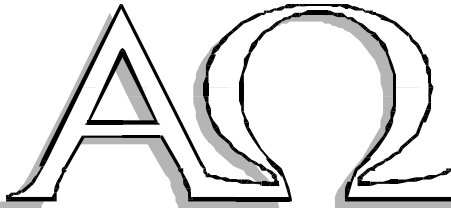


# Creation Revelation



**God is in the details**

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**Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one  
of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.**

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**Psalm 119:160**

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## The Second Coming

**And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

**His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.**

**And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**

**And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**

**And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

**And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND Lord OF Lords.**

**Revelation 19:11-16 KJV**

### The Second Coming

**T**here are 318 references to Christ's Second Coming in the New Testament.

It is clearly mentioned or alluded to in 23 of 27 New Testament books. Of all the 13 books attributed to Paul, only two omit mention of the Second Coming. It is therefore an extremely important topic, of which we should be familiar.<sup>1</sup> The doctrine of the Second Coming is one of the most frequently mentioned subjects in the Bible. All 9 New Testament authors mentioned it. Paul mentions it 50 times in his epistles. This subject is essential to understanding most Bible doctrines. It is the cornerstone of Bible prophecy, the second most important doctrine of the Bible, after salvation, and the next major event of Bible prophecy.<sup>2</sup>

Interestingly, even many unsaved people believe in Christ's Second Coming.<sup>3</sup> Could it be that the hopelessness of the world situation will cause many to mistake the Antichrist for the return of Jesus Christ? We will now examine a few Bible verses in the Old and New Testaments that will illustrate the doctrine of the Second Coming. It should be understood that the Jews expected their Messiah to fulfill all of the Old Testament prophecies at His first appearance. In light of the complete revelation, we Christians now view these Old Testament scriptures as future unfulfilled events in regards to the Messiah coming as King. Christ therefore comes first as the suffering Messiah, the Lamb of God. He then comes a second time as The King of Kings.

## The Second Coming in the Old Testament

A number of passages of the Old Testament point to a Second Coming of the Messiah of Israel to establish an earthly kingdom. The following are a few examples:

A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send **the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.** Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. **The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen,** he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head. **Psalm 110:1-7**

**Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David,** and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. **Isaiah 9:7**

In Isaiah 63 we see this vivid description of the Second Coming:

**Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?** this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? **I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.** Wherefore art thou **red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?** **I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.** For **the day of vengeance** is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I

wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore **mine own arm** brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And **I will tread down the people in mine anger,** and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth. **Isaiah 63:1-6**

This is the same description portrayed in Revelation 19:

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And **he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:** and his name is called The Word of God. And **the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it **he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.** **Revelation 19:11-16**

Ezekiel describes a future kingdom when Messiah will come and will gather Israel and rule over them.

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen,** whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and **bring them into their own land:** And I will make them **one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel;** and **one king shall be king to them all:** and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: **Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions:** but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And **David my servant shall be king over them;** and they all shall have one

shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. **Ezekiel 37:21-24**

Daniel indicates that earthly kingdoms will come and go, but a final kingdom will be set up by God which will stand forever. Daniel describes four successive world governments that would eventually fall and would be replaced by an everlasting kingdom, with Christ (the rock, or stone) as the head. The successive kingdoms were Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, and Roman (the Roman never completely disappeared, and its final stage is being formed today).

Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and **the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.** This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. **Thou art this head of gold.** And **after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.** And **the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.** And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided;** but **there shall be in it of the strength of the iron,** forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so **the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.** And whereas thou sawest **iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another,** even as iron is not mixed with clay. And **in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:** and the kingdom

shall not be left to other people, **but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. **Daniel 2:35-45**

Daniel again refers to this everlasting kingdom ruled by Messiah.

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like **the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was **given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.** **Daniel 7:13, 14**

Hosea spoke of Israel as being many years without a king or sacrifice, until the latter days.

For the children of **Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice,** and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Afterward shall **the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king;** and shall fear the LORD and his goodness **in the latter days.** **Hosea 3:4, 5**

Micah speaks of a "remnant" of a people that were "cast far off" that will be made into a "strong nation" of which the Lord will rule over forever.

And I will make her that halted **a remnant,** and her that was **cast far off a strong nation:** and **the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.** **Micah 4:7**

Zechariah speaks of a future time when the Lord will dwell and Messiah [The BRANCH] will rule as Priest and King.

