

Will a Worldwide Revival begin in Israel?

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Chapter One

Will There Be An End Time Harvest?

There has always been a great deal of controversy as to whether the Gospel age will conclude with a great harvest or a dreadful apostasy and a falling away from the Faith. The controversy arises because the Bible appears to support both of these seemingly contradictory possibilities. Therefore the lines have been drawn for and against the probabilities. However, I believe the controversy can quickly be solved when we realize that both indications are true and that both positions will happen at one and the same time. Possibly the easiest way to understand this is to recognize that the images of both the church in Philadelphia and that of Laodicea, will be present in the End Time Church. The church in Philadelphia will have an open door that no man can close. The lukewarm church in Laodicea was about to be spewed out from the Lord's mouth. Sadly the spirit of Laodicea has invaded much of the Church today, particularly in the Western world. The Lord's exhortation should therefore be heeded by all believers. We need to pay attention to the instruction of the Lord.

Revelation 3:20-22

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. NKJV

The image of one knocking at a door seeking the opportunity to dine with the incumbent person is that of a bridegroom seeking the attention of his prospective bride. The response to the urgent knocking will determine the attitude of the bride. I believe that the

Lord is currently knocking at the door of a lukewarm Church that needs to carefully listen to what the Spirit is saying to it. Only those people in the Laodicea church who victoriously overcome the spirit of Laodicea will sit with the Father on His throne.

The difference between ultimate revival or final apostasy is the difference between glorious victory or disastrous defeat for the Church. Anything other than glorious victory is both unscriptural and unthinkable.

Matthew 16:18 Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. NLT

Christ gave to the Church the keys to the Kingdom of God! The Church now has the responsibility to announce and demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the whole world.

Christ's Comment Regarding The End Of The Age

Jesus said in *Matthew 13:39* that, "*The harvest is the end of the age*".

Another way of saying this is that "the end of the age is harvest time.

The Good News Of The Kingdom Will Be Preached

The Bible also clearly declares Matthew in 24:14

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. NKJV

The clear inference of this scripture is that the good news of the Kingdom of God will be proclaimed to ALL nations immediately prior to the end of the age. This is obviously a declaration of triumph that would not be made if such a proclamation was ineffective and unproductive. This suggests a bountiful harvest in response to the message.

I firmly believe that we are presently living at a very important transitional period in history. We are about to witness the transition from the Church age to the Kingdom age. It is a moment when many Biblical prophecies are about to be dramatically fulfilled and we should be extremely alert and mindful of the significance of the prophetic hour in which we now live. I believe the greatest revival this world has ever known is about to sweep all of the nations of the earth. It will not be like the revivals of past years, it will be an end time revival for the purpose of bringing in a unique end time harvest. Our awareness of such important issues will come largely through two sources. Firstly this will come through a correct reading of the scriptures and secondly, through hearing the voice of the Lord through His Spirit. In the messages to the seven churches that precede an unfolding of prophetic truth concerning the future, the Lord constantly tells us e.g. Revelation 3:6 and elsewhere in Revelation.

6 Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches. NLT

This impassioned exhortation applies particularly to what the Spirit is saying to the Church that will experience the events of the Last Days as predicted in the book of Revelation. The core of what the Spirit says to the seven Churches may well be expressed in *Revelation 2:26 "To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, I will give authority over all the nations.*

There is a prophetic people on earth today who are anticipating a great End Times harvest, but many of these people do not know where or when it may begin and they have no idea what it will look like. This brief message suggests something that few people anticipate. It claims that the revival will definitely take place and that it will begin in Israel and will commence very soon. Don't lightly dismiss this possibility. Search the scriptures with an open heart and mind (Acts 17:11). Many present members of the Church mistakenly believe that God has cast off Israel and replaced her with the

Church. They believe that all the predictive promises that God originally made to Israel have now been inherited by the Gentile Church. So it will come as a great surprise to realize that God will only pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28) after He has positioned Himself in the midst of Israel (Joel 2:27, Zechariah 2:10).

The Church today is desperately in need of a powerful fresh visitation of the Holy Spirit. Many say, “We need another Pentecost!” But it is not another Pentecost, but a glorious Feast of Tabernacles, known as the Feast of ingathering that God will bring to the earth. It will prove to be even greater than Pentecost! It will be the latter rain and the former rain coming down together. (Joel 2:23). Restored Jews and Gentiles will work together in this tremendous harvest which God is presently preparing.

Approximately forty six years have passed since I received a vision of a revival coming to Australia and many things have changed greatly since that time. In Sydney, where I had been a pastor prior to going to Adelaide in 1963, there were four relatively small Assembly of God churches at that time and now there are more than 200 of them in the greater Sydney area. In those days, Sydney was often referred to as “the preacher’s graveyard.” Now just one of those churches has some 20,000 members. At that time the AOG fellowship nationally was comprised of less than 100 churches and now has something in the region of 1,200 churches.

The Klemzig church, in which I received the vision, later became the Community Church in Paradise which now has some 5,000 people attending regularly. This kind of transformation could only be wistfully dreamt of in those days. The vision came to me in three distinct phases. I believe that this spiritual refreshing was what I saw in the first two parts of

the vision. However, the third phase of the vision has obviously not yet been fulfilled.

I did not fully understand at the time just what the real significance of that third phase of the vision was. However I did see clearly that it was transpiring in a time of great confusion and grave consternation. As I watched crowds of men and women marching and demonstrating, I could only presume that some great crises had hit the nation. At that time, more than forty years ago, I presumed that the social and political unrest had to do with a time of economic recession. I believed that local industries were undergoing down sizing and serious economic problems resulting in massive dismissals. These in turn caused many families to lose their homes and suffer extreme financial hardships.

However I had no clear understanding then of what the exact causes of the unrest were. However in this the 21st century, it is becoming increasingly more evident that we are rapidly approaching a time of great crises in world affairs which will powerfully impact the whole world. The situation in the Middle East relative to God's Holy Land and people, is becoming more explosive with every passing day. The political situation is becoming increasingly more unstable and Israel in her own strength is becoming apparently more vulnerable. Many nations are lining up together against Israel. Political opinion and policy around the world is becoming increasingly more antagonistic to the Jewish State. I believe that soon Israel will have no one to turn to for help and deliverance from the evil intent of her neighbours who seek her destruction. Pressure will increase on Israel to trust Almighty God Jehovah that He will fulfil His prophetic promise to come to her aid. (Zechariah 12:8-10) By that time the whole world will be in a state of instability and unrest. Every nation on earth will be under tremendous tension as the anti Jehovah nations pit themselves against tiny Israel. The direct, personal intervention of Jehovah through supernatural means will become Israel's only hope of survival. Into the volatile chaos of earth, the Spirit of God will come as He did in the beginning of time

when the earth was chaotic and void. (Genesis 1:2) As surely as God's Word spoke order into chaos then, God will again move across the face of the earth in sovereign splendid power and authority.

This will not be a neat and tidy revival. It will not be a mere repeat of previous revivals that have taken place in various parts of the world in the last few hundred years. It will be totally different from anything that the Church has ever experienced before. It will be far more than an acceleration of growth in the presently existing Church, resulting in a great harvest of people into the traditional church system. It will be a truly Kingdom of God event with all the hallmarks of the direct personal intervention of the mighty God of the universe. God will be seen in action across the globe in a more direct, powerful and authoritative manner than modern man has ever witnessed. It will take place in a world that is experiencing the anger and judgment of God manifested openly and powerfully among all nations. It will be a completely new era from the one in which we presently live. Nations will stand in awe and reverence before the God they have previously denied and rebelled against. The book of Revelation which has long been left on the 'too hard' shelf, will become a present reality. The God who has so often been benign and long suffering with the godless nations, will arouse Himself in anger and manifest His great power and authority. He will clearly reveal Himself in a manner that the world has not seen since the Old Covenant era when He frequently unleashed His judgments in the earth.

The revival that the world will experience will be part of the restoration that has been predicted in Acts 3:19-21 that will include a return to many aspects of the New Covenant Church of Acts 2, including its Hebraic origin and connection.

Acts 3:19-21

19 Repent therefore and be converted, (transformed) that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

*20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,
21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. NKJV (Emphasis added)*

This great renewal predicted for the Last Days will begin with a time of deep repentance on the part of both Israel and the Church. Israel's national repentance is described in Zechariah 12:10,11 and focuses on the revelation of Messiah as the deliverer of Israel from threatened annihilation. Repentance by the Church will be in the form of a recognition and acceptance of the fact that Yeshua is the long promised Messiah of Israel who will ultimately reign over the nations from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

This deep repentance will precipitate times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord to prepare the world for a fresh manifestation of Yeshua as He was when John saw Him in the book of Revelation. The heavens will retain Him until this time of refreshing arrives.

It will be part of the prelude that precedes the Second Coming, and the return of Christ to exercise His kingly rule over the nations. God is going to thoroughly shake all the nations of the world to awaken them and to turn their attention to Him.

Haggai 2:7

7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. NKJV

As we believers, prepare the way of the Lord through prayer, intercession and exercising divine authority, the harvest of the nations will be reaped. Supernatural signs and wonders will finally convince the heathen that there is truly a personal creator God who

rules the universe. Whole nations will be ushered into God's Kingdom.

Zechariah 2:11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. (NKJ)

Zechariah 8:22

22 Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.' NKJV

Psalms 22:27-28

27 The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him. People from every nation will bow down before him.

28 For the LORD is king! He rules all the nations. NLT

The harvest of the Ages will be reaped in a time of great revival. It will also be a time of great stress and confusion. Whole nations will be seeking solutions to the many problems that beset them. The time for which we now watch, wait, pray and believe, will ultimately arrive. We need to consecrate ourselves afresh NOW to be part of God's great End Time Harvest. We must seek the Lord while He may be found. We must call upon Him while He is yet near (Isaiah 55:6). From the midst of their dilemmas many nations will begin to seek the One who will become the desire of all nations who will ultimately fill the temple with the glory of God. (Haggai 2:6-7).

Haggai 2:6-7

6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;

7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. NKJV

At this present time, Christ is not the desire of all nations. He is certainly not the desire of the Communist or Muslim nations. However, when God has finished shaking heaven and earth, He will become the desire of all nations.

Chapter Two

Will Worldwide Revival Begin In Israel?

This book is a sequel to my recent one entitled THE MESSIAH COMES TO ISRAEL. The title of this present book asks a very important question concerning whether or not there will be a great Holy Spirit revival and harvest in the Last days and if so when and where might it begin? Several important verses in Joel provide two direct answers to these questions.

1. Will there be a Last Days outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
2. When and where will it begin?

The initial clues to the answer are found in the prophecy of Joel 2:27-28

*27 Then you shall know that **I am in the midst of Israel:***

I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

*28 "And it shall **come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;** NKJV*

The all important central message of verse 28 emphasises four things. Let's dissect and analyse the verse.

1. It **SHALL** come to pass
2. **Afterward.** (After verse 27. I AM in the midst of Israel).
3. I **WILL** pour out My Spirit. *The Ruach Ha Kodesh*
4. Upon **ALL FLESH**, i.e. ALL humanity.

This verse emphasises that regardless and irrespective of anything else that will transpire, God will pour forth an unprecedented visitation of His Spirit upon all humanity. Such

an outpouring will supersede and eclipse in every respect the outpouring on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

The prophet also clearly states in verse 27, that the people of Israel will know that “I AM” is in the midst of Israel. This obviously implies that He has in some form returned to the people and land of Israel. A more accurate translation of I AM is “I WILL BE who I will be” signifying the ever relevant one. The great I AM will be in the midst (centre) of Israel, i.e. the people and the land. Verse 28 also clearly intimates that the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh will only occur *after* the Lord has positioned Himself in the midst of Israel. I personally believe that this will happen following the great victory of Zechariah 12.

The prophet Joel clearly affirms that there will be a Last Days outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh and that it will begin in Israel when the Messiah is “in the midst of Israel.” (V 27) Joel declares “And it shall come to pass afterward”. **After what?** Obviously, after the Lord is in the midst of Israel.

I AM IN THE MIDST OF ISRAEL

These verses confirm several important facts

1. The nation of Israel are God’s peculiar people.
2. God is going to presence Himself “in the midst” of His people.
3. God will protect Israel from their enemies in the End Times.
4. God will prosper Israel physically and spiritually. (Joel 2:21-23)

One of the strongest reasons why I personally believe there will be a Last Day harvest is the clear statement of Joel that in the **last days God will pour forth His Spirit upon ALL flesh.** I had believed this and even preached about it long before I realized the implication of one of the first words in Joel 2:28. The prophet says, “*And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; NKJV*”

The important word I had ignored was “afterwards”. The all important question it raises is “after what?” And the answer is in the preceding and following verses that speak of God’s literal favour restored on Israel and particularly according to God’s awesome presence in the midst of Israel.

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know¹ that I am in the midst² of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

1 Yada H3049 - to positively ascertain through actually seeing
2 Qereb H7130 “in the centre of”

THE SPIRIT ON ALL HUMANITY

Among Christians who do believe that there will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days, the verse in Joel 2:28 is usually at least one of their “proof” texts. However, when this verse is quoted it is usually cited in isolation without any reference or connection to its immediate context. This may well be because Israel does not count in their estimation and they automatically assign all prophetic scriptures to the Church. The truth is that the prophecy of Joel applies to Israel first and foremost. This is a fact that we must be aware of when considering any part of his powerful prophecy. Honest observation will conclude that the context, both preceding and following Joel 2:28, very definitely refers to physical Israel. Within that context God makes numerous futuristic promises to Israel that cannot be ignored if we want to properly understand the true significance of the exciting promise of an outpouring upon all flesh. Let me first address very simple and plain answers to this query.

