

# The Mysteries of the Mysterious God



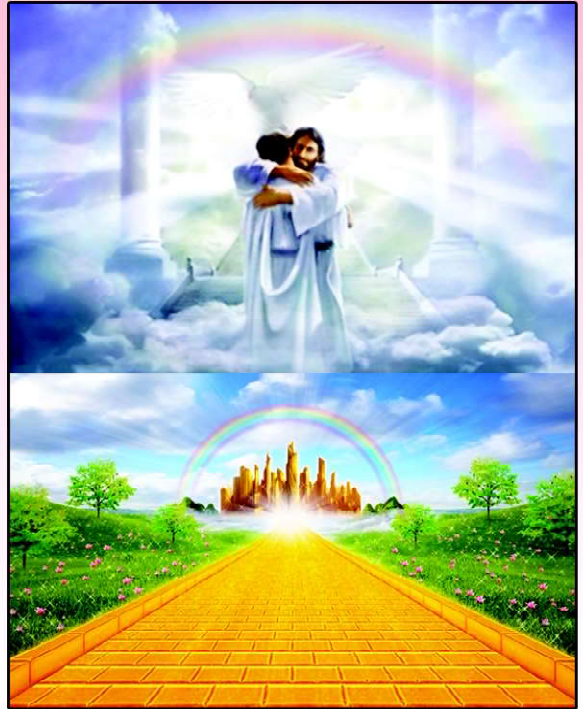
**Rev. Dr. SUNDARA RAO TSAPPIDI** M.A., D.Litt.



**Glory be to God Praise the Lord**



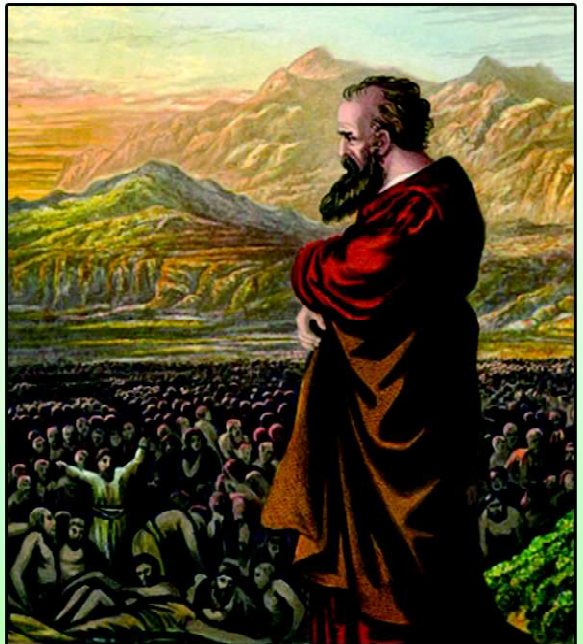
**Photo of Jesus' Resurrection**



**Photo of Heaven**



**Photo of Propphet Zechariah**



**Photo of Propphet Ezekiel**



# ***The Mysteries of the Mysterious God***

**By  
Sundara Rao Tsappidi**

***The Mysteries of the Mysterious God***  
***Sundara Rao Tsappidi***

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# ***INTRODUCTION***

I was neither a writer nor a preacher. I was simply a Lecturer in English at K.B.N. College, Vijayawada, India. I never thought that I would write and publish books. God's plans are mysterious and unknown to humanity. My stay in the USA after my retirement has brought me very close to the Lord and I am inspired to read many books on the background history of the Bible. At that time, by God's grace, I visited the Holy Land which brought a tremendous change in my life and attitude. Before going to Jerusalem I had a dream about heaven and God. This was a turning point in my life. I narrated my experiences and the habit of reading books to a friend who advised me to put everything on paper. I prayed to God earnestly in tears to provide me with writing skills and the gracious God heard my prayer and bestowed upon me the gift of the skill of writing and this was at the age of 70. The Lord graciously provided me the gift of preaching and I preached the word of God both in India and the USA. I understood that God can do anything and at any time whatever He likes to do. That's how I became a writer as well as a preacher.

