never forsake Jerusalem or Israel (even if the Church declares that He has):

Isaiah 49:14–16 (ESV) 14 But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

Zechariah 2:12 (ESV) 12 And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem."

### **Jews Regather In the Last Days – Fulfilled (Being Fulfilled)**

Since early this century millions (population almost 10 million as of Dec 2020) have returned to Israel after 2000 years of exile and the land being desolate.

- This is unprecedented in human history.
- Never has a people group been dispersed for thousands of years to every corner of the globe, and then regathered back to their homeland.

Yet, God said it and He has done it before our very eyes!

Isaiah 11:11–12 (ESV) 11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Ezekiel 37:21–22 (ESV) 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.

Ezekiel 38:8 (ESV) 8 After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them.

- Returning Jews would come from the north, south, east, and west
- Amazingly, nearly a million Jews have emigrated from Russia in the north.
- Over 100,000 Ethiopian Jews have emigrated from the south.
- Since 1948, Jews have emigrated from Europe, Asia, and the Americas, and almost every nation of the world

Isaiah 43:5–6 (ESV) 5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. 6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth,

Jeremiah 31:7–10 (ESV) 7 For thus says the Lord: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ 8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. 10 “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He

who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

- During the Diaspora (the dispersion of the Jews to the four corners of the globe) Israel would become a wasteland
- During the past 1900 years Israel became a nearly uninhabited, desolate wasteland.

Deuteronomy 29:23–28 (ESV) 23 the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger and wrath— 24 all the nations will say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?'

25 Then people will say, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. 27 Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, 28 and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.'

### **God will restore:**

Ezekiel 36:8–11 (ESV) 8 "But you, O mountains of Israel, shall shoot forth your branches and yield your fruit to my people Israel, for they will soon come home.

9 For behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown. 10 And I will multiply people on you, the whole house of Israel, all of it. The cities shall be inhabited and the waste places rebuilt. 11 And I will multiply on you man and beast, and they shall multiply and be fruitful. And I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times, and will do more good to you than ever before. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 36:33–36 (ESV) 33 "Thus says the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. 34 And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. 35 And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

## Nation in a Day

In 1948 the unique and unbelievable prophecy of Isaiah became true, a single occurrence in all human history that the nation Israel **would be born in one day.**

- On May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation by a single decree.
  - **Isaiah 66:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children.**

## Israel Will Bloom

Israel, once a desolate desert, will blossom in the last days and export produce to the world. We are watching this happen before our eyes as Israel is the bread basket of the Middle East.

### Here are major ways Israel helps feed the world:

#### Drip irrigation

- Slow-release tubing, Israeli drip-irrigation and micro-irrigation are used worldwide.

#### Getting more grain to market

- Israeli-designed GrainPro Cocoons provide a simple and cheap way for farmers to keep their grain market-fresh.
- The huge bags keep both water and air out. They're used in about 100 countries including in Africa, Latin America and the Middle and Far East.

#### Saving mangoes from fruit-fly devastation

- Mangoes provide a livelihood for thousands of farmers in developing countries. A high percentage of the crops are ruined by various species of fruit flies.
- Israel has developed no-spray, environmentally friendly lures to kill the tiny flies.

#### Precision agriculture

- Israel's large and growing precision ag-tech sector comprises more than 450 companies offering advanced data-collection and analysis technologies for more efficient and productive farming.

#### Saving strawberries (and much more)

- Israeli companies breeds and exports several species of beneficial insects and mites for biological pest control, and bumblebees for natural pollination, to more than 50 nations from India to Chile.

#### Helping more farmers export crops

- Farms can't export unless they comply with complex and frequently changing government regulations in target countries.
- The unique cloud-based farm management system gives farmers constantly updated regulatory guidelines on a single dashboard.

#### Squeezing every drop of water from the air

- Tal-Ya Water Technologies makes a reusable plastic tray to collect dew from the air, reducing the water needed by crops or trees by up to 50 percent.