INDICATORS REGARDING THIS PROMISE

Joel 2:21 - 27 declares that:

- 1 The Children of Israel will be established in their Promised Land. (Joel 2:27)
- 2 The invading armies will have been driven away. (Joel 2:20)
- 3 Those armies will no longer mock the Israelites. (Joel 2:17)
- 4 The Lord God of Israel will be “in the midst of them.” (Joel 2:27)
- 5 God will have done great things for them. (Joel 2:21)
- 6 He advises them to be fearless. (Joel 2:21)
- 7 God encourages them to rejoice in the Lord their God (Joel 2:23)
- 8 They will praise the Lord their God who does miracles for them. (Joel 2:26)
- 9 He assures them that they will never be disgraced again. (Joel 2:27)
- 10 And **AFTER** this, He will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.

The second chapter concludes with a reference to a Jewish remnant in Jerusalem, whom the Lord has called. This proves that there is a divine calling over Israel to be fulfilled in the Last Days.

Joel 2:32 There will be people on Mount Zion in Jerusalem who escape, just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called. NLT

Almighty God is preparing to reveal Himself to the world in a new dynamic manner. He will grab the attention of all nations by the astounding manner that He works on behalf of Israel. The eyes of the whole world will soon be upon Israel as God’s Shekinah glory focuses on the nation. Israel will become the launching pad for a new and glorious manifestation of the supernatural power of God. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

A PROMISE TO ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM

Isaiah 60:1-3

1 "Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all the nations to see!

For the glory of the LORD is shining upon you.

2 Darkness as black as night will cover all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD will shine over you.

3 All nations will come to your light. Mighty kings will come to see your radiance. NLT

I am sure that many Christians will be amazed that God will choose to visit Israel first because they have convinced themselves that God has finished with Israel and devoted Himself completely to the Church. They do not realize that the Church of the last days will be composed of both Gentiles and Jews. God has promised to re-graft Israel on to their own Olive tree.

JEWES WILL TURN FROM THEIR UNBELIEF

Romans 11:22-23

23 And if the Jews turn from their unbelief, God will graft them back into the tree again. He has the power to do it. NLT

Amidst the many signs and indications predicted in the Bible concerning the Last Days, there is a great deal of controversy as to whether our present generation will see a great End Times worldwide revival or a universal apostasy and falling away in the Church. The controversy arises mainly because many Christians can only perceive one thing or the other. They cannot imagine both things happening at the same time. From their perspective, the future can only hold either revival or a falling away. However, the Bible predicts both things happening at one time. In some areas of the Church I believe there will be a tremendous worldwide End Time revival and harvest. In other areas there will be a definite falling away from the Christian Faith. In other words there will be a polarization and separation in the Church. The traditional church will cleave one way or the other. The main catalyst that

causes that division may well be one's attitude towards Israel. Many believers will participate in a glorious revival whilst others will be among those who retreat from the Faith. Much will depend upon the viewpoint we develop especially in respect of Israel. It may also depend upon whether from our study of the Bible we anticipate a great outpouring of special grace, or whether we develop a gloomy pessimistic anticipation of the ultimate triumph of evil. Our participation or otherwise in the harvest will depend on whether we anticipate, prepare for and embrace it or not. We need to face the fact that the future of humanity is either revival or ruination!

REVIVAL AND APOSTASY TOGETHER

To a keen observer, the Bible suggests both possibilities. In some places it clearly declares a major End Time visitation of the Holy Spirit and the inevitable positive results. Other scriptures appear to suggest the opposite, that Christianity will experience a grave recession with many people abandoning the true Faith. Over the years many people have challenged me as to my belief, their question being "Will there be an End Times revival or an End Times spiritual apostasy? My answer in short has always been "yes." I believe there will definitely be a revival of unprecedented proportion, but there will also be a drastic falling away of many Christians. Two well known scriptures seem to support both views and warrant further examination.

Joel 2:28-29

*28"And it shall come to pass afterward **That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh**; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.*

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. NKJV

However, many sincere Christians believe that rather than there being an End Time revival there will actually be a great falling away from the Faith. They often cite this verse as a proof text.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 - 4

*1 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. NKJV

APOSTASY WILL OCCUR

Without doubt there will be a falling away in some areas of the Church mainly amongst churches that have no anticipation of End times events. But there will also be a glorious renewal, restoration and revival in other areas of it. I personally am believing to be involved in the revival prospect which I anticipate with great excitement and also some trepidation. But I believe that sadly, the second possibility will also occur, and many will desert the Faith which was once delivered to the saints. (Jude 3).

In the earliest verses of Psalm 22 the Psalmist graphically describes the sufferings that Messiah would one day endure. It is easy in hindsight to recognise how succinctly and accurately the Psalmist predicted the horrors of crucifixion. However, in the middle of the psalm David clearly links those sufferings with Israel.

*Psalms 22:23 Praise the LORD, all you who fear him! Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob! **Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!** NLT*

Then, towards the end of this dramatic psalm David speaks of the far reaching consequences of this sacrificial atoning death. It is a death that will offer life to people of every nation. And it will be a sacrifice that will pave the way for a king who will ultimately rule all nations.

Psalms 22:27 The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him. People from every nation will bow down before him.

28 For the LORD is king! He rules all the nations. NLT

My view has been formed by my study of God's Word, particularly in the light of a vision that I received in 1964. From that vision I learned that both things will occur but that the promised revival will triumph spectacularly over all the opposing forces. I believe that there will be deep darkness on the earth and gross profound darkness upon the last generation. But I also fervently believe that God's amazing, glorious, pervading light will shine through the darkness on to God's people. It will powerfully penetrate the thick darkness to shine initially upon Israel and subsequently on that part of the Church that aligns itself with Israel and particularly with Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel. The prediction in Isaiah 60:1-3 which many Christians believe is made to the Church, is plainly made in the first instance to Israel and specifically to Jerusalem.

ISRAEL WILL BE VISITED FIRST

I strongly believe that such a visitation and harvest will inevitably involve Israel first. I believe that what God will achieve on behalf of Israel in the troubled times that lie ahead will transform the attitude and perspective firstly of Israel and then of the whole world. Jehovah God will be visibly exalted to

a degree that has not been witnessed since the days of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. In these momentous times, the nation of Israel which God has drawn back to their ancient land, will be immensely vulnerable and even exposed to the possibility of annihilation. They will find themselves in a dire situation from which only the direct, personal, dynamic intervention of God will deliver them. In the process of that deliverance, God will be exalted in the eyes of all nations. The reaction of the nations to such an exposure will cause a sober realization of the reality and authority of God as never before. The world will suddenly become more acutely aware of God's sovereignty and awesome power. When the Gospel is proclaimed in the climate of that awareness, mankind will be brought face to face with Jehovah in a way that has not been seen since His powerful manifestation in bringing His people out of Egypt.

THE KINGDOM WILL BREAK FORTH

The Gospel will no longer be preached in the hidden recesses of old antiquated buildings that have assumed the name of "the church." It will be proclaimed in the public arenas where multitudes of men and women will gather to hear and see powerful manifestations of Kingdom authority. These gatherings will not be neatly programmed events such as we see in most churches today. As Peter opened the gates of the Kingdom on the Day of Pentecost, so once again the gates of the Kingdom will swing wide open. There will be amazing responses, both positive and negative, to a clear and authoritative proclamation of the Kingdom.

APPEARANCE OF THE ONE NEW MAN

There will also be an unveiling of the ONE NEW MAN who was spoken of by Paul as being neither Jew nor Gentile but a fusion of both.

Ephesians 2:14-18

14 For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.

15 By his death he ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new person from the two groups.

16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

17 He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and to us Jews who were near.

18 Now all of us, both Jews and Gentiles, may come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. NLT

The main factor that will birth this new man company will be the challenge of Israel's future in the prophetic program of God. The events described in Zechariah 12:10 will introduce a new era in God's End Time plan for the nations.

1. World attention will be vividly focused upon Israel and Jerusalem following Israel's amazing victory and the Messiah's surprising appearance.(Zechariah 12:8-11).

2. There will be a new sense of awe that will fill the whole world concerning the name of Yaweh.

Asaph says in Psalms 83:16 ***Utterly disgrace them until they submit to your name, O LORD. NLT***

3 A new emphasis on the Kingdom of God will emerge. The Good News about the Kingdom will be about the literal Kingdom not a spiritual, mystical ethereal one. Most churches today seldom mention the Kingdom of God and when they do it is rarely about the literal Kingdom that God is going to

establish in Jerusalem where the King Messiah will sit on the throne of David. It will not be manifested as a mystical ethereal spiritual kingdom, but as a physical reality.

4 The message of God's Kingdom will be proclaimed by the One New Man company of Jewish and Gentile believers.

5 The centre and fulcrum of the Kingdom will be in Jerusalem and Israel.

6. Jehovah God will be in the midst (centre) of Israel. (Joel 2:27)

7. Israel will never again be disgraced. (Joel 2:27)

Chapter Three

God's Prophetic Promise Concerning Israel

At the time that I received the vision in 1964 I was totally insensitive to the important and essential role of Israel in the prophetic purposes of God. I ignorantly disregarded the fact that the "Old Testament" scripture promises and predictions apply initially to Israel and are still valid to them. In those days I was very Church centred and Israel did not even appear on my radar screen. When I began to read from Isaiah 41:14, I unwittingly ignored the significance of the immediate context and applied the words directly to my interpretation of the church scene I was seeing in the vision. I also interpreted the scriptures solely in relation to the scenes I was witnessing in respect of Australia. It was only some years later whilst I was living in Africa that I began to see the vital importance of God's unique relationship to Israel and of His promises to them. It was then that I began to realize the intrinsic application of this passage to the nation of Israel. From the immediate context of the chapter I suddenly realized that what I was blithely applying to the church was actually in the first place a prophetic promise to Israel concerning the End Times. I also began to realize that the fulfillment of the prophecy that I was seeing was vitally related to God's prophetic intention for the nation of Israel. Though an alliance of nations would come against Israel, bent upon destroying her, they would be beaten small and blown away like chaff. This amazing victory would be so remarkable that the entire nation would rejoice in Jehovah and glory in the Holy One of Israel.

A VITAL PROOF TEXT

Among the people who anticipate a great End Time harvest, one of the scriptures they most frequently quote to substantiate their belief is

Joel 2:28-29

"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. NKJV

Once again this scripture is usually quoted without any reference to the context of the whole prophecy, including the immediate context of the chapter. Many modern "Bible scholars" and commentators have denied that Joel's prophecy has any significance beyond the Day of Pentecost.

However, the rendering of Acts 2:16 in the Amplified Bible is interesting and significant. It attempts to take both word meaning and context into account in order to accurately translate the original text from one language into another. The Amplified Bible does this through the use of explanatory alternate readings and amplifications to assist the reader in understanding what scripture really says. Thus the statement "this is THE BEGINNING of what was spoken through the prophet Joel." The Day of Pentecost was not the total fulfillment of Joel's prophecy it was simply the beginning of the fulfillment that will continue on throughout future generations.

PENTECOST ONLY PARTIAL FULFILLMENT

Peter interprets this scripture as referring to "the Last days." -Acts 2

*16 But [instead] this is [**the beginning of**] what was spoken through the prophet Joel:*

*17 And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream divinely suggested] dreams.*

18 Yes, and on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy

telling forth the divine counsels and predicting future events pertaining especially to God's kingdom]. (Amplified Bible)

What happened in Jerusalem that day did not fulfill the fullest dimensions described in Joel's prophecy. Peter did not claim that what was happening was the complete fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. He intimated that it was the beginning of its fulfillment. One aspect of difference is the extent of the outpouring. Joel described as a worldwide outpouring in which the Spirit would be poured out "on all flesh", (i.e. all mankind) not just a local outpouring upon Jews in Jerusalem. Another issue is the timing. It was to be "before the coming of the day of the Lord". That "day" is the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah. The revival in the first century happened just after the First Advent of Messiah, whereas this revival is to happen immediately before His Second Coming. So what did Peter mean when he said, "this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel"? He meant that what had happened in Jerusalem would eventually take place in the End Times, encompassing the whole world.

VISITATION BEGINS IN ISRAEL

The outpouring in the End Times revival, that begins with an outpouring upon Israel (Zechariah 12:10) will be a far greater manifestation of spiritual power. It will be like a spiritual nuclear explosion. There are two kinds of nuclear power. One is called fission – based on the splitting of the nucleus. The other is called fusion – based on the merging of the nucleus. The first century revival was like fission, in which the disciples were scattered out from Jerusalem to evangelize the world. The last century revival will be like fusion, which will bring Yeshua back to Jerusalem to set up His kingdom on earth. The nuclear power of fusion is stronger than that of fission. Likewise the revival of the End Times will be more powerful than the first Pentecost. The greater power of the End Times revival is connected to the Messianic Jewish remnant in Israel.

Joel 2:32 There will be people on Mount Zion in Jerusalem who escape, just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called. NLT

THE CONNECTION IS ALSO REFERRED TO BY PAUL

Romans 11:12

12 Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the Jews turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when the Jews finally accept it. NLT

The End Times Messianic revival will not just be more powerful than that of Acts 2, it will be “incomparably more powerful”. As the first century revival began in one place and launched the gospel all over the world, so the End Time outpouring will commence in Jerusalem to the ends of the world. Apostle Paul describes this happening as “life from the dead”.