By God's grace my first book, "The Legacy of God's People and Holy Land Tour" was published in 2008. Since then, with the blessings of the Lord I was able to write and publish nine books altogether due to the encouragement of my readers and the members of my family. I owe a lot to the library for the blind in New Jersey (USA) in large print for I lost 60% of my eye sight. I also owe my tributes to the writers of the magazine called, "Zion's Fire", (USA) whose articles inspired me a lot to study more books and to write on them. The following are my books published so far:

1. The Legacy of God's People & Holy Land Tour (2008)

2. Quest for the Living God (2009)
3. OffSprings from the Tabernacle (2010)
4. The Redemption Plan of God (2011)
5. The Everlasting Kingdom of God (2012)
6. Jewish History (2013)
7. Unveiled Mysteries of Qumran (2014)
8. Shoots of Jerusalem (2015)
9. The Mysteries of The Mysterious God (2016)

As I was hospitalized now and then due to several severe health problems, I was at the threshold of death. The gracious Lord touched me, healed me and used me for His glory with the publication of this ninth book, ***“The Mysteries of the Mysterious God”***.

This book contains 16 essays altogether and a short article with the title, ***“Names of God, the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son”***.

The first essay “Supremacy of God”, throws light on how the Israelites became unfaithful to God and the punishment they got due to their idol worship and disobedience. Yet, merciful God pardoned their sins and brought them back to Jerusalem from the captivity of Babylon after seventy years.

Another essay, “Should Christians observe Moses Law?” This is really a question for many Christians who do not know how the law of Moses is given and the conditions to give it. This is, in fact, a question in the minds of Christians of the first century Church and it is also a burning problem to the members of the Church of Galatia due to Judaizers, the false teachers, who polluted the Church with wrong teachings. St. Paul, in his letter to “Galatians” as well as “Romans”, clarified the doubts of the members of the Church. The essence of his clarification is “Christ became the fulfillment of the Mosaic Law”. Both Jesus Christ and Paul preached about the moral and heart related aspects of the law and not the physical aspects.

All the essays of the present edition, “*The Mysteries of the Mysterious God*” throws light on the incidents, events and prophesies of the prophets in the Bible.

I humbly dedicate this piece of work to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Though at times I am at the death bed, my Lord touched me, healed me and blessed me to recover from serious illness. It is He who gave me strength to publish this book. I thank my Lord from the depth of my heart. All my books are aimed at providing the historical background of the Bible to the readers of the Bible and the students of Theology. I hope this book will meet their requirement and help them to acquire Biblical knowledge.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,  
*Sundara Rao Tsappidi*, M.A., D.Litt.





***Dr. Sundara Rao Tsappidi***  
***The Author of this 9<sup>th</sup> Book. who is now 80 Years old***

# ***FOREWORD***

***“O my Strength, I watch for you; you, O God are my Fortress”*** Psalm 59:9



The above verse is true in the life of Rev. ***Dr. Sundara Rao Tsappidi***. We can see God’s hand in his writings. At the age of 80, sheltered in health, though there are ups and downs in his health conditions from time to time, though lost his beloved son, David Ravi, the eldest son, though he has very poor eye sight, his zeal to read the background history of the Bible and to bring out the hidden treasures of the Bible has not been diminished. Like, David, the Psalmist, who watches for the Lord for help in troubles and tough situations Rev. Dr. Sundara Rao also watches at the feet of the Lord for inspiration, encouragement and for energy the publishing his nine books.

Due to old age and Physical ailment, Rev. Dr. Sundara Rao is unable to stand and is hospitalized several times. But the gracious Lord touched him, healed him and made him stand for Him for His glory to bring out this ninth book, ***“The Mysteries of The Mysterious God.”*** Unless God’s grace is there for him, this book would not have published. ***“Blessed be the Lord”***. “Praise to His Holy Name”.