#### Dairy farming

- In the past 10 years, Asian countries including Vietnam and China have been investing heavily in setting up dairy farming enterprises, and they rely on Israeli experience, expertise and equipment to do so.

#### Fishing

- With more than half the fish consumed around the world grown on farms where fish are crowded into tanks and given massive amounts of antibiotics, hormones and pesticides, there's an urgent need for sustainable and healthful solutions for commercial fisheries. Israel has several such solutions on the market.

#### Hardier seeds for more and better crops

- Seed breeding has been an Israeli specialty since the beginning of the state. Israeli scientists have made many types of seeds more nutritious, high-yield and flavorful, and resistant to drought and disease; and have developed new fruit and vegetable varieties.

#### Next-gen packaging extends shelf life

- Pre-market food spoilage is a huge source of food waste throughout the world.
- Several Israeli companies are using cutting-edge materials to make sure more food gets to hungry consumers.

#### Alternative protein

- Filling an urgent need for cheaper, more healthful, sustainable and less polluting sources of protein, Israeli companies are piloting products made from insects, legumes and plant-based or cultured meat.

Israel has gone from desolation to the “land flowing with milk and honey” exactly as God foretold!

- They currently export over 800 million dollars worth of fresh produce each year, including over 200 million in flowers and ornamental plants!

Isaiah 27:6 (ESV) 6 In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

Isaiah 35:1–2 (ESV) 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Ezekiel 36:34–36 (ESV) 34 And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. 35 And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.

### Israeli Economic Prosperity

- Amazingly, this recently regathered, often attacked, tiny nation exported over 114 billion dollars worth of goods in 2019!
- This was inconceivable a century ago!
- In contrast, their neighbor Jordan exported less than 5 billion in 2019.

When the forces of Gog and Magog decide to attack Israel as prophesied in Scripture, most likely Israel’s wealth and growing resources will be the lure:

Ezekiel 38:12–13 (ESV) 12 to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and the people who were gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth.

13 Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all its leaders will say to you, ‘Have you come to seize spoil? Have you assembled your hosts to carry off plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to seize great spoil?’

## The Vineyards of Israel

- Israel is once again a land of vineyards and wine when just a short few decades ago it was a desolate, rocky, barren, swampy waste land.

Joel 3:18 (ESV) 18 “And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim.

Amos 9:13–15 (ESV) 13 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. 14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

## Forests Reborn

- The Bible specifies a variety of trees - cedar, acacia, myrtle, oil, cypress, pine, and box – would be reestablished in Israel.
- Since 1900 more than one billion trees have been planted in Israel
- This has happened in our day after Israel lay barren for nearly 2000 years.

Isaiah 41:18–20 (ESV) 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. 19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together, 20 that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

## Hebrew Restored

- About 1900, the Zionist movement brought about the revival of Hebrew as a spoken language.
- In 1948, Hebrew became an official tongue of the state of Israel.
- Originally there was only one language (Genesis 11:1) and this pure speech will be restored (Isaiah 19:18).
- Interestingly, Hebrew has no swear words.



Zephaniah 3:9 (ESV) 9 “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.

Genesis 11:1 (ESV) 1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

Isaiah 19:18 (ESV) 18 In that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord of hosts. One of these will be called the City of Destruction.

### **Jerusalem Rebuilt On Its Ruins**

- Since 1948, Jerusalem has been rebuilt on the old ruins exactly as foretold.

Jeremiah 30:18 (ESV) 18 “Thus says the Lord: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its mound, and the palace shall stand where it used to be.

Zechariah 12:6 (ESV) 6 “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

### **Jerusalem Trampled by Gentiles**

- Since 70 A.D., Jerusalem had been trampled by Gentiles until the Jews regained control of the city during the 1967 Six-Day War.