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and **I will dwell in the midst of thee**, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and **I will dwell in the midst of thee**, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. And **the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.** **Zechariah 2:10-12**

And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.** **Zechariah 6:12, 13**

## The Second Coming in the New Testament

Matthew 24:27 and 30 says that Jesus will return suddenly, with a sign, out of the east, on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

**For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.... And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** **Matthew 24:27, 30**

We are told that, at the time of His coming, He will send His angels to gather His elect from both heaven and earth.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall **he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds**, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. **Mark 13:26, 27**

Signs in the heavens, distress of nations, upheavals on the earth, and great fear among men will occur just before Jesus appears in the clouds.

And there shall be **signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations**, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; **Men's hearts failing them for fear**, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. **Luke 21:25-28**

## Are There Two Second Comings?

Nearly all Bible scholars agree that the Bible says that Jesus Christ will come again. The controversy is about when He is expected to come. Will He come for His church first, then later, for all others, or, for all at the same time?<sup>4</sup> Most of the references to the Second Coming in the Bible refer to His return during the post-tribulation phase. Only a few New Testament verses refer to the rapture phase of His coming.<sup>5</sup>

Many Christians hold different views about this subject, and the various beliefs are not essential doctrines of faith. These different beliefs should not be the source of contention among believers. The arguments are complex and difficult to resolve. If you take a literal historical view of Scripture interpretation, then a pre-millennial, pre-tribulation interpretation is the logical position. The clear words of Scripture point to this. I believe that any of the other positions must abandon the clear meanings of the words of Scripture, and in many cases subject them to allegorical or spiritual rather literal meanings. This writer came to that conclusion early because that appeared to be the clear meaning of the Scriptures. Therefore, this article favors the pre-millennial, pre-tribulation position that Jesus will come first for His church before the tribulation and then, for the "tribulation believers" at the end of the tribulation. This has been the subject of many books over many years. Anyone wishing to view the complexity of the debate is referred to the book: THREE VIEWS ON THE RAPTURE, Pre: Mid: or Post-Tribulation?, by Gundry, Archer, Feinberg, Moo, and Reiter.<sup>6</sup> Those wishing to strengthen their belief in the pre-tribulation rapture position are referred to the following books: Tim LaHaye, THE RAPTURE, Who Will Face the Tribulation?<sup>7</sup>; Allen Beechick, THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE<sup>8</sup>; Renald Showers, MARANATHA, Our Lord Come! A Definitive Study of the Rapture of the Church<sup>9</sup>; and J. Dwight Pentecost,

THINGS TO COME, A Study in Biblical Eschatology.

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There are certain contrasting distinctions in Scripture between the Rapture and the Second Advent that show they are not the same event. Keep in mind that those holding the post-tribulationist position believe that the Rapture and the Second Coming are essentially the same event, and that the Church will go through the Tribulation. Many of those believe that the Church has replaced Israel, and that God's promises to Israel now belong to the Church. God has not abandoned Israel (Rom 11:1-27). Because of wrong belief therefore, it is easy to understand why some Christians would favor "land for peace." "Land for peace" is the continual mantra emanating from the White House and much of the world. Israel is being pushed to give up significant portions of their land for an uncertain promise of lasting peace. Pentecost lists seventeen distinctions that favor the pre-tribulation Rapture position:

1. Rapture – Removal of all believers.
  - a. Second Advent – Manifestation of the Son.
2. Rapture – Saints caught up in the air.
  - a. Second Advent – Jesus returns to earth.
3. Rapture – Christ comes for His bride.
  - a. Second Advent – Christ returns with His bride.
4. Rapture – Results in removal of the Church and the beginning of the tribulation.
  - a. Second Advent – Results in the establishment of the millennial kingdom.
5. Rapture – Imminent. Second Advent – Preceded by a multitude of signs.
6. Rapture – Brings a message of comfort.
  - a. Second Advent – Brings a message of judgment.
7. Rapture – Related to the program for the Church.
  - a. Second Advent – Related to the program for Israel and the world.
8. Rapture – Is a mystery.
  - a. Second Advent – Predicted in both Testaments.
9. Rapture – Believers are judged.
  - a. Second Advent – Gentiles and Israel are judged.
10. Rapture – Leaves creation unchanged.
  - a. Second Advent – Entails the change in creation.
11. Rapture – Gentiles are unaffected.
  - a. Second Advent – Gentiles are judged.
12. Rapture – Israel's covenants are unfulfilled.
  - a. Second Advent – All Israel's covenants are fulfilled.
13. Rapture – Has no particular relation to the program of God in relation to evil.
  - a. Second Advent – Evil is judged.
14. Rapture – Takes place before the day of wrath.
  - a. Second Advent – Follows the day of wrath.
15. Rapture – For believers only.
  - a. Second Advent – Affects all men.
16. Rapture – The expectation of the Church is "the Lord is at hand."
  - a. Second Advent – The expectation of Israel is "the kingdom is at hand."
17. Rapture – The expectation of the Church is to be taken into the presence of the Lord.
  - a. Second Advent – The expectation of Israel is to be taken into the kingdom.