I went through all the essays of, ***“The Mysteries of The Mysterious God”***. Each essay is unique of its kind. They are richly informative and provoke the reader to read them instantly. Therefore, they will no doubt help the Bible readers, students of Theology and also those who wish to know the hidden treasures in the Bible. All his nine books, Legacy of God’s People, Quest for the Living God, Offsprings from the Tabernacle etc. are written and aimed at providing historical background of events, incidents in the Bible and also

God's prophets and their prophecies. The motive behind all these books is to Glorify God. Hence, I sincerely pray to God through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, to provide him good health and wisdom to publish many more books for the use of the readers of the Bible all over the world. In fact, he made use of his stay in the USA in writing books/ glorifying God with this humble piece of work.

I also Congratulate and appreciate beloved sister firs. ***Grace Vijaya, Rev.Dr. Sundara Rao's*** better half, who herself is a writer of more than 40 books in Telugu with wonderful testimonies, I Praise God for the encouragement and help of his daughter, son-in-law, son and daughter-in-laver, eider daughter-in-law and all the grand children. May the Lord bless all of them abundantly.

Vijayawada,

20-11-2016

With sincere wishes and greetings,

**D.S. Sundara Rao, M.A., M.Phil.,**

Associate Professor of English (Retd.)

and Evangelist



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# Suprimacy of God

“To whom then will ye liken me or shall I be equal”? Sayeth the Holy One.  
Isaiah 40:18

*Few verses of the scripture will captivate the mind and encourage the heart. They keep the child of God pressing on in the midst of the adversary than the familiar one of such verses is:*

But those who “wait upon the Lord shall review their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagle. They shall run and not to be weary, they shall walk but not faint”. Isaiah 40:31.

*“To soar above the clouds like the eagle to rum in the arena of life and not weary to walk in the path of uncomfortable circumstances and not faint”.*

What incomparable promises of comforts are these?

What circumstances must have made prophet Isaiah to plan such lofty expressions? What must be the context? What must be historical realities involved only in understanding those facts. One can fully comprehend the promises of God and apply those promises to the condition of his life. God commanded His chosen people Israelites that they should be comforted. (Isaiah 40:1-2) The main cause was that Israelites were taken as captives by the king of Babylon who was a heathen king. God ordered Israelites to repent for their sins, and prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ. Their sin was the main cause for their captivity. God made a promise that the glory of the world would be revealed to them.

This fact is the glory of God and His promise had been withdrawn from the temple before the Babylon captivity. Their unfaithfulness forced God to reveal that all flush in the grass would weather and all humanitie’s glory like the flower of field would fade away because Israelites had to be remembered the glory of Babylon as it was tempting and transient; which would one day fade like flower. God commanded Zion to ascend high mountain and proclaim Behold your God O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high

mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God (verse9) because this Evangelists ministry looks forward for the second coming of Lord Jesus Christ. And finally God promised, when he comes for the second time he would judges wicked and the righteous unfounded. This is the day of reference to the sheep and a great judgment by the Lord.

It is written in the first eleven verses of the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Isaiah. Those verses are really amazing from the worst of circumstances to the best from darkness at its blackest to light, at its brightest from captivity and from strong idolatry to freedom and intimate fellowship with the living God. The Israelites became slaves to Idol worship during their seventy years of captivity. They have really lofty promises but they could not enjoy them. But the Lord comes for the second time in glory and helps them for deliverances, as they were in slavery. To explain the certainty of these comfortable words, the prophet Isaiah dipped his pen into the reservoir of God's character. The prophet Isaiah reminds the readers that the power of God is infinite. We have to believe that His wisdom is perfect and his sovereignty complete. So, the plan of God is to be in three critical points.

1. Comparison of idols with God is foolishness.
2. The correct conclusion drawn from the verse 11 through 17 is that the God of Israelites is matchless, and incomparable. This comment on God naturally leads to put a question. These Israelites were directed to harm themselves against the seductive power of idolatry of the people. This had become cruel necessity as majority of the people became victims to that. The Jewish people as captives in Babylon starved spirituality. They were separated from their beloved Jerusalem, for seventy years. The temple and the altar in it were totally destroyed.

Due to that demolished condition the common praise and national religious observances became impossible.