Romans 11:15-16

*15 For since the Jews' rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, how much more wonderful their acceptance will be. **It will be life for those who were dead!***

16 And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their children will also be holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too. NLT

By comparing Acts 2, Romans 11, and Joel 2:32 we notice that the Messianic Jewish community in Jerusalem – the so called “remnant” – will be the catalyst for the End Times revival just as it was for the Pentecost revival.

SALVATION ON MOUNT ZION IN JERUSALEM

Joel 2:32 (AMP)

*³² And whoever shall call on the name of the Lord **shall be delivered and saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the remnant [of survivors] shall be those whom the Lord calls.***

Why is it necessary for the Messianic remnant in Jerusalem to be the centre of this world revival? Why couldn't it just be a world outpouring with no focal point or central location at all? The answer is that the very purpose of the End Times revival is to usher in the Second Coming of Jesus and He is coming back to Jerusalem. Therefore the revival must be focused on Jerusalem. The first century outpouring sent the power out from Jerusalem. The last century will bring the power back to Jerusalem.

And why does this worldwide revival have to be connected to Messianic Jews? Why couldn't it just be a universal outpouring on the Church, with no connection to "Jew or Greek"? (Galatians 3:28) The answer is that Yeshua has promised that He would only return when the Jews in Jerusalem would be ready to welcome Him in as King.

Matthew 23:39 For I say to you, you shall by no means see Me from now until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

How could there be an End Times revival to usher in the Second Coming if there were no Jewish believers in Jerusalem to receive Him back?

The focus of international prayer on behalf of the Messianic remnant in Israel is therefore also a prayer for world revival and for the return of Yeshua. The Messianic remnant, the world revival and the return of Yeshua are all connected and interdependent one upon the other.

REVIVAL PRECEDES THE HARVEST

One more proof of this "remnant-revival-return" connection is found in the very prophecy that Peter quoted from Joel. Actually Acts 2 records all but the last verse of that prophecy, which explains that the worldwide End Times revival will happen on one specific condition.

Among those Jews in Israel who have survived the Holocaust, the Islamic Jihad and the End Times tribulations, there will be a Messianic remnant of faith. It will be “because” of the Lord’s “calling” upon them that the conditions for the End Times revival will be set. When they are in position, the great outpouring on all flesh will be released. That is one of the reasons that we are all called to “pray for the remnant that remains.”

Nearly 2000 years ago the Holy Spirit fell on the 120 disciples gathered in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit came down in a glorious manner. On that very day on the feast Shavuoth, the Day of Pentecost had fully arrived. It was fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits. At nine o'clock in the morning, the Feast of Pentecost emerged into its New Covenant fulfillment.

The outpouring came on the same Hebrew calendar day, that former epic day of trembling and visitation happened on Mount Sinai. It had been the 7th day of Sivan when Moses brought down the Torah or the Law from the mountain. Both these events occurred on the very same Hebrew calendar day. Thus the Day of Pentecost on the 7th of Sivan was the birthday of Israel. Now on this same holy day, the Feast of Pentecost became the birthday of the Church.

This shared birthday of Israel and the Church should not come as a surprise to us. The Church back on that epic Day of Pentecost was not a gentile/heathen company. In its historical context the Church is easily seen to be the launching of the global expansion phase of the Congregation of Israel, or what the Apostle Paul termed the Commonwealth of Israel. (Ephesians 2:12) This was a direct fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

MESSIAH’S COMMISSION

Isaiah 49:6

6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'" NKJV

The emergence of the Church was a new phase of God's redemptive plan in its international expansion. The "Church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38) became the church on the main street. But the salvation came from the same source i.e. through the Jews.

*John 4:22 You Samaritans know so little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for **salvation comes through the Jews.** NLT*

Although the Church in its earliest stages was wholly Jewish it soon began to spread across the world with many Gentiles joining with the Jewish apostles and forming a body that consisted of Jews and Gentiles who were meant to become "One in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26-29
26 So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him.
28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians — you are one in Christ Jesus.
29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and now all the promises God gave to him belong to you. NLT

INTERPRETING JOEL'S PROPHECY

The fact that the original prophecy in Joel 2:27 is initially clearly directed towards Israel is usually completely ignored. In the previous verse God plainly states "I AM in the midst of Israel." (I AM is one of the names of Jehovah – the God of Israel and of Yeshua).

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

The final verse in chapter 2 puts the prophecy in even clearer light. God is speaking of a prophetic time of deliverance and says specifically that it will occur "in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem."

Joel 2:32

32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls. NKJV

The prophet Joel further states within the context of the prophecy that the events foretold will occur at a time in history when an alliance of nations will seek to invade and possess Israel, the land that God regards as “His land” which He has promised to the House of Judah. The response of God to that attempted invasion is clearly foretold in chapter three.

A VIOLENT ATTACK UPON ISRAEL

Joel 3:1-2

1" For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel,

Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. NKJV

God’s response to the invading armies will be to cause the total destruction they plan against Israel to come back upon their own heads.

Joel 3:14-17

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again." NKJV

The great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, falling as the former and latter rain together, will occur in the context of God's great work of grace towards His ancient covenant people. It will not be a neat and tidy little church revival with the choir singing "Just as I am without one plea." It will descend upon a volatile world experiencing the judgments of God for their sinful Godless deeds and their evil treatment of the people of Israel.

A REMARKABLE RAIN

Joel 2:23-24

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully,

And He will cause the rain to come down for you — The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. NKJV

Rain is always a sign of God's faithful blessing to promote fruitful abundance and plenty. Psalm 65:9-13

9 You (God) care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

11 You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

12 The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

13 The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing. (NIV)

RAIN IN ISRAEL FALLS MAINLY AT TWO SEASONS

In considering the biblical holy days, God's sacred calendar is centred around the seasons and the harvests as they fall in the land of Israel. In ancient Israel, there were two main harvest cycles. The average harvesting period was set at a period of seven weeks (Lev 23:15; Dt. 16:9), and the year's harvest was mostly gathered in before the autumnal equinox. An abundant harvest was a cause for great rejoicing (Isaiah 9:3), and so God's three Festival seasons (Deuteronomy 16:16) were similarly tied to the harvest times of Israel. Barley, the first of the grains, from which came the Wave Sheaf Offering (Lev 23:10), was harvested in spring from March-April to May, coinciding with the Unleavened Bread season; wheat in late spring-early summer from May through to June-July, marking the time of Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks; and the summer fruits, olives, dates, figs, grapes, and the like-from August to September, when the latter festivals, culminating in the Feast of Tabernacles, were commemorated.

1. The Former Rain

Also known as “the sowing rain” falls in the Autumn season. This opens the year and the agricultural season, softening the soil hardened by the long summer, making it suitable for ploughing and sowing.

2. The Latter Rain

The “reaping rain” follows later in the Spring providing a copious deluge and frequent thunder storms that enlarge the grain, preparing it for a bountiful harvest. There is usually a four to five months span between sowing and reaping, prompting Jesus to remark to His disciples,

John 4:35

35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. (NIV)

However, Joel foretells a time when (spiritually) God will send both the former and the latter rains together in the same month. The sowing and reaping rains will fall at the identical time. A swift harvest will result that will see both sower and reaper working together at the same time, a phenomena also referred to by Amos.

Amos 9:13

13 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills. (NIV)

This great phenomena will cause the greatest spiritual harvest in history, greatly eclipsing and superseding all previous harvests. This is the prophetic harvest into which God will send the "Joel generation."

GROWING IMPORTANCE OF KINGDOM COMMITMENT

We have certainly entered that period predicted by God when "Everything that can be shaken will be shaken." Heb 12:27. It is a time of world-wide uncertainty and insecurity never previously experienced. It is described as a "day of dark clouds." Everything that man has attained and achieved will be shaken and tested. Every institution he has built will be rocked. The economic systems of the world will falter and fail. Social problems will flood the world. Previously unknown diseases will plague mankind. All manner of disasters will be experienced. There will also be an alarming increase in earthquakes, floods and natural disasters. Human governments will fall because they can no longer cope with fearful phenomena shaking the earth. The only things that remain stable will be those things planted by God.

There will be a period of time on earth when it will be like night and day at the same time. Darkness and light will exist at the same

prophetic moment. In this portion of prophecy in Isaiah, the prophet is foretelling conditions that will prevail in the last days.

Isaiah 21:11-12

11 He calls to me out of Seir, "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?"

12 The watchman said, "The morning comes, and also the night. If you will inquire, inquire; Return! Come back!" NKJV

Spiritual darkness will cover the earth and the nations but amidst all the chaos and confusion, the Kingdom of God will emerge in a new purity and power. Every human effort of man will ultimately fail, but God's glorious Kingdom will prevail. From the smouldering ruins of humanism will arise the Phoenix of God's Kingdom Rule. Every human government will acknowledge ultimate failure and declare that "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father."

Isaiah 45:23

23 I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. NKJV

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)

As the emergence of God's Kingdom on earth comes rapidly closer it is time for His redeemed people to find each other in real genuine unity as befits the true Body of Christ. Jesus, our great High Priest prayed for this unity and predicted that it would be a necessity before the world would acknowledge that

God has truly sent Jesus Christ into our world to redeem all who are in bondage to Satan.

John 17:20 -23

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. NKJV

It is quite obvious from scripture that when God wants His people to do something He usually gives them two options.

- 1.They can obey Him and come the easy way.
- 2.They may take their own way which is always the hardest way.

This was certainly true in the Exodus of Moses and Israel from Egypt and their long journey to Canaan. It has also been very true of many others whose stories are told in the Bible. May God grant that His people will be more flexible and pliable and come into His purposes the (relatively) easy way. I believe that God is presently encouraging to seek His face and to know His Will. Oh that we might hear and heed His voice that His Will may be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

We are living in very critical days that will worsen rapidly in the relatively near future. The world is heading for a direct confrontation with Almighty God. The world does not yet recognize this for they are living in spiritual darkness. But we the Church should be able to see it because we are of the light not of the darkness. However, we must position ourselves in

humility and repentance before God, earnestly, passionately and fervently seeking His face and crying out for His mercy.

I have been exercised of late and numerous people have asked me concerning when the third aspect of the vision might be fulfilled. I have prayerfully asked God what that phase was all about and just what it meant. I certainly have not received another vision about it but I do believe that God has shown me some further details of what He desires to take place. I firstly found my attention directed to

Hosea 6:3

3. 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. (KJV)

I began to see that in the midst of the measure of renewal that our nation has experienced since 1964, we sadly neglected to “follow on to know the Lord” Himself in a deeper dimension. I was not in Australia during those days (My family and I had followed the leading of God to go to Africa) so I cannot say what actually happened from first hand experience. However, my sense is that the churches and pastors enjoyed and appreciated the time of refreshing and the fresh growth it caused but never actually followed on to know God personally in the deeper dimensions He requires. Churches grew and increased considerably and in some respects a new day dawned, but it has lacked the deeper heart searching and repentance that would have led into a far greater and richer experiences of God’s presence with all that can mean. If I might presume to paraphrase Hosea 6:3 it might read like this

“Then shall we experience God’s restoration, if we follow on to know Him at the deepest level, and that His consequent

arising will be as the dawning of a new day and God will come to us as the latter and the former rain in one great deluge.”

The original prophecy which Hosea delivered was actually in respect of Israel as a nation. Because Israel had sinned and failed to seek God earnestly and fervently in repentance and tears, God had withdrawn His presence from His people. In the preceding verses, because of Israel’s spiritual disobedience and barrenness God had said,

Hosea 5:15 I will go and return to My place, till they acknowledge their guilt, and seek My face; in their trouble they will seek Me earnestly:

I believe that the Church universal is presently in a situation from which God has excused Himself temporarily until we begin to seek Him earnestly. There are pockets of blessing and revival around the world, but much of the Church has become sterile and impotent.

In response to this action the prophet says in Chapter 6

Hosea 6:1-3 (AMP)

¹ *COME AND let us return to the Lord, for He has torn so that He may heal us; He has stricken so that He may bind us up.*

² *After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life); on the third day He will raise us up that we may live before Him.*

³ *Yes, let us know (recognize, be acquainted with, and understand) Him; let us be zealous to know the Lord [to appreciate, give heed to, and cherish Him]. His going forth is prepared and certain as the dawn, and He will come to us as the [heavy] rain, as the latter rain that waters the earth.*

Hosea said that “He has torn us and smitten us but He will bind us up again.” God has allowed us to be torn apart through our denominations and doctrines because we have insisted in being

separated from each other. The Church is a sadly fragmented institution torn apart by religious pride and animosity. The world looks in scorn at a church in which Jesus said that we would be known by our love for one another, instead of which we are seen to be rigidly divided and even hostile.

SEEKING GOD PASSIONATELY

I believe that the church in Australia is presently enjoying a greater measure of God's favour and blessing than previously but our appropriation and experience of what God has done is shallow and superficial. In order to experience the latter and former rain as promised by Joel, we need to return to the Lord in genuine humility with fasting and prayer that He would visit the land in a powerful and awesome manner. We need to move from "programs" to earnest prayer and to really seek the face of God. Unfortunately it seems that we will have to experience times of severe testing to bring us to our knees. God said in Hosea 5:15. "*in their trouble they will seek Me earnestly.*"

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CAUSES CHAOS

With the benefit of hindsight I can also see something extremely important that frankly did not occur to me 45 years ago. I refer to the unleashing of religious terrorism around the world and the great crises which this will bring upon us all. I can better understand the concern and consternation I saw in the vision when I realize the effect that such global terrorism will yet bring upon our world. The whole world is heading towards a time of tribulation and testing never before known on earth. It will eventually have an effect on and impact every nation. In the context of that time of fear and uncertainty, when Almighty God will manifest His awesome power before all mankind, there will also come a tremendous outpouring of His Spirit on all flesh. The scenario in which the visitation will take place will be much more frightening than a mere economic recession and downturn. It will transpire in a world that is threatened with

possible annihilation when the hearts of people everywhere will be filled with fear. Jesus predicted, in Luke 21:26.