Luke 21:24 (ESV) 24 They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

### **Anti-Semitism**

- History confirms the Jews have been persecuted as no other group.
- Rome tried to kill and disperse them.
- Communists tried to wipe them out.
- The Roman Catholic Church turned Christianity against them.
- Hitler tried to exterminate them
- The Antichrist will attempt a Jewish genocide during the Tribulation.

Today, anti-Semitism is a global epidemic.

- A 2014 poll revealed more than one billion people have anti-Semitic views

- 35% of the people polled have never heard of the Holocaust

Since the creation of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2006, it has resolved almost more resolutions **condemning Israel than on the rest of the world combined.**

Why such a focus on one small country of less than 10 million people?

- Of the over 700 General Assembly resolutions passed since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, nearly 450 condemn Israel.
- None have been passed against any Arab country or any Arab terrorist organizations
- In other words, out of 190 nations in the UN, over 60% of all General Assembly resolutions rebuke just one member, Israel!

The Bible prophesied this:

Deuteronomy 28:37 (ESV) 37 And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword **among all the peoples** where the Lord will lead you away.

Jeremiah 29:18 (ESV) 18 I will pursue them with sword, famine, and pestilence, **and will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, a terror, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations** where I have driven them,

Jeremiah 44:8 (ESV) 8 Why do you provoke me to anger with the works of your hands, making offerings to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have come to live, **so that you may be cut off and become a curse and a taunt among all the nations of the earth?**

Luke 21:20–24 (ESV) 20 “But when you **see Jerusalem surrounded by armies,** then know that its desolation has come near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, 22 for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. 23 Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the **edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

### **All Surrounding Nations Against Israel**

- The Bible predicts that all surrounding nations would be united against Israel.
- This has never happened in history, yet today, Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations sworn to her destruction.

- Muhammad said: The Hour (last day) will not be established until you fight with the Jews, and the stone behind which a Jew will be hiding will say 'O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, so kill him.'" (Sahih Al-Bukhari, vol. 4, b. 52, Hadith # 177).

Psalm 83:4–8 (ESV) 4 They say, “Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!” 5 For they conspire with one accord; against you they make a covenant— 6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Asshur also has joined them; they are the strong arm of the children of Lot. Selah

### A Cup of Trembling

- Jerusalem is a small city, with no natural resources, no port, insignificant manufacturing and industrial capability, yet its very existence causes the surrounding nations to shudder.

Zechariah 12:2 (ESV) 2 “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah.

### A Burden To All Nations

- Almost daily the world news reports on the conflict over Jerusalem and Israel.

The United Nations, the Vatican, and many world leaders want to make it an international city.

- Laughably but sadly, United Nations declares that there is historical connection between the Jews and Jerusalem.
- UN resolution 476 flagrantly reiterates that Israel's claim to Jerusalem is null and void.

God says that the city is His and He has given it to the Jews forever.

Zechariah 12:3 (ESV) 3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

Genesis 15:18 (ESV) 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Leviticus 25:23 (ESV) 23 “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

2 Chronicles 6:6 (ESV) 6 but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.'

God clearly declares His reaction to each nation's attitude towards Israel.

- The U.S. turning against Israel is clearly resulting in growing "curses" and God's judgment on the nation

Numbers 24:9 The nation is like a mighty lion; When it is sleeping, no one dares wake it. Whoever blesses Israel will be blessed, And whoever curses Israel will be cursed."

### Israel's Might

- Since 1948, tiny Israel has been attacked in three major wars and several lesser wars, and has been the target of almost non-stop terrorism.
- Despite being vastly outnumbered, they have defeated all foes.

Even during the final battle of Armageddon, when it looks certain Israel will be destroyed, the Lord shall deliver her.

- A mighty Israel makes no sense unless you believe God's Word.
- How can a small country, with relatively few people be a world military powerhouse?

Zechariah 12:6-9 (ESV) 6 "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem. 7 "And the Lord will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. 8 On that day the Lord will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the Lord, going before them. 9 And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

### Israel Partitioned

- In 1947, UN Resolution 181 planned the partitioning of Israel.
- Currently, the West Bank and Gaza have been separated into Jewish and Palestinian settlements.
- Dividing Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria are also being negotiated today in order to create a Palestinian state.