The traditional symbols were not seen in the temple. Added to all those problems there was another setback. That is, the Babylonians happened to



defeat Israelites in the battle previously, and that is quite authentic according to history. This consistent contemporary tradition appeared to be only means that is Gods of Babylon's repeated God of Israelites. So, instead of seeing their miserable condition as the direct result of their own nationalism, they put the blame on the scholars of the vanquished and impotent Gods. For the readers it is not surprising for such thinking, which was supported by confrontation, at every stage as a result the apparent blessing was on the heathen population with who they were freely mixed. They must have tempted many Jewish people to feed their starved hearts at the sherimes of their conqueror Gods.

The main reason for the entire disturbance, in the life of Israelites was that they totally ignored the very presence and existence of their God. Who had been guiding them always. They did not honor even the worst moments of apostasy. Some of them foolishly kept the Babylonian Gods in their houses and completely forgot the God of their forefathers. They were under the impression that Babylonian Gods possessed more strength and power than the "Yahweh". So they began to worship the heathen Gods as an alternative to their own God. That was the real position of Israelites in Babylon at that time. To their bad luck, God thought it impossible to change the mental set up of the way word Israelites. He deliberately brought before them the process of the image making to show and prove their utter foolishness. God also wanted to remind those stiff necked Israelites that they were in danger of embracing the heathen Gods. Bossing on their wealth, some of them could have golden idols, some silver and some wooden idols in their houses.

God's supremacy is clear -

There was continuous demonstrations regarding the stupidity of Israelites their worship of idols of Babylon, and also their mountains of idolatry. So, prophet Isaiah felt it wise and addressed a series of questions to those hard hearted and exited Israelites. They were looking for the alternative of idolatry with longing desire even though; they had not succeeded in what they had in their minds. Prophet Isaiah wrote in this connection. Have ye not known have ye not

heard hath it not been told you from the beginning, have ye not understood from the foundation of the earth. (Verse 21). The truth is that Israelites knew their God they heard about Him, and they understood Him properly.

The most dynamic person prophet Moses simply warned Israel nation against Idolatry. This was when he happened to address the whole nation to be obedient to God. Moses reminded them when they stood before God in mount Sinai, “Ye come near and stood under the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire in the midst of heaven with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness”. (Deuteronomy 4:17). It was really solemn sacred scene. The children of Israel heard the voice of God but they saw no physical being. There was fire, smoke and the voice of God; but there was no substance no visible essence, or physical form. In such circumstances Moses made a proclamation. Since you did not see God, on the day you stood before him at Sinai, do not make golden image of man or beast or fowl or fish anything that creeps on earth (Deuteronomy 4:15-12). Babylon was called a mother of idolatry and heathen religions. Finally idol worship became common to Israelites.

Idolatry was unbearable and crossed its limits among the children of Israel. On the whole through the creation of the universe the redemption plan of God and the Mosaic Law, Israelites knew who God was and how much he loved them as His own children. But the truth has been handed down through successive generations. Here, prophet Isaiah was not dealing with people, who had no true knowledge of God in the past, the intellectual questions about the reality of God. He was dealing with people who had national heritage of truth about God but they bluntly refused it; people had hearts and full of religious affection, but it had been betrayed.

This God whom Israelites forefathers knew for many centuries in the past, now prophet Isaiah was reminding them that the throne of God was the circle of heavens which arches over the earth. God from His unimaginable height appears to humanity who is like insignificant grasshoppers. Then prophet Isaiah wanted to spread out the blue sky with a transparent garment and spread it above like a tent for all His believers to dwell.

In other words God stretched out the sky as an abode like the oriental stretch out His curing over the open court in the centre of his house to shelter in rain or hot weather. Why all this is said about Him was only to indicate His supremacy over everything in the universe. His ruling was not only from shore to shore but also every part of the universe. To speak in his perfect timings, he would bring the princes to nothing He would make the judges of the earth as vanity.

In the ruling of God nations will come and nations will go concerning humanity no one is permanent and no one is immortal. Finally no one can endure the ravages of time and divine destiny. Regarding different plants in nation He said nothing can be planted and nothing can be shown and no plants can take roots into the earth. There would be any shoots bringing up from the stump after the trees are cut down and there should be no descendents for any tree. During His reign one day He would blow upon them and every tree will weather and where wild will take them away like stable.