26 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.

A further vitally important aspect is that when we “return unto the Lord and come to more fully know Him” we will understand His heart and prophetic plans for this day. One of the vital keys to experiencing a last day revival is to fully recognize the prophetic plan and purpose of God at this time and to fully cooperate with Him. Among the numerous things we will then understand is God’s End Time plan for Israel and how the destiny of the Church is essentially linked to that of Israel. I believe that the 3rd day resurrection God spoke of in Hosea 6:3 refers to the End Time visitation that God will bring upon Israel which will also coincide with the fulfilment of Joel’s prophecy concerning the former and latter rain in the last days. In the book of Joel God speaks of both the church and Israel. The vine speaks of the Church, the fig tree of Israel.

Joel 1:7 He has laid waste My vine, and ruined My fig tree; he has stripped it bare and thrown it away; its branches are made white.

Joel 1:12 The vine has dried up, and the fig tree has withered; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree-- all the trees of the field are withered; surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

Both the church world wide and the Jewish nation, though restored to their ancient land, are in a withered state of spiritual drought. However, in such a circumstance God challenges His people and promises restoration to a repentant people.

Joel 2:15-19.

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;

16. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.

17. Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

18. Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.

19. The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations. (NKJ)

ISRAEL'S RESURRECTION

For Israel, this restoration will prove to be “life from the dead” - a glorious resurrection of God’s ancient covenant people to a living relationship with Jehovah.

Romans 11:15

For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (NKJ)

Events transpiring in Israel today are evidently leading towards the direct personal intervention of the Messiah to rescue and redeem His ancient covenant people from their enemies. (Zechariah 12) This intervention will lead to the recognition by Israel of their promised Messiah.

Zechariah 12:8. "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in

that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.

9. "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (NKJ)

It will also bring men and nations everywhere to their knees before Jehovah God and His Messiah as they recognise His supreme and unquestionable authority over all mankind.

Three of the major signs that will herald the return of the Messiah will be

1. The re-birth of the nation of Israel and her restoration to the Promised Land, i.e. the land of Israel. Amazingly this has been partially fulfilled in our own day and generation. Against all apparent odds the world community through the auspices of the United Nations, in 1948 declared the formation of a new State named Israel. In 1967, once again in a miraculous manner, the city of Jerusalem including Temple Mount came under the direct control of Israel. These amazing events, fulfilled in accordance with ancient Bible prophecies, announce the imminence of the Messiah's return to earth.
2. The second prediction concerns a world in which peace will be upon everyone's minds and lips.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-6

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

5 *You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.*

6 *Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.(NKJ)*

World peace is the number one concern for most people throughout our world today. Our world is currently threatened with massive destruction through terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations professes to be vitally concerned with this issue. Leading nations throughout the Western world espouse various so called "Roadmaps to peace." Prominent leaders such as G.W. Bush and Tony Blair were constantly said to be pursuing world peace through their various activities. It is an extremely sad commentary upon a godless society that they are pursuing peace through the very thing for which Almighty God will finally judge the nations, i.e. dividing the land of Israel and the ill treatment of Jews. (Joel 3:1-3) There will be no world peace until the Prince of Peace comes.

3. The third sign I will mention is in some ways the most alarming of all, namely an attitude of sceptical disbelief on the part of people who profess to be Bible believers.

2 Pet 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (KJV)

The amazing and sad truth that we learn from this particular scripture is that one of the very signs of the imminent return of Christ will be the appearance of scoffers decrying the very idea of the imminence of Christ's return. These scoffers are not the ungodly who have no biblical knowledge of His possible return. They are evidently people

who know something about the prediction of His return, but scoff at the idea that it be imminent. Like the people of Noah's generation they continue their normal lives as though nothing was amiss.

CONCERNING THE MOCKERS

Isaiah 28:22

22 Now therefore, do not be mockers, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts, a destruction determined even upon the whole earth. (NKJ)

Jude 1:17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. (NKJ)

GETTING GOD'S PERSPECTIVE ON ISRAEL

At the time that I received the vision I was blissfully insensible to the important place of Israel in the prophetic purposes of God. I ignorantly disregarded the fact that the "Old Testament" scriptures apply initially and inviolably to Israel and are still valid to them. When I began to read from Isaiah 41:14, I unwittingly ignored the immediate context and applied the words directly to my understanding of what I was seeing in the vision. I interpreted the scriptures solely in relation to the scenes I was witnessing in respect of Australia. It was only some years later, whilst I was living in Africa that I began to see the vital importance of God's unique relationship to Israel and of His promises to them. God actually spoke to Elizabeth and myself in Africa and told us to "get our attitude towards Israel into right perspective." It was then that I began to realise the initial application of this passage is to the nation of Israel. From the immediate context of the chapter I suddenly realized that what I was blithely applying to the church was actually in the first place a prophetic promise to Israel concerning the End Times. I should have given more attention to the verses preceding

and following the verse I had seen, as a confirmation of what I had seen in the vision. I also began to realize that the fulfillment of the prophecy that I was seeing was vitally related to the time when God's prophetic intention for the nation of Israel would take place. I firmly believe that whether or not we participate in the End Time harvest will depend to a large degree on our having the right attitude towards Israel. Allow me to intersperse the verses I read in Isaiah with some brief commentary.

Isaiah 41:8-16

8. "But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.

The passage is specifically addressed to Israel whom God calls His servant, and to Jacob and the physical descendants of Abraham through Isaac. God is obviously speaking to His ancient people Israel.

Isaiah 41:9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away:

It was addressed to Israel after God had re-gathered the people "from the ends of the earth" which can only refer to the end of the major Diaspora during the 20th Century which occurred in 1948 with the establishment of the Jewish homeland. God emphasizes strongly that He has NOT rejected (cast away) Israel. In the End Times of this Age they will certainly have an important role to play in the redemptive purposes of God.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

God is obviously referring to the help He has extended to the Jewish people in the establishment and development of Eretz Israel.

Although their task has been an arduous and almost impossible one, they did not need to fear the challenge, for God would strengthen and uphold them by His strong and mighty arm.

Isaiah 41:11 "Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish.

Here is a clear prediction that many nations would be incensed against Israel and her presence in the Promised Land but those nations would be ultimately ashamed and disgraced and would utterly perish.

Isaiah 41:12 You shall seek them and not find them-- those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing.

ISRAEL'S ENEMIES INCENSED

Israel's enemies, who would be fanatically incensed against her and contend with her, would become as nothing – a non-existent thing.

Isaiah 41:13 For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'

14 "Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you," says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

In likening Israel to a worm, God is clearly requiring Israel to be utterly humble before Him and completely dependant upon Him. (I believe that He is also requiring this of the church today). Only in response to such humility will God reveal Himself as her Redeemer the Holy One of Israel whose very righteousness, holiness and integrity is partially predicated upon His unfailing loyalty to Israel.

Isaiah 41:15 "Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make the hills like chaff.

16 You shall winnow (scatter) them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the LORD, and glory in the Holy One of Israel. (NKJ)

Mountains and hills in scripture often refer to nations and kingdoms as the context of this passage makes clear. Though an alliance of nations will come against Israel, bent upon destroying her, they would be beaten small and blown away like chaff. This amazing victory would be so remarkable that the entire nation would rejoice in Jehovah and glory in the Holy One of Israel and the whole world would see that He is Lord and Master of the universe.

THE CHURCH MUST WAKE UP

At present the Church worldwide seems to be largely oblivious and disinterested regarding the significance of what is happening in the Middle East and specifically in relation to Israel. Current world events are happening in line with Bible Prophecy that predict that a huge spiritual "beast" will arise in the form of an alliance between Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. (See Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 13) This beast will be dedicated to the destruction and conquest of the Jewish nation Israel and the subjugation of all mankind. The beast obviously arises from nations that are Islamic. The world scene is obviously now being set for the final confrontation between the powers of darkness and the kingdom of God. At the same time God is preparing to gather in the greatest harvest ever. When mankind sees the awesome power of God displayed as He steps on to the scene to rescue and redeem Israel, they will all recognise that Jehovah God is truly the only true and living God. Multitudes from every religion and those with no religion will then respond to His Gospel and be swept into God's glorious Kingdom. It is interesting and important to note that

in Isaiah 41, the scripture that seemed to confirm the vision, it says clearly that it was “The Lord God, The Holy One of Israel who would perform it to show us things that will happen at the latter end.” The title, “Holy One of Israel” links God irrevocably with Israel. The validity of God’s holy nature and character is inevitably linked to His faithfulness to Israel.

Isaiah 41:20-22

*20 That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this and **the Holy One of Israel** has created it.*

*21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong reasons, **says the King of Jacob.**" (Israel)*

22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. (NKJ)

Here are some further thoughts from Hosea 6:3 (a paraphrase)

3. Then shall we know, (experience) if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth (emergence) is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

The Bible always portrays rain as a special blessing from God.

Deuteronomy 11:14

...then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

However, God has expressed specific conditions for the breaking of national drought. This verse applies to both natural and spiritual drought. The principle remains the same.

Throughout the Bible, God's promises to both Israel and the church are interspersed with the "ifs" of conditional consequence. Probably the best known of these is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14. which clearly spells out the conditions that God makes.

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR RESTORATION

2 Chronicles 7:13 If I ever shut off the supply of rain from the skies or order the locusts to eat the crops or send a plague on my people,

2 Chronicles 7:14 and my people, my God-defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking my presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, I'll be there ready for you: I'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health. (The Message)

We should always remember that this promise was originally made to Israel. We have been called by God into His Kingdom which still includes Israel. The true purpose of our salvation is to restore us into fellowship with God. We are not called to a religion but real relationship in which God is not ashamed to call us His brethren. (Hebrews 2:11) As His special people we should be utterly devoted to God making Him the first and final priority in our lives. We should be recognized as children of God through our Godly character and family likeness etc

WE NEED TO HUMBLE OURSELVES

The first inescapable condition that God makes is that we must humble ourselves before Him. God gives (His) grace to the humble but He resists the proud and self sufficient. (James 4:6) It is interesting to note that God does not specify simply faith but true humility. He does not say "If my people will just speak the word of faith." The condition He makes is to genuinely humble ourselves and admit and confess our sins and the consequent needs we have.

Only after we have humbled ourselves does God admonish us to pray. He obviously wants us to petition Him from a humble and contrite heart. Reviving is promised to the humble in spirit.

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (NKJ)

This kind of humble, persistent heart felt prayer seems to be in very short supply today. Very few churches emphasise the need for such prayer. In most churches the prayer meeting is the least attended gathering of the week. It is usually sterile and pedantic. It is evidently much harder to pray than to preach or sing. Prayer has become the last resort of many churches.

In the third instance God requires of us "Seek My Face." This is what He required of David, Psalm 27:8-9

8 When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

9 Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; you have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. (NKJ)

SEEKING GOD'S FACE, NOT HIS HAND

The important thing to realise here is that God wants us to seek His face not His hand. He demands that we seek Him, not just His blessing. His hand is the instrument by which He dispenses His blessing whether it be rain or revival. When we seek the face of God we seek His personal fellowship, intimacy and communion. When we seek His face we look directly into His eyes. We develop a deep intimacy with Him. Too many preachers today, particularly in the Western world, are urging their listeners to seek God's hand and what He can supply in terms of health, wealth and success. They are

preaching a Gospel of success and personal achievement rather than humility and true spirituality.

REPENTANCE IS ESSENTIAL

Finally, when we have humbled ourselves, prayed and sought God's face, God demands that we repent (turn away from) our wicked (selfish, carnal, disobedient) ways. He made this demand upon Israel that they repent of their great wickedness in that they had rebelled against His commandments and walked in disobedience.

1 Samuel 12:14-18

14 "If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

15 "However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

16 "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes:

17 "Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

18 So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. (NKJ)

THE PROMISE

This is the kind of attitude and prayer that reaches the throne of God's grace and causes him to say "I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land."

In accordance with Hosea 6:3 there are at least three ways in which God wants us to know Him.

1. From His Word in a much deeper and richer way, studying it with our hearts rather than our heads.
2. Experientially, through deep personal spiritual intimacy, - two way conversation, prayer and intercession.
3. Reproductively, as Adam “knew Eve” and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “*I have acquired a man from the LORD.*” Genesis 4:1 God wants us to know Him in an intimate reproductive relationship through which He will birth the Kingdom.

The years of renewal we have experienced undoubtedly came from the Lord. No humans became renowned for their role in it. However, its results have not (yet) led to the revival for which we hope.

WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

1. We failed to “follow on” to know the Lord intimately. The thing that God desires to happen through this coming renewal is that all His people will come to know Him more personally and deeply than ever before. The move of God that became known as the Charismatic Renewal has largely disappeared.

2. Pastors became CEO’s promoting church programs. Worship became largely spiritual entertainment. God wants to deliver His Church from promoting program and personalities and fill the Church with His glory.