These contrasts, and others, support the view that the rapture events and the Second Coming events are two different events.<sup>11</sup> There are **not** two Second Comings since the Rapture occurs in the air, as a gathering of the Church. During the Second Coming, Christ comes to the earth. We will now examine the events leading to the Second Coming.

## The Timing of the Second Coming

There are two important prerequisites that are essential to understanding the timing of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. We will first examine these two prerequisites, and then we will examine the events leading to the precise time of the Second Coming during the campaign known as Armageddon.

### A. First – The Rejection of the Messiahship of Jesus Christ

Matthew chapter 4 records the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ. From Matthew chapter 4 through Matthew chapter 11 Jesus' ministry was focused on offering the Messianic Kingdom to Israel. Finally, in Matthew chapter 12 the Messiahship of Jesus was officially rejected when the nation committed the unpardonable sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.<sup>12</sup>

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.** And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by **Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.** But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, **All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.** And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. **O generation of vipers,** how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That **every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.** For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. **Matthew 12:22-37**

This sin was unpardonable for that generation only, not all generations of Jews. Jesus had presented them with a choice, but instead of making the choice for themselves they looked to their leaders, the Pharisees, who declared that Jesus' miracles were by the power of the prince of demons, Beelzebub, "lord of the flies." The Pharisees declared that Jesus was not the Messiah, but that He was demon possessed. Jesus then pronounced judgment on that generation in the very next verses:<sup>13</sup>

Then **certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered,** saying, **Master, we would see a sign from thee.** But he answered and said unto them, **An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **Matthew 12:38-40**

### The Sign of Jonah

The Pharisees demanded a sign, but Jesus would give no more signs but one. His entire ministry from Matthew 4 through Matthew 11 had been of signs to convince Israel of His Messiahship and to offer the Messianic Kingdom. From now on Jesus' miracles were for the training of the disciples for their ministry.<sup>14</sup> The sign of Jonah would be shown to Israel on three occasions:

1. The resurrection of Lazarus – John 11:1-44.
2. Jesus' own resurrection.
3. The two witnesses in the Tribulation – Revelation 12.

The first two were rejected, but the sign of the resurrection of the two witnesses will result in the salvation of the Jews of Jerusalem.<sup>15</sup> The conclusion of Jesus' judgment of that generation is as follows:

The men of Nineveh shall rise in **judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it:** because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up **in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it:** for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. When **the unclean spirit** is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, **he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.** Then goeth he, and taketh with himself **seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.** **Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.** **Matthew 12:41-45**

That generation of Israel saw the signs, but other generations following did not. Therefore, that generation's sin was greater. The story of the demon returning illustrates the final outcome for that generation, emptiness without the Holy Spirit – therefore, the demon returned. That generation had begun with the preaching of John the Baptist in preparation for the Messiah – that generation was swept and garnished, but remained empty by the rejection of the Messiah. By 70AD that generation was swept away by the Romans, their Temple was destroyed, and the Jews, instead of bondage, were dispersed into many nations of the world.<sup>16</sup> In response to the first sign of Jonah, the raising of Lazarus, the Pharisees, who had asked for a sign, responded this way:<sup>17</sup>

Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, **What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. John 11:47, 48**

These leaders were concerned about their worldly positions. Because of this, they will now make a political decision.

And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider **that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.** And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, **he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;** And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then **from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.** Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples. And **the Jews' passover was nigh at hand:** and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. Then **sought they for Jesus,** and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, **if any man knew where**

**he were, he should shew it, that they might take him. John 11:49-57**

The Jewish leaders were now actively seeking His death.