How incredible is it that the Bible not only predicted Israel would exist again after 2000 years but it would be so specific as to predict the nation being partitioned!

Joel 3:2 (ESV) 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land,

Daniel 11:39 (ESV) 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.

### **Eastern Gate Blocked**

- The Eastern Gate would remain closed until the Messiah returns.
- At Christ's Second Coming, He will enter Jerusalem through the now sealed Eastern Gate (Ezekiel 44:1-3).
- Today, as prophesied, the Eastern Gate remains sealed by the Muslims who (almost humorously) have sealed it off to keep the Jewish Messiah from entering it.

Ezekiel 44:1-3 (ESV) 1 Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east. And it was shut. 2 And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered by it. Therefore it shall remain shut. 3 Only the prince may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord. He shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way."

### **A United Israel**

- The nation of Israel has been divided into two kingdoms since the time of Solomon (950B.C.)
- Israel in the north and Judah in the south will be one united nation in the last days (Ezekiel 37:15-22).
- Today, Israel is one nation.

Ezekiel 37:19-22 (ESV) 19 say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am about to take the stick of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, that they may be one in my hand.

20 When the sticks on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them

from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.

### No King But Jesus

- The nations of Israel has kings in the past until they were exiled and dispersed.
- Israel has been without a king for over 2500 years.
- Israel is no longer a theocracy but a Jewish state governed by a democracy comprised of multiple political parties.

Hosea 3:4-5 (ESV) 4 For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

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There's no logical reason why Jerusalem and Israel is still the religious center of the world and often the political center as well.

- It's not important, its not a major port, not on a major trade route, not home to global industry or resources.
- As many times as it has been sacked and destroyed and abandoned, it should have long been in the dustbin of history like so many other cities of far greater significance

The "center of the world" will be Jerusalem in the future too:

Isaiah 2:1-5 (ESV) 1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, [when has this ever happened in history?] 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. [when has this ever happened in history?] 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

When Zechariah wrote, there was no city, no temple, only destruction:

Zechariah 14:1-8 (ESV) 1 Behold, **a day is coming for the LORD**, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather **all** the nations **against Jerusalem** to battle [when has this ever happened in history?], and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. [when has this ever happened in history? Not AD 70, didn't happen this way] 3 **Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.** [when has this ever happened in history?] 4 **On that day** his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. [when has this ever happened in history?] 5 And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.** [this only happens at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming] 6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. 7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. 8 **On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem**, [when has this ever happened in history?] half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

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In a world of 9 billion people today, its remarkable that Israel is once again a nation, and the world is focused on it against all logic and odds.

- The Bible says “in the last days” Jerusalem and Israel would once again exist and be right in the middle of world affairs.

Another glaringly obviously fulfillment of prophecy that's helps us know that will be returning very soon!



# The Rebuilding of the Temple



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In Matthew 24 Jesus said Jerusalem would be destroyed, and it was, 40 years later by the Romans just as Jesus said (God tells the history in advance, that's the proof He is God, no other holy book does):

- Matthew 24:1-2 (ESV) 1 Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 2 But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

Then Jesus turns around and tells the disciples they will know his return is near when the "abomination of desolation" occurs, the discretion of the TEMPLE:

- Matthew 24:15 (ESV) 15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),
- Matthew 24:34 (ESV) 34 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

This event is in the future because a Temple must exist for it to occur, a temple in Jerusalem. But Israel would not occupy the land for the next 2000 years.

- The Jewish-Roman wars of 66-136 CE, the Romans expelled the Jews from the area upon pain of death and replaced it with the Roman province of "Syria Palaestina", beginning the modern Jewish diaspora.

In 1948, Israel again became a nation, and today the preparations to rebuild the temple are public and ongoing.