3. We settled for better results rather than the best. In order to inherit God’s best, we have to become willing to jettison the programs with which man has filled the church and cry out to God that He would fill the church with His presence and glory.

WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW?

1. We need to seriously seek the Lord of the Harvest
2. Follow on to know Him. Paul in Philippians said “ That I might truly know Him.”
3. Earnestly “chase after Him” We need to ardently pursue God -to know His heart, see through His eyes. To discern His Will.

What will happen as we follow on to know Him?

We will develop deeper intimacy with Him. Know His mind. Feel with His heart. In accordance with Joel’s prophecy, (Joel 2:15) the church and especially its leaders need to blow the trumpet in Zion to “sound the alarm.” Christian radio and TV is ideally positioned to “Sound the Alarm” reaching the church AND the un-churched, believers and non-believers

What Might God Tells Us At This Prophetic Moment?

Joel has some tremendously encouraging prophecies for Israel in the Latter Days calling upon them to “Fear not. Be glad and rejoice.” E.g. Joel 2:21. *Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done marvellous things! (NKJ)*

Joel 2:23

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; (NKJ)

Although the prophecies in Joel (and numerous of the other prophets) refer and relate to the Church and to Israel, their initial application is to Israel. The promise to “pour out My Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28) is immediately preceded by several promises that are made specifically to Israel, the land and the people. These verses are included in the immediate context of that glorious promise. E.g.

Joel 2:21

21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvellous things! NKJV

Joel 2:23-24

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you — The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. NKJV

Joel 2:27

27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. NKJV

In Joel 3:1-2 God also foretells a time when all nations will gather together in the Valley of Jehoshaphat against the nation of Israel. There will be a tremendous battle, eclipsing all previous wars. In view of the strong words of encouragement that God has given to Israel (Joel 2:21,23) I cannot possibly believe that He has wooed them back to Eretz Israel to allow their destruction.

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. (NKJ)

God is going to give a miraculous resounding victory to Israel in the sight of all nations. However, what follows these

wonderful promises are all conditional for Israel, as indeed they are for the Church too.

Joel 2:12-19

12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him-- a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.

*19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations."
(NKJ)*

Israel's Muslim neighbours will attack her. (I personally believe there is a definite link between Psalm 83, Joel 3 and Zechariah 12).

This attack is presently building up in the Gaza strip through Hamas and in Lebanon through Hezbollah with the direct aid of Iran and the complicity of all of Israel's Muslim neighbours. It is like a tinderbox as Hamas fires rockets into Israel every day seeking to escalate the

tension and produce another intifada. God warned Edom of this attack in Obadiah 10

"For violence (*Hamas*) against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever. NKJV (The Hebrew word used here for violence is *hamas*).

Psalms 83:2-12

2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. (against you)

*3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people,
And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.*

4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."

5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: (Arab League of nations)

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.

9 Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera, As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

10 Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth.

11 Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 Who said, "Let us take for ourselves The pastures of God for a possession."

13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind!

14 As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire,

15 So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm.

16 Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD. (Jehovah)

17 Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,

18 That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, (JEHOVAH) Are the Most High over all the earth. NKJV

In the very near future the world will witness two distinctly differing, and chronologically sequential, invasions of Israel. In both instances the assailants' populations operate predominately under Islamic influence. The first episode, likely occurring within the very near future, aligns Palestinians, Syrians, Saudis, Egyptians, Jordanians, Lebanese, and associated terrorist organizations, like the Hezbollah, Hamas, and Al-Qaeda, in a confederate effort to destroy the Jewish State of Israel. Psalm 83 describes this coming war, and alludes to these populations by their ancestral equivalents: the Edomites, Ishmaelites, Moabites, Hagarenes, Gebalites, Ammonites, Amalekites, Philistians, Tyrians, and Assyrians.

The second attempted invasion and its result is described in Ezekiel 38

11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates' —

12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. NKJV

GOD'S RESPONSE

Ezekiel 38:21 I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord GOD."Every man's sword will be against his brother.

22 And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." NKJV

Chapter Four

The Ultimate Harvest

The word ultimate may be understood in at least two ways. Firstly it means final, thus the final harvest. Secondly it is sometimes used for the best or greatest, the most important or powerful example of a particular thing. I am using it for both purposes to express the final and greatest harvest. The final harvest involves a crowd too vast to be visually estimated.

Revelation 7:9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white and held palm branches in their hands. NLT

THE FINAL HARVEST

This is the ultimate harvest recorded in the Bible. It is the last and the greatest. Yet many Christians who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, would have us believe that it has been reaped without the presence of the Church or of the Holy Spirit. For such a harvest to be reaped from every nation on earth it must necessitate the Holy Spirit being poured out on ALL FLESH. How could this vast group have become blood-washed believers without the work of the Holy Spirit, since no man comes to the Lamb except the Father through the Spirit draws them (John 6:44).

The chapter opens when John sees a crowd of people who are called servants of God having His seal on their foreheads. They are also Jews from all the tribes of Israel.

Revelation 7:4 And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God. There were 144,000 who were sealed from all the tribes of Israel: NLT

Who are the 144000? Are they converted Jews or tribulation saints? Is it a literal number? What does the Bible say about them? Let's take a look at what we can find out.

The fact that there are 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel proves that they are all Jews. "The number is clearly symbolic, it is not a literal, exact number. But the question is, symbolic of what? Three major options have been given. The first is that this figure is symbolic of a group of Jews whom God will redeem at the end of the age. The second is that this is symbolic of a group of martyrs whom God preserves for martyrdom. The third is that this number is symbolic of the whole of the Church, which God will protect through the tribulation at the end of the age."

The "Israeli" servants of God will be sealed with a special seal in their foreheads. This may or may not be a visible seal. It may be a special consciousness of God in their minds. They will obviously herald the message of the Kingdom and their Messiah King.

144,000 is not a mathematically precise number but rather a symbolic one. It will represent the completeness of Israel as per 12x12 tribes. Twelve is also the number of divine government. These servants of God will be marked or sealed by Him. I believe they will minister in cooperation with the innumerable company that John evidently saw some small distance from them. This is a vast Gentile (non Jewish) company so large that it cannot be visually estimated. There will be a sublime unity and cohesion between the two groups as they work together in the same glorious cause.

1. The 144,00 are all sealed on their forehead and are servants of God.
2. They are from all the tribes of Israel. They represent the whole nation of Israel.
3. They are sealed before any harm is done on earth.
4. They are servants of the Lord. The question arises, "How were they serving the Lord?" The most probable answer is that they were proclaiming the good news about how the Messiah had saved their nation from annihilation. Zechariah 12: 8 -9, and

how they had surrendered to Him through national repentance
Zechariah 12:10.

They are all obviously alive at the same time, evidently all being saved in a short period of time. It is not hard to believe that this was probably during the time of national repentance outlined in Zechariah 12:10 – 11. This company were obviously on the earth for we read in Revelation 7:3

3 "Wait! Don't hurt the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants." NLT

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE 144,000?

What is the role of these 144,000 Jews during the Tribulation? What purpose do they serve? All the text says is that they will be *"bond-servants of God"* (Revelation 7:3). But the context suggests that they will serve the Lord as evangelists and proclaimers. I believe this because their description is followed immediately by the description of *"a great multitude which no one can count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues"* (Revelation 7:9). John sees this great host of people standing before the throne of God as a sign of submission, and he asks *"Who are they, and from where have they come?"* (Revelation 7:13). He is told that they are people who have come out of the Great Tribulation who *"have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"* (Revelation 7:14).

In other words, this is a multitude of Gentiles who have accepted Jesus after the events of Zechariah 12:10. Because they are placed adjacent to the 144,000 believing Jews, the implication is that they are converted by the Jewish/Gentile One New Man a company who will appear following the national repentance of Zechariah 12:10.

Between verse 8 and 9, there is no intimation that John was translated to any other place. He is evidently in the same place, when perhaps turning his gaze in a somewhat different direction, he sees another crowd vastly larger than the original 144,000. Thus the Jews and Gentiles were all alive and present at the same time.

Revelation 7:13 Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, "Who are these who are clothed in white? Where do they come from?" NLT

Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white and held palm branches in their hands.

10 And they were shouting with a mighty shout, "Salvation comes from our God on the throne and from the Lamb!"

11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell face down before the throne and worshiped God.

12 They said, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and forever. Amen!"

13 Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, "Who are these who are clothed in white? Where do they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

15 That is why they are standing in front of the throne of God, serving him day and night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will live among them and shelter them.

16 They will never again be hungry or thirsty, and they will be fully protected from the scorching noontime heat.

17 For the Lamb who stands in front of the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away all their tears." NLT

The two companies are obviously linked for John sees them at the same time, in the same place. They are joined to each other by a common redemption. The seal of God is upon them both.

Zechariah 9:11 Because of the covenant I made with you, sealed with blood, I will free your prisoners from death in a waterless dungeon. NLT

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and you, sealed by the shedding of my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." NLT

Many Christians have labeled these people “Tribulations saints” to distinguish them from Christians, but when is a saint not a saint? These people have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. They confess that salvation comes from Yaweh and from the Lamb. God is in the midst of them.

THE SECOND COMPANY WAS

- 1 A vast crowd too great to visually estimate
- 2 From every nation, tribe, people and language.
- 3 They stand before the throne and the Lamb.
- 4 They are clothed in white garments.
- 5 They have palms in their hands
- 6 They shout “salvation comes from our God and from the Lamb”.
- 7 They prostrate themselves before God and worship Him.
- 8 They have come out of great tribulation.
- 9 They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
- 10 They serve God night and day.
- 11 He who sits on the throne lives among them
- 12 They will be fully protected
- 13 They will enjoy springs of living waters
- 14 God will wipe away all tears.

Are the 144,000 of Revelation 7 the same as the 144,000 portrayed in Revelation 14?

I believe they are. Why would the Bible introduce us to a totally different group of 144,000 people without telling us so?

Revelation 14:1-5

1 Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

2 And I heard a sound from (coming out of) heaven like the roaring of a great waterfall or the rolling of mighty thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together.

3 This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. And no one could learn this song except those 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

4 For they are spiritually undefiled, pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb.

5 No falsehood can be charged against them; they are blameless.NLT

This chapter contains three visions; one of the Lamb on Mount Zion, another of the three angels preaching against Babylon, and the third of the harvest and vintage.

A VISION OF THE LAMB

The vision of the Lamb is in Revelation 14:1, which is none other than Christ, described by his likeness, as a Lamb; by the place where He was, Mount Zion; by his position there, standing, and by the company that were with him, whose number were 144,000, and their character, His Father's name written on their foreheads. One of the rules of interpretation is that if a name of a place occurs it generally relates to that place, in this case the earthly Mount Zion. At the same time a voice was heard from (out of) heaven - (G1537 Ek Ex). comparable to the sound of many waters, of thunders, and of harps: and a song sung which none learn but the above number with the Lamb Revelation 14:2. These are described by their purity, chastity, and strict adherence to Christ; by their redemption through Him; by their being the firstfruits of God and of the Lamb, and by their integrity and unblemished character, Revelation 14:4; next follows the account of the three angels; the first comes with the everlasting Gospel, to preach it to all men, loudly calling upon all to fear and

worship God, and give glory to Him, since He is the Creator of all, and the hour of His judgment is come,

Revelation 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel flying through the heavens, carrying the everlasting Good News to preach to the people who belong to this world — to every nation, tribe, language, and people.

7 "Fear God," he shouted. "Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all the springs of water." NLT

Chapter Five

The World's Greatest Harvest

The war in Gaza which broke out in December 2008 will explode again until finally it will be launched in such a fashion that with Iranian support it will threaten the total destruction of Israel as a Jewish nation and the annihilation of all Jews and Christians in the land. It will be waged with the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Although the attack will be launched by "all the nearby nations" (Zechariah 12:2) it will be politically, financially and morally supported by many other nations who supply weapons and technical intelligence. This war will precede by some years the Ezekiel 38 and 39 war which will be waged some years after a peace treaty with Israel has given them a period of peace and prosperity.

Some 2,500 years ago the prophet Zechariah predicted that in the last days all the nations surrounding Jerusalem would launch a fierce attack upon Israel and Jerusalem. These nations would be complicit in one purpose - the eradication of the State of Israel. However the prophet saw that instead of them eliminating Israel, Yaweh the God of Israel would destroy and eliminate them. He would also preserve Israel and the citizens of Jerusalem. The ensuing war will not be a political conflict but a spiritual war. It will be between the God of the Bible and the spiritual forces behind Islam. It will not only end in a resounding military victory for Israel it will also conclude in an immense harvest of souls into the Kingdom of God. This will constitute the greatest spiritual harvest ever reaped. The prediction in Zechariah is all the more remarkable when we realize that it was pronounced approximately 2,500 years ago.

ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY IS IMMINENT

The twelfth chapter of Zechariah is amongst the most important chapters in the whole Bible. It is a chapter of prophetic predictions that will usher Israel into the most exciting and fulfilling days of her

entire history. It will introduce Israel into the fullest expression of her predicted role as a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. Israel will inherit her predicted function as a Messianic nation that will proclaim The Kingdom reign of God over all nations.