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem, and the Jewish masses proclaimed His Messiahship, but the Jewish leaders were hardened in their resolve, and the judgment of Israel had already been set in Matthew 12. Jesus wept for Jerusalem:<sup>18</sup>

And when he was come near, **he beheld the city, and wept over it,** Saying, **If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.** For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and **they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. Luke 19:41-44**

The Jewish leaders led the entire nation in the rejection of their Messiah.<sup>19</sup>

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Matthew 23:13**

The judgment will be severe and primarily on the leaders, but also on the nation.<sup>20</sup>

**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in **the blood of the prophets.** Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that **ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.** Ye serpents, **ye generation of vipers,** how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, **I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and**

**persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. Matthew 23:29-36**

Jesus said that they were to be guilty of the death of all the prophets from Abel to John the Baptist since all the prophets pointed to Jesus being their Messiah.<sup>21</sup>

Shortly after, Jesus was taken and crucified. He was resurrected on the third day, the second sign of Jonah. The official rejection of this second sign of Jonah by the Jewish leaders occurred in the Book of Acts with the stoning of Stephen by the Sanhedrin.

And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him [Stephen], and caught him, and **brought him to the council**, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: **Acts 6:12, 13**

Stephen defended the gospel, then:

Then **they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord**, And cast him out of the city, **and stoned him**: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And **they stoned Stephen**, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. **Acts 6:57-60**

It is significant that only after this rejection we see in the next chapter (Acts 8) that the gospel is taken for the first time to the non-Jewish world.<sup>22</sup>

Israel will see the sign of Jonah one more time, during the Tribulation, when the two witnesses are killed and come alive again before their eyes on the third day, when the remnant will then fear and give glory to God (Rev 11:1-13).

We have seen that the first important prerequisite in understanding the timing of the Second Coming was the rejection of the Messiah by Israel's leaders. Now we will examine the second important prerequisite – the scattering.

**B. Second – Moses predicted that, because of disobedience, the Jews would be scattered throughout the world:**

**If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers**, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And that **I also** have walked contrary unto them, and **have brought them into the land of their enemies**; if then their uncircumcised hearts **be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity**: Then will **I remember my covenant with Jacob**, and also **my covenant with Isaac**, and also **my covenant with Abraham** will I remember; and **I will remember the land. Leviticus 26:40-42**

As we have seen, this was a direct result of the rejection of the Messiahship of Jesus. Leviticus 26:42 indicates that God intends to give Israel all the blessings and promises of the Abrahamic Covenant, but they first must confess their iniquity (Lev 26:40). Only then will they receive the promise of the Messianic Kingdom. Jeremiah describes the blessings that God has for Israel in the Messianic Kingdom:<sup>23</sup>

And the Lord said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, **Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity**, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for **I am married unto you**: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and **I will bring you to Zion**: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall **feed you with knowledge and understanding**. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, **in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any**

**more. At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers. Jeremiah 3:11-18**

They only need to confess one specific iniquity. In the Leviticus and Jeremiah passages above, the word translated “iniquity” is singular, thus indicating one specific offence.<sup>24</sup> In the Book of Zechariah, chapter 13 speaks of the national cleansing of Israel from their sin. Chapter 14 describes the Second Coming and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom. But, the cleansing of Israel, the Second Coming, and the Messianic Kingdom are dependent on one verse in chapter 12:<sup>25</sup>

**And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon [unto] me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. Zechariah 12:10**

The bracketed word “unto” is missing in the KJV, but, notice the wording of the same verse in Young’s Literal Translation:

And I have poured on the house of David, And on the inhabitant of Jerusalem, A spirit of grace and supplications, And they have looked **unto Me** whom they pierced, And they have mourned over it, Like a mourning over the only one, And they have been in bitterness for it, Like a bitterness over the first-born.  
**Zechariah 12:10 Youngs Literal Translation**

The meaning of this verse is that Israel must long for the return of the Messiah “Whom they have pierced.” They must plead for His return. Only when they do this will they receive their cleansing and enjoy the blessings of the Messianic Kingdom.<sup>26</sup> The same thought is found in Hosea who speaks of God leaving and going to His place, then returning only after He is

sought for earnestly. In this verse of Hosea, God is speaking:

**I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early. Hosea 5:15**

The meaning of the words “seek me early” is that Israel will earnestly seek Him. Hosea is indicating that God left and went back to His place in heaven, to await Israel to earnestly seek Him. The word “offense” is singular in this verse, again indicating one specific offense. That offense must be acknowledged and confessed before He returns. The offense is not the killing of Jesus since judgment on Israel was pronounced before that happened (Matthew 12), and in fact, it was the Gentiles (Romans) that carried out the actual execution. The offense was the rejection of the Messiahship of Jesus.<sup>27</sup>

Finally, we see Messiah’s final judgment of the Jewish leadership as follows:

**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Matthew 23:37-39**

Jesus says that He will not come again until they say, “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,” indicating that they must accept Him as their Messiah. He will only come back when the Jews and their leaders plead for Him to come back.<sup>28</sup> This will only occur under severe persecution during the Tribulation.

If Satan can destroy the Jews before their national repentance, then Jesus will not come back.<sup>29</sup> This explains the severe persecution of the Jews, including the Holocaust, throughout history. Therefore, the prerequisite for the Second Coming is that:<sup>30</sup>

1. Israel must confess her national sin – rejection of the Messiahship of Jesus.
2. Israel must plead for the Messiah to return – “to mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son.”

Lastly, we will now look at the events leading to the precise timing of the Second Coming.

### C. Armageddon – Final events during Bowl Judgments leading to the Second Coming and the end of the Tribulation

**First** – The Antichrist will assemble his armies for the purpose of the annihilation of the Jews (Israel).<sup>31</sup>

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon **the great river Euphrates**; and **the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.** And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which **go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And **he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. Revelation 16:12-16**

The Euphrates River will be dried up to facilitate the assembling of the eastern armies of the Antichrist.<sup>32</sup> These armies of the east are not necessarily the same as the 200 million force army (possibly demons) of a different “trumpet” judgment (Rev 9:16, 17).<sup>33</sup> These armies will be brought to the Valley of Jezreel in the Mountain of Megiddo (Armageddon) **to assemble** for movement against Israel (see also: Joel 3:9-11; Psa 2:1-6).<sup>34</sup> The fighting will **not** occur at Armageddon as we shall soon see.

**Second** – The destruction of Babylon (the world political and religious capital during the Tribulation) – Jeremiah 50 and 51; Isaiah 13:1-14:23; Revelation 18:1-24

The prophecies of the destruction of Babylon have never be fulfilled as required by Scripture, so are therefore future.<sup>35</sup> We may be seeing Babylon’s potential to become the Tribulation world capital in the recent events taking place in Iraq. In addition to the attempts by Saddam Hussein to rebuild the ancient city, the United States is building a huge embassy complex on the Euphrates River (The embassy will sit on 104 acres, six times larger than the United Nations compound in New York and two-thirds the acreage of Washington’s National Mall.), Saudi Arabia is making a move to establish an Embassy, and the United Nations recently has agreed to send a large delegation to Iraq.<sup>36</sup>

In order to stabilize the region politically, militarily, and religiously, a ruling presence by the Antichrist may be a logical step to world order during the Tribulation. Babylon’s destruction will be mourned by those that profited from her existence (Rev 18:9-19).

While the Antichrist is away in the campaign of Armageddon, all is not well in Babylon. Antichrist soon receives a message that Babylon has been attacked and destroyed (Jer 50:43; 51:31, 32).<sup>37</sup> God will use Gentile believers, “sanctified ones,” against Babylon to bring about its destruction (Isaiah 13:1-14:23).<sup>38</sup>

I have commanded **my sanctified ones**, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.  
**Isaiah 13:3**

This destruction is God’s vengeance on Babylon because of the mistreatment of the Jews and because of the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple:<sup>39</sup>

The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, **to declare in Zion the vengeance of the Lord our God, the vengeance of his temple. Jeremiah 50:28**

Revelation also gives as a reason the “blood of the prophets,” i.e. that of the Two Witnesses and the martyrdom of the Tribulation Saints (Rev 18:24).<sup>40</sup> This destruction of Babylon will come at a time when Israel is seeking God and entering into an everlasting covenant with Him, is restored in her land, and all her sins forgiven.<sup>41</sup>