From the Temple Institute website:

- The Temple Institute is dedicated to all aspects of the Divine commandment for Israel to build a house for God's presence, the Holy Temple, on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
- We fool ourselves if we think that the state of Judaism today, without the Temple, is normal.
- At this one place on earth, unlike any other, the one place that the Creator Himself chose to rest His presence, the rectification of man's connection with God takes place.
- The reality of the Jewish experience means that the Temple will be rebuilt.
- Let us rather recall that Jewish history has a trajectory, which began when the patriarch Abraham smashed his father's idols.
- That trajectory has spanned the millennia, and it is obvious that we are rapidly approaching climactic times, in which the Holy Temple will once again become the focal point for mankind's spiritual focus.
- The Shekinah is brought about only through the Temple....In terms of our mission as a people, we cannot in any way reach our spiritual status without the Temple.
- According to Numbers 19, the ashes of the Red Heifer mixed with water are a necessary element for purifying Jews to enable them to do service in the Temple. *(Recent news stories say they have that Red Heifer now)*

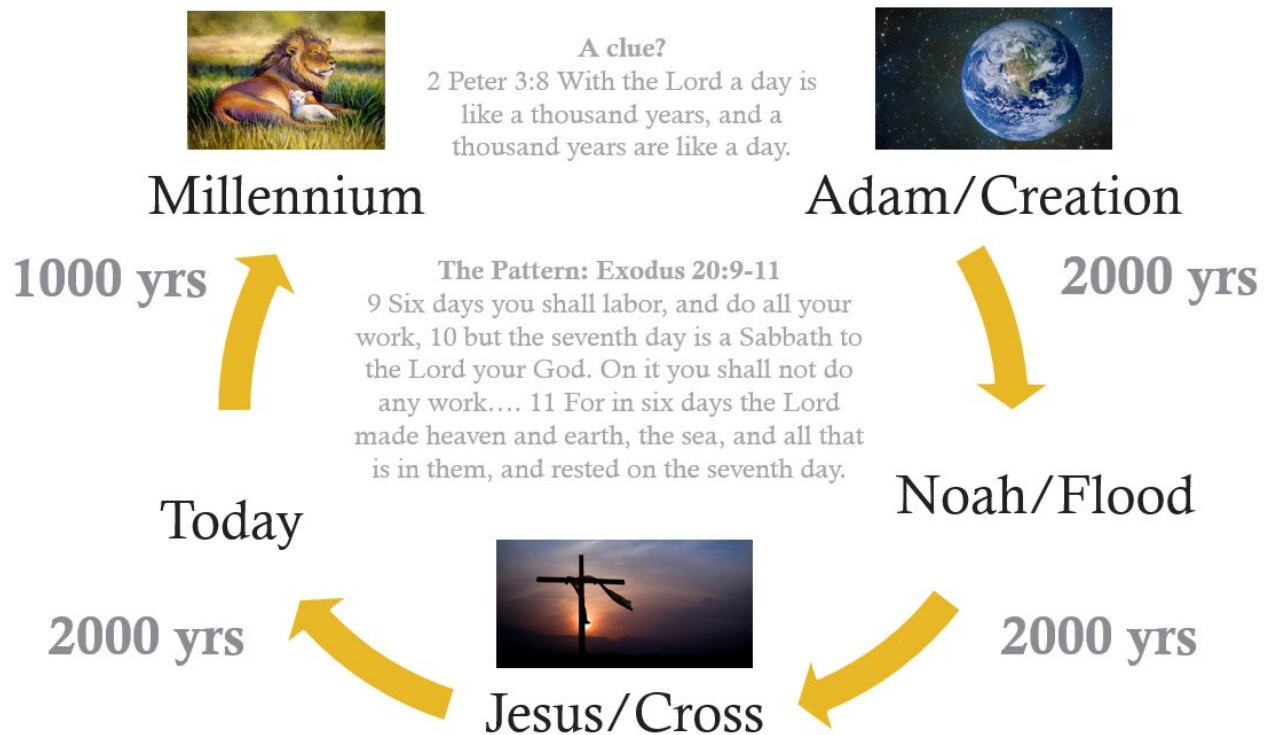
They are making all the necessary preparations:

- Doing reenactments of Temple ceremonies
- They have made the priestly clothing
- They have crafted all of the furniture and items of the Temple
- They have drawn up the plans following the instructions in Ezekiel

Of course, most Jews still don't believe in Jesus of Nazareth, but here is what is stated on a Jewish website:

*It is exciting to see these developments unfold in the Land of Israel regarding the building of a Third Temple as we eagerly watch for the second coming of our Messiah!*

# The Patterns of Time



There is something very interesting about how the segments of human history have panned out. While interesting, it's not prophetic Scripture or Biblical doctrine.

- It remains something very intriguing to consider as part of our conviction that the Lord is going to return very soon.
- I think this reality that has come into focus only after 6000 years of history adds clarity and weight to a personal conviction of Jesus very near return to take us home.

Having said that, let me be clear this is not Biblical prophecy or by itself "proof" that God is wrapping up human history. It's just another piece of the puzzle that clearly fits, so it is worth considering.

## The Pattern (6 Days Work, 1 Day Rest):

Exodus 20:9-11 **Six days you shall labor**, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work... 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and **rested on the seventh day**.

Hebrews 4:9-11(ESV) 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

### A Clue?

2 Peter 3:8 With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

- In context, this verse means that God is not bound by time (which He created)
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit, could this be a clue to God's timing that He planted right in front of us for the last 2000 years?
- You must not be dogmatic about it, but IT SURE IS INTERESTING!

### What Time Remains – 1000 years (1 day)

Following the pattern, 6 days are coming to an end (6000 years of human history). There remains in the pattern, one day (1000 years).

- Isn't it remarkable that the next big segment of human history clearly (over and over and over six times just in this passage) is 1000 years long to be followed by Eternity which is not a "day" but rather "forever"?

Revelation 20:1-6 (ESV) 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

A large segment of Christianity does not believe this 1000 year earthly reign of Christ is literal.

- They believe it is happening spiritually now... Jesus isn't doing very well with His rod of iron!

They believe "1000" is a number that simply represents a perfect length of time, or "completion".

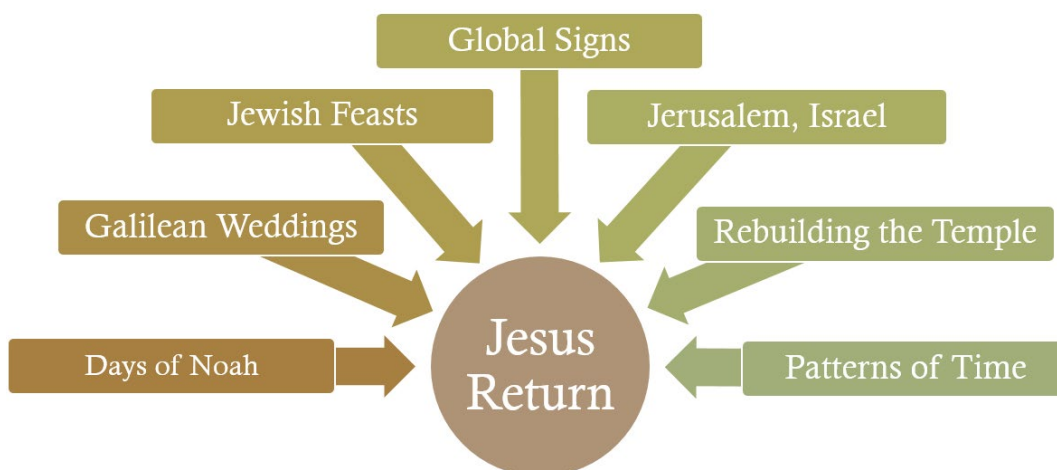
- The only problem is, the Bible never presents 1000 as a representative number of anything, only a literal length of time (and 7 is the number of completion plainly supported in Scripture).