SEQUENCE IN THIS CHAPTER IS AS FOLLOWS

1. An attack upon Israel by her surrounding neighbours.
2. The conclusive supernatural defeat inflicted by God upon Israel's anti God enemies. (Vs 2-9)
3. God's miraculous defence of Israel and Jerusalem.
4. The confidence that Israel's leaders will express. *Zechariah 12:5 Then the leaders of Judah will think to themselves, 'The people who live in Jerusalem are strong because of the LORD of Armies, their God.'*
5. The conclusive victory of God's army over the armies of Islam.
6. The submission of Muslims and other religious devotees to the demonstrated superiority of Yaweh.
7. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (V 10)
8. The prayers, mourning and repentance of Israel regarding their deliverer the Messiah and their submission to Him.
9. The Messianic transformation of Israel.
10. The manifestation of the One New Man.
11. A tremendous worldwide harvest of souls into the Kingdom.

Zechariah 12 begins with a reference to the God of creation. This seems very appropriate because it tells the story about transforming Israel into a new creation nation which will be an intrinsic and essential part of God's plan to ultimately bring renewal to the whole earth.

Zechariah 12:1 - Future Deliverance for Jerusalem *Zechariah 12:1 This is a message about Israel from the LORD, the LORD who spread out the skies, created the earth, and gave life to man.*

Zechariah emphasizes the fact that God is the unique creator of the heavens, earth and all mankind. He is the one true and living God, creator and ruler of the universe. He is the omnipotent God for whom nothing is impossible and He will come to the aid of Israel when all hope of survival seems to have disappeared. Isaiah also speaks of the creative omnipotence of God emphasizing His ability to accomplish anything and everything.

Isaiah 42:5

5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: NKJV

Although the initiative for this battle appears to come from the attacking armies, it actually comes from God Himself who draws them into a confrontation in order to judge them for their sins against His people Israel.

GATHERING THE NATIONS FOR JUDGMENT

Joel 3:2

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. NKJV

The whole scenario which follows reveals the sovereignty of God as He vents His anger and judgment for recurrent historic and present mistreatment of His people and also for their final attempt to divide the land that He has promised them. All the nations that are part of the plot to divide the Promised Land will suffer some measure of judgment but those that actually launch this attack will suffer the most.

Zechariah 12:2 I will make Jerusalem and Judah like an intoxicating drink to all the nearby nations that send their armies to

besiege Jerusalem.

God will give the enemies of Israel an intoxicating cup that will cause fearful trembling. The attacking armies will begin to behave irrationally like a drunken mob. Their clarity of purpose and coordination will suffer grievously. God will also sow madness (insanity) and confusion through the ranks of Israel's enemies. In the Bible such a cup in the hands of God usually speaks of a cup of judgment and obviously such is the case in this chapter. God will force the enemies of Israel to drink from His intoxicating cup of judgment.

Zechariah 12:3 On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone, a burden for the world. None of the nations who try to lift it will escape unscathed.

The heavy stone will rupture everyone who tries to move it. The picture is of a human being endeavouring to move a mighty rock or boulder much larger than oneself and succeeding only in rupturing themselves.

ISAIAH HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT "THAT DAY"

That Day is a euphemistic term for the period at the close of this age. It is referred to by several different names and is rather loose in its interpretation. It is often called The day of Messiah by Jewish people.

It is a special period at the end of time when God's will and purpose for mankind and His world will be fulfilled. The phrase appears 17 times in Zechariah 12-14, giving consistency and connection to all the events therein. The reference connects all the events of these chapters towards the crescendo and finale of the prophecy.

Zechariah 14:20-21 In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. NKJV

Isaiah too makes frequent reference to “in that day” including a pertinent reference in,

*Isaiah 4:2. **In that day** the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped. NKJV*

God will sow fear, panic confusion and blindness into the ranks of Israel’s enemies. They will utterly lose their nerve and any confidence they previously had leaving them completely vulnerable to Israel.

Zechariah 12:4 "On that day, says the LORD, I will cause every horse to panic and every rider to lose his nerve. I will watch over the people of Judah, but I will blind the horses of her enemies.

The curse with which God threatened His people if they disobeyed Him, will come upon His enemies.

Joel 3:4-5

4 "What do you have against me, Tyre and Sidon and you cities of Philistia? Are you trying to take revenge on me? If you are, then watch out! I will strike swiftly and pay you back for everything you have done.

STRENGTHENED BY JEHOVAH

The governors and citizens of Israel will confess that Jehovah Sabaoth is their living God and that their true strength is in Him. By the revelation of God the leaders of Israel in that day will come to trust and rely upon the Lord Almighty. This title is a military name that means the “Lord of Armies”. It confirms the fact that God is

going to assume a real military role in behalf of Israel at this time.

Zechariah 12:5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, 'The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.' NKJV

The clans (tribes) of Israel will become like a prairie fire in a forest of dry timber or a torch thrown amongst dry sheaves of wheat. Israel's counter attack against their invaders will be like an immense explosion of a fiery tempest destroying all the attacking enemy armies.

Zechariah 12:6 "On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a brazier that sets a woodpile ablaze or like a burning torch among sheaves of grain. They will burn up all the neighboring nations right and left, while the people living in Jerusalem remain secure.

Zechariah 12:7 The LORD will give victory to the rest of Judah first, before Jerusalem, so that the people of Jerusalem and the royal line of David will not have greater honor than the rest of Judah.

The nation of Israel will receive deliverance first before Jerusalem. The attack will evidently be initiated in the territory outside of Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:8 On that day the LORD will defend the people of Jerusalem; the weakest among them will be as mighty as King David! And the royal descendants will be like God, like the angel of the LORD who goes before them!

THE WEAK MADE STRONG

The word translated weakest or feeblest is *kashal* which suggests "one that totters or wavers through inadequate strength particularly in the legs". This can refer to tiny infants or elderly persons. He further emphasizes that the "Angel of the Lord" i.e. the Messiah will actually lead them into battle. In typical Israeli Defence Force fashion, He will go before His troops as the supreme commander. He

will be wholly responsible for their amazing strategy.

Headline news in all forms of international media will one day carry the story -"**Israel Wins Astonishing Victory Through Supernatural Intervention!**" The accompanying articles will tell an amazing prophetic fulfillment of a war originally foretold in,

Zechariah 12:8

8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. NKJV

WHO IS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD?

The Angel of the Lord mentioned in verse 8 is none other than the Messiah. This code name "*Angel of the Lord*" is used numerous times in the First Testament for visible appearances and physical manifestations of God.

The Angel Of The Lord is a mysterious messenger of God, sometimes described as the Lord Himself (Genesis 16:10-13; Exodus 3:2-6; 23:20; Judges 6:11-18), but at other times as one sent by God. The Lord used this messenger to appear to human beings who otherwise would not be able to see Him and live (Exodus 33:20).

In Joshua 5:13-14 He is called the "Commander of the Army of Jehovah".

Joshua 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." NKJV

Zechariah 12:8 tells us that Messiah was the one who went before them into battle and won for them a tremendous, supernatural victory. When that battle is concluded, the people of Israel look around in astonishment to discover how that victory was achieved and by whom.

Zechariah 12:8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. NKJV

THE TIDE WILL SUDDENLY TURN

In the aftermath of this amazing battle, when the tide is suddenly and supernaturally turned in Israel's favour, a bewildered Israel will look around to see who has achieved this supernatural victory on their behalf. It is then that they will suddenly recognise their deliverer as Yeshua HaMashiach whose hands were pierced through crucifixion and they will mourn over Him in great bitterness of soul.

Zechariah 12:10-11

10 "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on all the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died. NLT

This appearance of the Messiah is NOT the Rapture nor the "Second Coming." Rather it is a unique intimate private appearance of the Messiah to Israel at which time their national spiritual blindness will be sovereignly healed. They will finally recognise that Yeshua is their promised Messiah who is actually God who clothed Himself in the likeness of human flesh to redeem mankind. This event will usher in a period of Messianic recognition by Israel that will accompany the period of peace and expansion which is the result of the victory of Psalm 83:15-17, Zechariah 12:9.

As in the days of Cyrus, when God raised him up for Israel's sake, so God will send a Saviour in the person of the Angel of the Lord who is actually Yeshua HaMaschiach the Messiah of Israel. It is interesting to note that in the Bible God refers to both Messiah and Israel as "His servant." (see Isa 41:8,9; Isa 42:1).

THE MESSIAH REVEALS HIMSELF TO ISRAEL

This appearance of the Messiah will be a direct revelation of Himself to His own people, very much as Joseph revealed himself privately to his brethren (Genesis 45:1-8).

Immediately following this great victory God will pour out His Spirit (the Ruach Ha Kodesh) on Israel and Jerusalem. The grace of God will provoke prayers of repentance that will bring the nation into a new living relationship with God. The living relationship of their forefathers whom God brought forth from Egypt will be resurrected and will explode into a spiritually renewed and completely restored people.

What makes the time element of this scenario so imminently threatening is that Iran, who is presently fighting this war by proxy, will have soon produced enough enriched uranium to manufacture a nuclear arsenal. Of course Iran claims that her nuclear program is only for electrical energy. However, Iran already has the missiles to deliver nuclear warheads. Hundreds of Russian scientists in Iran are helping to develop long range missiles.

Zechariah 12:9 For my plan is to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

God has determined to destroy all the nations that align themselves against Jerusalem whether in person or by proxy. Initially for the immediately surrounding nations, this will mean resounding defeat but those nations that do not physically enjoin the battle but give political and philosophical support to that strategy will suffer judgment too.

Zechariah 12:10 "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on all the people of Jerusalem.

IT IS ALL OF GOD'S GRACE

The Hebrew word for grace is *chen* which signifies kindness, graciousness and goodness. What God accomplishes for Israel will not be because they are worthy or deserving of His actions. His intervention and the victory He accomplishes will be born of His abundant grace towards Israel. The word for prayer or supplications is *takanun takanunah* (plural) meaning earnest prayers and strong entreaties. It is the *ruach* (Spirit) of grace and supplication that makes possible Israel's repentance and forgiveness. The glorious predictions for Israel will not necessarily happen because of Israel's good works or righteousness but because of God's amazing grace.

V 10 is one of the most remarkable verses in the Bible which is virtually ignored or misinterpreted by most Christian commentators. Obviously it is The LORD (Jehovah) who is speaking and He says, "They shall look on ME whom they have pierced." This clearly suggests that Yeshua, the pierced One, (John 19:34, 37. Revelation 1:7) is actually God manifested in human flesh.

The amazing truth that God was actually pierced is supported in the New Testament. It was not the Jews who crucified Him. It was the Romans and our own sins that nailed Him to the cross.

The best clue toward determining who killed Jesus is the mode of Jesus' death—by crucifixion. Crucifixion was not a Jewish method of execution. In Jesus' time crucifixion was a Roman punishment inflicted mainly on slaves and revolutionaries. The usual Jewish mode of execution was stoning, as in the case of Stephen (see Acts 7:54-60). Crucifixion was a cruel and public way to die. As a public punishment, it was meant to shame the one being executed and to deter the onlookers from doing what he had done.

Crucifixion was used by many nations of the ancient world, including Assyria, Media, and Persia. Alexander the Great of Greece crucified 2,000 inhabitants of Tyre when he captured the city. The Romans later adopted this method and used it often throughout their empire. Crucifixion was the Romans' most severe form of execution; so it was reserved only for slaves and criminals. No Roman citizen could be crucified.

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He was the Lamb of God, sacrificed by God for the sins of humankind. As the Lamb of God He was given by God as a sacrifice for the sins of all humanity.

2 Corinthians 5:19

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. NLT

LOOKING UPON THE PIERCED ONE

What these scriptures tell us is that since God is in Christ and Christ is in God, therefore it was actually God who was pierced at Calvary.

John 19:35-37

36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken,"

37 and "They will look on him whom they pierced." NLT

Zechariah 12:10 is also a remarkable verse in that it says that God's grace will be poured out on the family of David **and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem**. The population of Jerusalem is presently composed of Jews, Christians and Muslims therefore this indicates that God's grace and supplications will be poured out upon each of these population groups too.

All Israel will suddenly recognize their Deliverer as their

promised Messiah and grieve bitterly over Him, recognizing Him as the firstborn Son of God. In doing so Israel will recognize and acknowledge His deity, His redeeming death and resurrection. This revelation will transform the nation of Israel into a people from every tribe of Israel who recognize that the Messiah is actually God. This whole experience of amazing miraculous deliverance from their enemies through the intervention of Messiah Yeshua and the subsequent pouring out upon them of God's Spirit in grace and supplications will transform them into a powerful body of Messianic witnesses.

Zechariah 12:8 tells us that the person they look upon was the one who went before them into battle and won for them a tremendous, supernatural victory. When that battle is concluded, the people of Israel look around in astonishment to discover how that victory was achieved and by whom. Their eyes will look on the Messiah who was once pierced and they will recognize Him as the promised Messiah of Israel (Isaiah 53).

The Land That God Promised To Abraham's Descendants

Israel's promised boundaries, which include the Golan Heights, Gaza and the West Bank, were anciently foretold in scripture (Gen. 15:18-21; Micah 7:14; Zephaniah. 2:7; Zechariah 10:9,10).

*Genesis 15:18 Then and there the LORD made a covenant with Abram. He said, "I promise to give your descendants all this land from the border of Egypt to the Euphrates River,
15:19 including the lands of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,
15:20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,
15:21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." (GNB)*

The territories that God mentions here include the very areas that are presently occupied by Israel's former and now present enemies as enumerated in Psalm 83. They are territories that God will cause Israel to inherit once again when He acts as a shepherd to His people.

Isaiah reiterates God's threats against the pagan religions and their devotees,

Isaiah 46:1-4

1 The idols of Babylon, Bel and Nebo, are being hauled away on ox carts. But look! The beasts are staggering under the weight!