**In those days, and in that time [when the Lord goes against Babylon],** saith the Lord, **the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God.** They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, **Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual [everlasting] covenant** that shall not be forgotten.... **And I will bring Israel again to his habitation,** and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead. **In those days, and in that time [when the Lord goes against Babylon],** saith the Lord, **the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon**

them whom I reserve. **Jeremiah 50:4, 5, 19, 20**

**Third** – Jerusalem will fall at the hand of the advancing army of the Antichrist from Armageddon

When Antichrist hears of the destruction of Babylon he moves his forces from the Valley of Jezreel against Jerusalem.<sup>42</sup>

Behold, **I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.** And in that day will **I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people:** all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. **Zechariah 12:2, 3**

Behold, **the day of the Lord cometh,** and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. **For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.** **Zechariah 14:1**

Jerusalem will fall and half the population will go into slavery and half will remain, but the Antichrist's forces will sustain heavy losses at the hands of energized Jewish forces (Zec 12:12:4-9; Mic 4:11-5:1).<sup>43</sup> There is, however, a Jewish remnant at Bozrah (Petra) that fled Jerusalem when the Antichrist desecrated the Temple (Mat 24:15, 16; Dan 9:27; Rev 12:13, 14; Mic 2:12). The Antichrist now turns his attention to them.

**Fourth** – Antichrist attacks the Jewish Remnant

With Jerusalem secure, the Antichrist moves his forces against the Jewish Remnant at Bozrah (Petra).<sup>44</sup>

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; **I will surely gather the remnant of Israel;** I will put them together **as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold:** they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men. **Micah 2:12**

For I have sworn by myself, saith the Lord, that **Bozrah shall become a desolation,** a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes. I have heard a rumour from the Lord, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, saying, **Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.** **Jeremiah 49:13, 14**

Israel is now ready to repent.

**Fifth** – Israel Repents

We have seen that there are two conditions for Christ to return, to confess their sin (Lev 26:40-42; Jer 3:11-18; Hos 5:15) and to plead for Messiah's return (Zec 12:10; Isa 64:1-12; Psa 79:1-13; 80:1-19; Mat 23:37-39).

The Antichrist's campaign at Bozrah will last three days. Hosea 6:1-3 records a call by Jewish leaders for repentance of their sin as required by Hosea 5:15. This call begins the last three days before the Second Coming.<sup>45</sup> An alternate view speaks of one day being a thousand years (Psa 90:4; 2 Pe 3:8). When applied to Hosea 6:2 it is said to refer to two-thousand years since Christ's First Coming, and as He arose on the third day, Israel will receive forgiveness in the third millennium (this present millennium).

I will go and return to my place, till they **acknowledge their offence, and seek my face:** in their affliction they will seek me early. **Hosea 5:15**

**Come, and let us return unto the Lord:** for he hath torn, and **he will heal us;** he hath smitten, and **he will bind us up.** **After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up,** and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and **he shall come unto us as the rain,** as the latter and former rain unto the earth. **Hosea 6:1-3**

53: Israel's national confession is given in Isaiah

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and **when we shall see him,**

**there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet **we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.** But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.** All **we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.** **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,** yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought **as a lamb to the slaughter,** and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for **he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. **Isaiah 53:1-9**

In this confession Israel acknowledges that they had considered Jesus as an ordinary criminal, but now they confess that He is the Messiah, the Lamb of God, who died for their sins.

On the third day of their repentance and confession (Hosea 6:1-3) Israel (all Israel, whether at Bozrah or not) will receive salvation as recorded by Paul in Romans 11. In fact, this will be the result of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Israel (see also: Zec 12:10-13:1).<sup>46</sup>

**... blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.** And so **all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, **There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:** For **this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.** **Romans 11:25-27**

**... I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh...** in those days will **I pour out my spirit.** And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth... before the great and the terrible **day**

**of the Lord** come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: **for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance,** as the Lord hath said, and **in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.** **Joel 2:28-32**

The earth is now prepared for Christ's return – the event known as the Second Coming.