When God declares something **over and over**, do you think He is trying to tell us "it means what it says?"

- Genesis 1 – Creation: "evening and morning", "first day", "second day" over and over. God left no doubt it was one 24 hour day.
- Prophetic Books in the Bible – "in that day", "the day of the Lord", "the coming day", "the end of days", "the latter days", "the day of God's wrath" over and over hundreds of times. God left no doubt there is a future time coming at the end of human history where God will finish His business with the three groups in Scripture: Israel, the Church, the World.
- Revelation 20 - "thousand years", over and over six times, specifically. One thousand is never used symbolically anywhere in the Bible. Do you think God was trying to be specific and clear about something? Maybe... "one thousand" years filled with the listed events?

*Note: Believers should never reject one another over eschatology (belief about the end times. What happens at the end of history is not a saving Gospel issue.*

### The Convergence of Signs, Clues, Events, Patterns and Times



Not just a few signs, or a couple of clues or coincidences... all the Biblical indicators are converging!



## The Remaining Events

We are in the Church Age, the Bride of Christ, waiting for the imminent return of the Groom at any moment, a time known only to God the Father

- Next, **the Rapture**, the snatching up, the catching away of the Bride by the Groom so that “where He is, we may be with him also”
- Shortly after that, most likely because of the chaos caused by millions of people disappearing, and a deteriorating world political situation, **a world ruler will appear** with “solutions” and “answers” (possibly even claiming to be from an advanced race from another planet which many people are not prepared to believe).
- This ruler, the Bible calls “**THE ANTICHRIST**” ... a false christ, a counterfeit opposed to God but who will make world peace happen, even with Israel.
- **144K Jewish evangelists will be chose and set apart to take the Gospel to the whole world**
  - 3.5 years later, the World Ruler breaks his treaty with Israel, sets himself up to be worshipped as God, and forces all humans to take a mark of allegiance to him or be cast out of society
- 3.5 years later after Gods wrath has been poured out on the Earth, the World Ruler amasses the world against Israel at the **battle of Armageddon**
- Jesus rescues Israel, and **Israel finally repents nationally and accepts Jesus as Messiah**
- There is **a judgment of all who remain alive**; only those who are saved remain and **enter the Millennial Kingdom**
- **1000 year reign of Christ on Earth** as the sin curse is rolled back
- **At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is released**; he and lost humanity try one more war against Jesus and are quickly wiped out
- **The sin cursed Earth and Heavens are burned up, the New Heavens and New Earth are instantly created**
- **The Great White Throne Judgment**
- **Eternity begins.**

## **Essential & Basic Definitions of Christianity**

**Repentance** - Being truly sorry for sin and turning 180 degrees from it

**Faith** - Belief and trust demonstrated by action

**Substitution** - Christ dying on the cross in our place instead of us

**Reconciliation** - Bringing two opposing parties together via a third party

**Propitiation** - Christ satisfying on the cross the holiness of God and His requirement for justice

**Remission** - Putting away or carrying away our sins; forgiveness of sin

**Regeneration** - Believers receiving a new nature through the second birth

**Redemption** - God buying us from the slavery of sin by paying a ransom price

**Imputation** - God adding the righteousness of Christ to the believer

**Adoption** - Believers are made permanent part of Gods family with privileges and inheritance

**Supplication** - Prayer—communicating with God

**Justification** - God declaring us righteous and our account paid in full

**Sanctification** - God setting us apart for growth and service; increasing holiness

**Glorification** - The ultimate, eternal, and absolute physical, mental, and spiritual perfection of all believers

**Election** - Being chosen by God

**Foreknowledge** - God's complete knowledge of everything that ever has or will happen

**Predestination** - God's eternal plan whereby all sinners are saved and conformed to the image of Christ