2 Both the idols and the ones carrying them are bowed down. The gods cannot protect the people, and the people cannot protect the gods. They go off into captivity together.

3 "Listen to me, all you who are left in Israel. I created you and have cared for you since before you were born.

4 I will be your God throughout your lifetime — until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you. NLT

FALSE GODS ELIMINATED

In the wake of this astonishing victory which God will inflict on the enemies of Israel, the gods of the earth will be shown to be false. Their apparent power will be reduced to nothing, their devotees and followers completely disillusioned. Their influence on millions of devotees will be eliminated and huge numbers of them will acknowledge Jehovah and His Son Yeshua.

The Hebrew prophets Jeremiah and Zephaniah declared approximately 2600 years ago, that their God would someday destroy “all the gods of the earth.” Perched atop a lofty god-list inclusive of Satan, Shiva, Vishnu, and hundreds of other imposters sits Allah. In essence we will discover how Allah surrenders his Akbar (i.e.- greatness).

Zephaniah 2:10-11

10 This they shall have for their pride, Because they have reproached and made arrogant threats against the people of the LORD of hosts.

11 The LORD will be awesome to them, For He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; People shall worship Him, (God) Each one from his place, Indeed all the shores of the nations. NKJV

Jeremiah 10:10-12

10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

11 Thus you shall say to them:" The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens at His discretion. NKJV

The point the prophet makes is that his God, is far greater than the Arab god Allah and all other false gods. In ancient times a god was said to bless his worshippers in battle, and (*akbar*) or “greatness” was awarded to the god of the victor. The gods of Zephaniah’s prophecy were Chemosh and Milcom. These gods, along with numerous others, were abandoned prior to, or forfeited later, in favour of Allah. By the time the 7th century AD rolled around, Allah presided as the undisputed god of these Psalm 83 Arab populations. Hence, in accordance with historical Hebrew precedence comes the understanding that in bitter defeat Allah will have failed to deliver his *akbar* to the Arabs.

Isaiah 45:15-19

15 Truly, O God of Israel, our Saviour, you work in strange and mysterious ways.

16 All who make idols will be humiliated and disgraced.

17 But the LORD will save the people of Israel with eternal salvation. They will never again be humiliated and disgraced throughout everlasting ages.

18 For the LORD is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. "I am the LORD," he says, "and there is no other.

19 I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner so no one can understand what I mean. And I did not tell the people of Israel to ask me for something I did not plan to give. I, the LORD, speak only what is true and right. NLT

Having dispensed His judgment on Israel's neighbouring enemies decisively defeating and humiliating them, God now offers amnesty and peace to those same nations. He defeats their leaders and their armies but offers peace to their citizens.

Isaiah 45:20-25

20 "Gather together and come, you fugitives from surrounding nations. What fools they are who carry around their wooden idols and pray to gods that cannot save!

21 Consult together, argue your case, and state your proofs that idol worship pays. Who made these things known long ago? What idol ever told you they would happen? Was it not I, the LORD? For there is no other God but me — a just God and a Savior — no, not one!

22 Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other.

23 I have sworn by my own name, and I will never go back on my word: Every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will confess allegiance to my name."

24 The people will declare, "The LORD (Jehovah) is the source of all my righteousness and strength." And all who were angry with him will come to him and be ashamed.

25 In the LORD all the generations of Israel will be justified, and in him they will boast. NLT

(The looming war will publicly demonstrate that God is the ONE true Creator/Ruler of the Universe).

ISRAEL'S AMAZING VICTORY

The Israeli-Arab conflict will ultimately culminate in an amazing victory for Israel. The prayer of Psalm 83 will be answered by the Lord. Israel will take back any land previously surrendered including Gaza. Additionally, she will acquire parts of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Isaiah 11:14; Zephaniah 2:3-10; Zechariah 10:10.

Obadiah 19-21

18 The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, and no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the LORD has spoken.

19 The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, and the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

20 And the captives of this host of the children of Israel Shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the South.

21 Then saviours shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's. NKJV

This threat has been building up for many years now, in fact ever since the first few days following the official announcement of modern Israel's Statehood in 1948. Actually the roots of it go back many more centuries before that to the days of Isaac and Ishmael. Finally there will be a temporary cessation of war against Israel and a glorious worldwide harvest of souls will occur.

All Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will acknowledge Yeshua's true Jewish identity and mourn over Him in an authentic Hebraic manner. From this national repentance and recognition of the Messiah will come the new Messianic identity of Israel.

Romans 11:26-27

26 And so all Israel will be saved. Do you remember what the prophets said about this? "A Deliverer will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel from all ungodliness.

27 And then I will keep my covenant with them and take away their sins." NLT

This verse clearly predicts the future salvation of the nation Israel. It also tells us when this will happen: at the time when the great Deliverer will come out of Zion. I believe this will follow Zechariah 12:10-11). It should be noted that the nation of Israel today is not a Godly nation, but the day is coming when Messiah the Deliverer will turn away ungodliness from this nation, and Israel will be a God-fearing and God-honoring nation. The reference to all Israel applies to all who are alive in Israel at the time of Messiah's victory and subsequent unveiling. (Zechariah 12:10-11)

Israel's national salvation (v.26) was guaranteed in a special covenant which God made with this nation. One provision in this covenant was that Israel's sins would be taken away. What covenant was this? Clearly this is a reference to The New Covenant which we read about in Jeremiah 31:31-34 (notice at the end of verse 34 the remarkable promise, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more"). Jeremiah 31:31 clearly indicates that the new covenant was made with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah (and thus includes the entire nation). This verse offers New Testament proof that God will fulfill His new covenant promises to the nation Israel in the future.

This will be for Israel as life from the dead.

Romans 11:15

15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? NKJV

A SUGGESTED PROPHETIC TIMELINE:

At the end of this age, which is this present time, there will be a fulfillment of Zechariah 12. Israel will be attacked by all her near neighbours but Jehovah and the Angel of the Lord will intervene

through a miraculous deliverance. Immediately following this astounding victory, God will pour His Spirit of grace, intercessions and repentance upon the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In the aftermath of this battle when Israel look around to see where their deliverance came from they will look upon their Messiah who once was pierced. The nation of Israel will be transformed and enter a period of peace and prosperity that will last until the Gog and Magog war. In the Tribulation, Messianic Israel, symbolized by the 144,000, together with the innumerable redeemed company, will effectively witness to all the nations on earth.

ISRAEL GRAFTED IN AGAIN

As we have seen in Isaiah 66:8, the new Israel will be born in a day. This indicates an instantaneous birth not a gradual transformation. Isaiah further states that once the process begins, God will not delay delivery or shut up the womb causing a still-birth.

Isaiah 66:8-10

8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

9 Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God.

He also clearly indicates that this amazing birth process has to do with Jerusalem. "All who love Jerusalem will exceedingly rejoice with her".

10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; NKJV

The Apostle Paul says, Romans 11:23-27

23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

24 For if you (Gentiles) were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, (Jews) who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

*25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.***

26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." NKJV (Emphasis added)

According to Paul (Romans 11:23) it will happen when they “*do not continue in unbelief.*” In other words when living faith is instantly quickened into the soul of the nation, Israel will be re grafted into her own olive tree. What kind of circumstance might cause an instantaneous national re birth of faith? Surely an amazing, miraculous rescue and reprieve from certain annihilation would qualify! When the whole nation is supernaturally delivered from a very real ominous threat of total extinction and the people, turning to see how this great deliverance was achieved look directly upon their promised Messiah. Surely this epic moment could achieve instantaneous national faith! Within the context of this amazing birth process Paul declares, “And so ALL Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26). Paul also indicates that all this will happen “when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” This statement has usually been interpreted to mean when the last of the Gentiles has come into God’s family. It has usually been given a missionary context of world evangelism. However, I believe it to mean that the fullness of the Gentiles will be attained, when the Jewish branches are re grafted back on to their own olive tree. At that precise time the One New Man will be formed. (Ephesians 2:15)

Chapter Six

Where Do We Go From Here?

We have searched the scriptures and concluded that this present age is about to transition into the next Kingdom age in the midst of a world wide revival. How should we respond to this challenging possibility? We certainly cannot ignore the great challenge that presently confronts us. We must “hear what the Spirit is currently saying to the Church.” We must also surrender ourselves afresh to God and His strategic purposes for the immediate future. A new, glorious day is about to dawn and we must greet that day with understanding and positive faith.

God points to one of the many periods in Israel’s history when His people had turned away from following Him. In response to their backsliding, God had chosen to temporarily withdraw His presence from them until they admitted their guilt and turned back to Him.

Hosea 5:15 Then I will return to my place until they admit their guilt and look to me for help. For as soon as trouble comes, they will search for me." NLT

IT IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD

Considering the trouble that Israel and the world is in, this is what the nation needs to do now. The modern Church, so desperately void of the true presence of the living God, also needs to do what Israel did. We dare not delay. Our response to this imperative challenge. The prophetic future is rapidly becoming the present reality.

Let us look again at what God promised Israel (and the Church) in Hosea 6:1-3

1 *Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; he has stricken, but He will bind us up.*

2 *After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.*

3 *Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; he will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth. (NKJ)*

What Do We Need To Do?

"Come, and let us return to the Lord", v. 1

This involves an acknowledgement that we have strayed from the true righteous paths of the Lord. We have fallen short of His best. We are not presently all that we can be for God.

1. Let us earnestly and diligently pursue and strengthen our personal relationship and intimate knowledge of the LORD Himself.

Expect God's favour as a promised consequence of His mercy. *"He that has torn will heal us, he that has smitten will bind us up,"*

2. They (Israel) realised that deliverance out of their troubles would be to them as "life from the dead" (v. 2): (Romans 11:15)

3. Then, shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord. "Then" when God returns in mercy to His people and pours forth His favour upon them, He will give them more of the knowledge of Himself; the earth shall become full of that knowledge. (Isaiah. 11:9).

4 All Shall Know God. Jeremiah 24:7

And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. (KJV)

Jeremiah 31:33-34

33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the LORD. "I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their family, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will already know me," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness and will never again remember their sins." NLT

5 His going forth is prepared as the morning, that is, the return of His favour, which He had withdrawn from us when He returned to His place.

6 His emergence (Coming to earth) will be as the dawning of a new day as surely as the return of the morning after the darkest night. He shall also come to us as the latter and former rain upon the earth, which refreshes it and makes it fruitful. (Hosea 6:3)

His Going Forth Will Be As The Dawning Of A New Day (Hosea 6:3). It is prepared and secured for us as surely as the return of morning after the darkest night. He shall also come to us as the latter and former rain unto the earth, which refreshes it and makes it fruitful. Now this projects much further than their deliverance out of captivity, and was to have its fullest accomplishment in the coming of Messiah Christ. We are as those who wait for the morning after a long dark night, and are sure that it will come at the time appointed and will not fail. The light of His countenance will be both reviving to us and growing upon us, unto the perfect day, as the light of the morning is. His appearance shall be as the morning, the dawning of a new day after the darkest night, as Messiah appears as the Sun of Righteousness and the Day-Spring from on high to visit us.

As predicted by Joel, the former and the latter rain in the last days will produce a glorious harvest for both Israel and the Church.

Joel 2:23-24

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you-- the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.(NKJ)

The End Time harvest is not going to happen in the same kind of neat and tidy relaxed atmosphere as that of the charismatic renewal. It will be birthed in the turbulent erratic times that lie ahead when all the nations on earth will be caught up in a maelstrom of anarchy, terrorism and destruction. The great harvest will be associated with the predicted Day of the Lord, when His judgments will be plainly manifest in the earth.

ISRAEL IS GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

It has often been said that "Israel is God's time piece" and that prophetic time piece is nearing the midnight hour. It is time for the whole world to wake up and realise that we are currently living in an unusual period of history never before known to man. It is especially time for both Israel and the Church to wake up and realise that we are heading for apocalyptic times when the world system will be brought to its knees before the manifest might of Jehovah God the ruler of the universe.

It is imperative that we begin to read the Scriptures and also to see the prophetic events presently happening in our world through the eyes of God. He told Israel that they were the apple of His eye which means the lens through which He sees.

Zechariah 2:8-9

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

9 For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me. NKJV

There are three important things to note in this verse

Firstly, Israel is the “apple” of God’s eye. It is the lens through which he sees Israel, all mankind and all of history. The eye is also the most sensitive part of the whole body, an organ that one will reactively defend from any and all intrusions and dangers.

Secondly, Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Heavens Armies, is going to judge and punish all nations that seek to harm Israel and to plunder her. He will “shake His hand” against them and they will become spoil for Israel.

Thirdly, Israel and all the nations of the world will ultimately recognise and acknowledge that Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts, - i.e. Armies) has set Israel in her place in the Promised Land and no enemy will ever drive her from that place. Israel today by the grace, mercy and providence of God occupies a place of great prominence and will continue to do so come what may.

Events are being played out before our eyes that have been predicted for centuries. At last, the time is almost here. The destiny of the nations is about to be fulfilled just as foretold in the ancient prophecies contained in the inspired Bible. A gigantic battle between the forces of Satan and the armies of the Lord, will soon take place. Godless humanity has thrown down the gauntlet to Jehovah, the Lord of eternity and He will soon accept the challenge and reveal to all mankind the immensity of His powers.