**Sixth** – The Location of the Second Coming is Bozrah.

Five passages of Scripture pinpoint the location of the Second Coming as Bozrah where a great slaughter is to occur. These passages are Isaiah 34:1-7, Isaiah 63:1-6, Habakkuk 3:3, Micah 2:12, 13, and possibly Judges 5:4, 5.<sup>47</sup>

Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For **the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.** Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and **the mountains shall be melted with their blood.** And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For **my sword** shall be bathed in heaven: behold, **it shall come down upon Idumea [Edom], and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.** The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for **the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea [Edom].** And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and **their land shall be soaked with blood,** and their dust made fat with fatness. **Isaiah 34:1-7**

In Isaiah we see a picture of the King of Kings marching towards Jerusalem triumphantly from Bozrah with His garments soaked with blood. Isaiah also indicates that He fights alone as protector of the Remnant Jewish forces.<sup>48</sup>

**Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?** this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? **I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.** Wherefore art thou **red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?** I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For **the day of vengeance** is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore **mine own arm** brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I **will tread down the people in mine anger,** and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth. **Isaiah 63:1-6**

Micah records that the Lord is protecting the Remnant Jews, like a Shepherd, against the Antichrist's forces at Bozrah. In this passage "the Breaker," "their King," and "the Lord" are all the same person. Micah links Bozrah with the Second Coming.<sup>49</sup>

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather **the remnant of Israel;** I will put them together as **the sheep of Bozrah,** as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men. **The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it:** and **their king** shall pass before them, and **the Lord** on the head of them. **Micah 2:12, 13**

Christ will return in the clouds.

**Seventh** – The manner of Christ's return will be in the clouds.

Before Messiah returns, a worldwide blackout occurs as prophesied by Jesus.<sup>50</sup>

**Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,** and the stars

shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **Matthew 24:29**

Jesus will then return in the clouds.

**And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24:30**

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Acts 1:9-11**

Revelation 19 deals with the Second Coming. Revelation 19:1-19 shows that a number of things occur as a prelude to the Second Coming:<sup>51</sup>

**Rev 19:1, 2** – The fall of ecclesiastical (religious Babylon).

**Rev 19:3** – The fall of the city of Babylon (economic and political).

**Rev 19:4, 5** – Praise to God from around the Throne.

**Rev 19:6-8** – Marriage of the Lamb.

**Rev 19:9** – Invitation to the marriage feast to be held at the home of the Bride, earth, after the Second Coming. The invitations go out to the Old Testament and Tribulation Saints.

**Rev 19:10** – Declaration that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

**Rev 19:11-16** describes the Second Coming. Verse 14 says that Messiah will come with His "armies." The plural form indicates that there are at least two armies:<sup>52</sup>

Who are the armies that come with Christ?

1. The Angels:

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father **with his angels.... Matthew 16:27**

2. The Church:

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all**, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. **Jude 14, 15**

As we have seen in Isaiah 63:1-6, even though the Lord returns with "armies," He fights alone.

### **Eighth – The Battle.**

The battle will begin at Bozrah and will extend to the eastern walls of Jerusalem in the Kidron Valley, also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat.<sup>53</sup>

**Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war**, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: **let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Joel 3:9-13**

Fruchtenbaum believes that he Antichrist will be among the first to be slain. He uses two verses in support of this position as follows:<sup>54</sup>

Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; **thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked**, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah. **Habakkuk 3:13**

**And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 2 Thessalonians 2:8**

However, most prophecy teachers believe the Antichrist will survive because he and his False Prophet

are "cast alive into the lake of fire" (Rev 19:20).<sup>55</sup> Thus, if Antichrist is slain, then as Fruchtenbaum proposes, Antichrist must be resurrected again. Fruchtenbaum uses Isaiah 14:20 in support of this view.<sup>56</sup> This writer does not agree with Fruchtenbaum on this issue. The Antichrist's army will be slaughtered all the way to the winepress in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.<sup>57</sup>

And this shall be the plague wherewith **the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.** And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague. **Zechariah 14:12-15**

And **the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth**, and gathered the vine of the earth, and **cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.** And **the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. Revelation 14:19, 20**

A possible explanation of the distance of 1,600 furlongs (200 miles) is give by Jeremiah as the fighting which begins in Bozrah extends south down the Arabah until the Red Sea at Eilat and Aqabah. From there to Jerusalem is about 200 miles. Since the fighting will end in Jerusalem at the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the blood bath will extend over a 1,600 furlong (200 mile) distance. It also should be noted that the round trip between Bozrah and Jerusalem is also 200 miles.<sup>58</sup>

Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord, that he hath taken against **Edom**; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of **Teman**: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them. The earth

is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry **the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea. Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah:** and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of **Edom** be as the heart of a woman in her pangs. **Jeremiah 49:20-22**

### **Ninth** – Victory at the Mount of Olives.

With the battle won, Messiah will ascend the Mount of Olives for the climax.<sup>59</sup> Zechariah 14:3 is often used to prove that Jesus' Second Coming will be to the Mount of Olives. However, Arnold Fruchtenbaum shows that Zechariah 14:3 is dealing with two separate events; first – fighting against nations, then; second – Jesus standing on the Mount of Olives. As we have seen, other Scriptures show that Jesus' initial return is to Bozrah to fight against the nations. Zechariah 12:7 also says that “the Lord will save the tents of Judah first.” Judah then is pictured as living in tents, not in Jerusalem. The remaining Jews in Jerusalem will be saved after the battle against the nations at Bozrah.<sup>60</sup>

Then shall the Lord go forth, and **fight against those nations**, as when he fought in the day of battle. And **his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. Zechariah 14:3, 4**

The Lord also shall **save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. Zechariah 12:7**

Revelation 16 describes the grand finale:

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done.** And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a **great earthquake**, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And **the great city was divided into three parts**, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in

remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And **every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. Revelation 16:17-21**

The earthquake will rearrange the land and provide a path of escape for the remaining Jews in Jerusalem as Jerusalem is destroyed.<sup>61</sup>

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and **the mount of Olives shall cleave** in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. **And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. Zechariah 14:4, 5**

Joel also reports this earthquake:<sup>62</sup>

**Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.** The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. **The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. Joel 3:14-17**

### **Are You Ready?**

These are exciting times that we live in. Realizing that the Bible contains actual fulfilled prophecy written in advance of its fulfillment caused me to consider whether I should take the Bible seriously. It was one

day in 1975 that I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior as a result of examining for myself the various prophecies that pointed to the times in which we live today. If you study the prophetic Scriptures you must realize that we are living in the time of the end, when Israel has returned to her land, and the world is earnestly striving for a covenant with Israel and the Arabs that would bring peace to the region. A seven-year covenant will eventually be brokered, but it will be a "covenant with death" (Isa 28:15, 18), not peace. At first it will seem to bring peace, but the Bible forecasts that the Antichrist will break that covenant midway through, and bring desolations. Finally the Jews will repent and Christ will return as prophesied and will set up His Millennial reign.

If you are a Christian, Christ will come and take you to where He is (the Rapture), so that you do not have to go through the wrath of God that will come on the whole world (Rev 3:10), and you will return with Christ to rule and reign. Don't wait. Accept Christ now. **AΩ**

**(Endnotes)**

- 1 Tim LaHaye, UNDERSTANDING BIBLE PROPHECY FOR YOURSELF, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1998, 2001, pp. 25, 28.
- 2 Tim LaHaye, UNDERSTANDING BIBLE PROPHECY FOR YOURSELF, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1998, 2001, p. 30.
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- 33 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 310.
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- 42 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 327-328.
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- 45 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 331.
- 46 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 332, 333.
- 47 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 339, 342.
- 48 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 341, 343.
- 49 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 342.
- 50 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 357. John F. Walvoord, THE PROPHECY KNOWLEDGE HANDBOOK, Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990, p. 389. Notice that Matthew 24:29 & 30 say nothing about an earthquake and the cleaving of the Mount of Olives. Other Scriptures mention the blackout and seem to link the blackout and an earthquake that cleaves the Mount of Olives, but the events may be separated by time, however short, an example of the Law of Double Reference?
- 51 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 339-345.
- 52 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 345, 346.
- 53 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 351.
- 54 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 351.
- 55 Wood, THE BIBLE & FUTURE EVENTS, pp. 146-148.
- 56 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 360, 362, 363.
- 57 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 353, 354.
- 58 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 354, 355.
- 59 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 355.
- 60 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, pp. 350, 351, 355.
- 61 Fruchtenbaum, THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MESSIAH, p. 356.
- 62 Notice that Matthew 24:29 & 30 say nothing about an earthquake and the cleaving of the Mount of Olives. But it speaks of a blackout. Here Joel mentions the blackout and seems to link the blackout and an earthquake that cleaves the Mount of Olives, but the events may be separated by time, however short, an example of the Law of Double Reference?

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