“Apocalypse now” is not just the name of a Hollywood movie, it is a catastrophic happening that will soon shake the whole world and powerfully rearrange its systems both human and divine. Planet earth and all its population are going to bow before the Lord of glory and announce that God's Messiah is truly and incontestably King of kings and Lord of lords.

How incredible and frightening it is that for millions of people including Jews and Christians, it appears to be almost business as usual. People seem to be almost totally unaware of how critical the world situation has become. How much more incredible that the Church, that professes to believe the Bible, is burying its head in the sand and trying to persuade itself that nothing is amiss and that we are going to carry on as usual for the next several years. The many Bible predictions concerning the last days and the arrival of Christ to exercise His rule over the nations is no longer in the dim and distant future. Suddenly, surprisingly, catching millions of people completely unprepared, eternity is about to invade time and the mighty Messiah will dramatically appear on earth. Not this time as a tiny baby lying helplessly in His mother's arms, but as a mighty warrior let loose to totally destroy all the enemies of God, Israel and the true Church of Jesus Christ. He is not coming again as the innocent Lamb of God but this time as the powerful Lion of the tribe of Judah.

As predicted by Joel the former and the latter rain in the last days will produce a glorious harvest.

Joel 2:23-24

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you-- the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. (NKJ)

God's Promises Must Be Claimed By Faith

Throughout the Bible it is glaringly obvious that God's promises, however they are given, whether in the Bible or through some form of dream, vision or prophecy, must be claimed by faith and according to all the conditions that may accompany the promise. Moses is a clear example of this.

Exodus 3:17 And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. (KJV)

Despite the fact that God had told Moses that He would bring him into Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey, Moses did not in fact enter that land because of his disobedience. This was also true of the generation that left Egypt with Moses. Though God had promised them entry into Canaan they actually perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief. A similar fate may befall many Christians who have failed to properly prepare for the prophetic future.

Exodus 12: 25 When you arrive in the land the LORD has promised to give you, you will continue to celebrate this festival. NLT

Please notice that the land was promised to them, however they needed to claim the promise by possessing the land. They needed the faith required in order to inherit what God had promised them. Likewise, we also have to believe that God has promised an inheritance that we must rise up and claim by faith.

For all who sincerely want to know "What time is it?" It is time to seek God's face as never before.

We Need To Sow To The Revival In Faith

Hosea 10:12

*12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: **for it is time to seek the LORD**, till He come and rain righteousness upon you. (KJV)*

It is time to seek God earnestly, fervently and even desperately in a manner that relatively few Christians do today. Most of the prayers we hear and present to God relate to our personal needs and the programs of our local church. Most of our prayers are lacking fervour and intensity. We need to learn how to pray prophetic prayers that relate to the specific hour in which we are living and its prophetic implications. We need to pray in the manner of which Joel spoke.

Joel 2:12-17

"Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart,

With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him — A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;

16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders,

Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,

And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" NKJV

It may well be that such desperate prayers can only be prayed in desperate circumstances. I am sure this is the case with the churches in South Korea that are known for their powerful prayer lives. They have sat for years under the shadow of a military threat from the north and this has undoubtedly urged them to continuous intercession. The same is true of the church in China which exists in such extenuating circumstances with the constant threat of reprisals.

The present situation in Israel will I believe eventually bring that nation to their knees before the Living God. The looming threats of annihilation and destruction made by their near neighbours are threatening the stability and future of Israel. They will soon be in a dire situation from which only the Lord Almighty will be able to deliver them. Most of the nations across the earth will assume an aggressive attitude towards Israel and upon their heads will come the wrath of God in judgment.

I would hate to be a prophet of doom and gloom for Australia which has indeed been a blessed and "lucky" country. However, it does strongly occur to me that the revival we have often spoken of will not occur in the present climate of prosperity and stability. I believe that God will allow us as a nation to be brought to our knees before Him to pray the kind of earnest and utterly sincere heart felt prayers that He desires. So much of our Christian Faith is shallow and lacking in true heart commitment. We are so self centred and our love so conditional. We are self satisfied and smug, often filled with religious pride that God hates and abhors. He is looking for a people with contrite (repentant, remorseful, penitent) spirits.

Psalms 34:17-18

17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. NKJV

Isaiah 66:2

2 For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist, "Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word. NKJV

There is an imperative pathway to the revival and worldwide harvest that God has promised. This highway to holiness cannot be bypassed. There is no alternative route other than the way portrayed in

2 Chronicles 7:14.

14 Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.NLT

Repentance

The road to revival inevitably begins with REPENTANCE. This word has almost become the lost adverb of Christianity. Although it was the very first word that Jesus spoke when He began to proclaim His message of the Kingdom of God, it has long since been dropped entirely from the modern Christian vocabulary. How rarely do we ever hear a call to repentance today? My friends, it is not only time for the sinners to repent. It is essentially a time for God's people to repent. The modern Church urgently needs to repent for its sad history of anti-Semitism that has occurred over so many centuries. This shocking phenomena of antagonism towards Jews, still persists today in the form of anti Zionism and anti Israel. The first

word of God's promise of national healing is the word humble and it is precisely because of the supreme importance of this word that we desperately need to repent. Humility is also a lost characteristic in Christian circles. There is so much emphasis upon self and the personal ego. So many preachers are majoring on personal success, prosperity, health and wellbeing. So many churches, like the church of Laodicea, have become successful in their own eyes and estimation. Egotistic pride abounds with self sufficiency and self achievement. There is a desperate need for every Christian, minister and church to enact humility before God and to repent from our self centred ways. This is the only thing that will halt the process of divine judgment that God is about to unleash upon our world.

A Recognition Of Israel's Status Before God

I am truly at a loss to understand how anyone can read the Bible and not recognize the unique place that Israel and Jerusalem occupy in the heart and mind of God. How could anyone believe that God has abandoned and replaced Israel when He has pronounced that His love for Israel is an everlasting love?

Jeremiah 31:3

3 Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. NLT

The Hebrew word translated everlasting (Olam H5769) is the very same word used for *everlasting* God. If God's love and covenant for Israel is not everlasting then He Himself is not everlasting. God also declares that His love for Israel is both passionate and strong.

Zechariah 1:14-15

14 Then the angel said to me, "Shout this message for all to hear: 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: My love for Jerusalem and Mount Zion is passionate and strong. NLT

God solemnly declares that Israel is His most *precious possession*. In another version of the Bible, He declares that Israel is the apple (cornea) of His eye. It is the lens through which He views the world and all its peoples.

Zechariah 2:8

8 "After a period of glory, the LORD Almighty sent me against the nations who oppressed you. For he said, 'Anyone who harms you harms my most precious possession. NLT

Zechariah 2:8

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. NKJV

Our corporate repentance must produce a recognition of God's heart towards Israel. We must see the land and the people from God's personal perspective and we must embrace that perspective and truly love the people He uniquely loves and from whose line He comes.

Refreshing

Acts 3:19

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, NKJV

The second step towards revival is to recognize our need for spiritual renewal and refreshing. The oil has become stale in our vessels. We need to seek God earnestly for a genuine

anointing with fresh oil. King David recognized this need for frequent anointings of fresh oil.

Psalms 92:10

10 But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil. NKJV

10 But you make me as strong as a wild bull, and soothing lotion is poured on me. (GW)

In his younger days, David spent so much intimate time alone with God. As he looked after his father's sheep, he meditated on the goodness of God. He must have spent hours every day worshipping God. He was singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Every day he drew near to God and was refreshed with a new anointing. Today in this hour of crisis and great tension, God wants to send a new refreshing on His people. He wants His saints and churches to be saturated in fresh oil that will change and transform the way we do church. Instead of pre arranged programs He wants us to experience the genuine power of His amazing presence which will only come through the real presence of God in our meetings. The church has become predictable and prosaic. We have lost much of the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit's anointing. We have become satisfied with religious ritual and ceremony with everything programmed to a time table. Everything is so tightly scheduled that there is no room for the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit's creativity.

Restoration And Refreshing

Acts 3:19-21

19 Now turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins.

20 Then wonderful times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will send Jesus your Messiah to you again.

21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his prophets. NLT

We are living in an hour when God wants to restore to His Church the qualities of the early church which was really a blue print for the church throughout the church age. We must also realize that the blue print was created from a Hebraic background and the restored model must include something of that emphasis. God is preparing His Church to move on to the next level of His prophetic purpose which includes a king from the line of David who will sit upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. He does not want a humanistic institution that limits His power and performance. He wants a liberated people who can move quickly into His unrehearsed program. God is about to do a new thing in the earth that has never been done before.

Isaiah 43:19

19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. NKJV

Isaiah 43:21

*21 This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.
NKJV*

He wants to turn us, not upside down but the right way up. Radical change is on God's agenda. He has brand new, wonderful and glorious things to accomplish as He ushers in His magnificent Kingdom rule.

Revival

Psalms 85:6-7

6 Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation. NKJV

To revive is to restore new life into something that has died. It is to renew, revitalize, perk up, breathe life into, restore, refresh,

stimulate, and restart something that has almost expired. Which church or congregation does not need this? It was a hallmark of the New Testament church and God wants His End Time church to experience and demonstrate this kind of life to a world that desperately needs to be recreated and resurrected. God has made many promises to Israel to resurrect, restore and revive it as a nation and people. He has promised to fully restore what the worm has devoured. And as we align ourselves with revived and restored Israel we will experience and enjoy the blessings of that glorious restoration. This prophetic hour is the very time that God predicted for a third day restoration.

Hosea 6:2-3

2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

3 Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth. NKJV

Revival will have to occur in the Church before the promised harvest in order to prepare the Church to reap the vast harvest. The Church as it exists today in most of the world is definitely not able to reap or conserve the kind of harvest that God has determined to reap in the Last Days.

Israel, God's faithful time piece, says that it is almost the midnight hour. God is about to draw the curtain on this particular phase of humanity's existence. The Day of Grace is almost at an end. The Kingdom and rule of God will soon be manifest across the earth. We have only a limited time to prepare ourselves for eternity. Only God Himself knows just how long. Regardless of when the hour may arrive, it is certainly time to be ready.

Where Are We Now?

According to our calendar we are in the year 2011. But

where are we according to God's calendar? I personally believe that we are on the edge of the time for God's direct intervention, particularly into the affairs of Israel, His ancient Covenant people and land. We know that prophetically Israel is God's time piece. As we observe the situation today it is blatantly clear that Israel is in a more dangerous position then ever before in her brief history as a modern State. The circumstances in which Israel finds herself are transpiring exactly as the Bible prophets predicted. (According to Psalm 83, Joel 3:2 and Zechariah 12, it is almost time for God's direct intervention to ensure Israel's survival).

Matthew 24:32 The Parable of the Fig Tree

32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near — at the doors!

34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. NKJV

The Parable Of The Virgins

Matthew 25:6-13

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. NKJV"

Throughout the Bible, the fig tree is always a symbol of Israel. In these verses particularly it obviously refers to the restoration of Israel and the return of Jerusalem into Jewish hands in 1948 and 1967 respectively. These events signalled the completion of the “times of the Gentiles” that is the long period when the Promised Land would be dominated by nations other than Israel.

The oil that was missing from those lamps is the true, deep, intimate knowledge of the Bridegroom. Every virgin knew there was to be a wedding but five of them failed to anticipate the wedding by properly preparing themselves for it. While the virgins waited for His appearance they should have been replenishing and renewing the supply of oil for their lamps. Instead of which they were actually living as though the appearance of the Bridegroom was not imminent. This, sadly, is very much the case with the Church at this prophetic time. Most preachers and churches are living as though the appearance of the Bridegroom is not even on their radar screens. There is little or no mention about the imminent coming of the Bridegroom. Beloved friends, we need to awaken to the fact that the signs all around us confirm the virtual imminence of our Lords’ return and we must prepare ourselves for that awesome event. We must also begin to focus on this world shaking event, studying and teaching the Word of God and the very numerous references that occur concerning this great truth. We need to be in earnest prayer, anticipating the coming of the Lord and allowing the presence of God that we enter through prayer, to make us ready for His glorious appearance. Our world today stands on the threshold of a new

era in the purpose and calendar of God. Earth's population is generally totally unaware of this and sadly so is most of the universal Church. The Church is largely fast asleep as were the foolish virgins in the graphic parable to which Jesus referred.

We must also fully awaken to the inherent importance of Israel in God's purpose for all the world. Israel is the land of the Bible. It is the territory which God says is peculiarly HIS Land. They are the people that are strangely and uniquely His everlasting covenant people. Israel is the central focus of all Bible prophecy and the precise place on earth to which our Messiah will return. Because this is so, Satan by one means or another is determined to destroy and annihilate Jerusalem and Israel. We must therefore wholeheartedly determine to take a positive unrelenting stand with Israel. Israel is inevitably, ultimately and indisputably an integral and essential part of His End Times plan. The Messiah King will rule the earth from the throne of David in Jerusalem. We, the Church, will ultimately be joined to redeemed Israel and we must foster and strengthen our ties with her now. The glorious restoration and consequent harvest that God has predicted in His Word will impact the whole earth through the Fig Tree and The Vine. In conjunction with the appearance of Messiah the greatest revival ever will take place and feature a tremendous turning to Jehovah God in repentance, renewal and restoration. Whole nations will turn to the Lord in repentance.

Zechariah 2:10-13

10 "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD.

11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst.

Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

12 And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

*13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused
from His holy habitation!" NKJV*

(A booklet outlining the vision received in 1964 can be obtained from Shalom Israel for \$10 inc postage from Gerald Rowlands PO Box 5262SCMC, Nambour, Queensland 4560, Australia).