For Israelites unslaved in Babylon were impressed by the mighty and prosperity and attracted by her idolatry. It is crucial to understand that it was her neglected God who sitteth upon the circle of the earth from where He reign supremely and will crush the wicked nations “with a rod of iron”. Again in light of his truth God poses a question His wayward people. “To whom then will ye liken me or shall I be equal” saith the Holy one. What will you make of the supreme duty who is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the absolute sovereign who did on the circle of the earth. This time the phrase “sitteath the holy one is added. Because He is Holy, He will judge with justice and equity. In that judgment, the wicked will be punished severely and righteous will be rewarded abundantly.

The certainty of God’s promises: At this stage God is commanding His down hearted, dismayed and faltering Israelites to look up for him at last for their future guidance. In this connect prophet Isaiah quoted some lines from his book.



Lift up your eyes on high and behold who hath created those things that brightest out their host by member, he calleth them all by names by the greatness, of his might, for that he is strong in power, not one faileth (verse 26)

It is really strange, how it is disrobed here. It is said might after night, season after season, and year after year, the stars and the heavenly bodies, appear in Heaven. God call them all by names means by the greatness of his might. God call's them by names means He knows their attributes, qualities and characteristics. All those things move in the precise direction at the precise time and at the precise speed. And at the same time with the precise intensity by the strength of His power, nothing is missing. This is a reference to the suffering of the physical forces with which he was endured with heavenly bodies to present all disorders in their nations.

Here is one crucial point: *“If God takes care of the infinite number of inanimate heavenly bodies, why saith thou O Jacob and speakest O Israelites my way is hid from the Lord and judgment is passed over from my God”* (Verse 27). It is naturally of themselves of pity which was set in the minds of Israelites. They opened their eyes now which were closed for centuries about the God said, now they believed in their God who destroyed them all years due to their hard heartedness. God has disregarded them for their negligence, all the years. They could pass their days miserably without noticing their distress. We have to pity Israelites and say “Had they forgotten so soon that “Yahovah” loves them with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). It seems for the exited Jews God was finite in duration. He died for the sins of humanity and his intentions were wonderful. He had grown weak and tired. In that condition God speaks as a father to the son upon who much love and provision has been displayed, God in his too much love towards His choosen people asking them in a humble way whether they know not or whether they did not know about Him.

Throughout the chapter, the important problem is not of introducing or proving new truth but reminding and recalling ancient belief. This time was exactly when the Jews were in exile for seventy years. God wanted to remind His people that their God is everlasting sovereign and the creator of the whole

universe. He is aware of everything and called for the welfare of his people. Though His people are far from being weak or faint as men and women sometimes they would become due to lack of nourishment or overwork, or harsh treatment. In such unfavorable circumstances God will provide power and might to such persons. This is called to be Biblical Law, “The just live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4). For doing so, even the youth shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail. In spite of all that in marked and wonderful contrast prophet Isaiah says:

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint (verse 31).

The above mentioned passage would certainly give a new hope and wigour. This does not mean the tears and trials of Israelites, who were taken as captives would end immediately; and as a result all their problems would be solved. They anxiously looked for the end of all their mental worries. God was with them according to their wish, and their problems were solved to certain extent. They were able to live peacefully above their tears, trials and all kinds of worries. They could soar higher and higher over the clouds like an eagle, that is to say, run in the arena of life and never become weary. When they were in uncomfortable circumstances they would not be fainted. In this context one of the Christian poets by name Anne Johnson Faint (1866 to 1932) was very interested and impressed in the passage of prophet Isaiah and gave her impression in the following lines:

“God hath not promised skys always, blew flower stream path ways, all our lives through God hath not promised, sun without rain, joy without sorrow, peace without pain, but God hath promised strength for the day rest for the labor, light for the way, grace for the treads help from heaven unfailing sympathy undying love”.

## *An insight into Psalm Two*

From the Book of Psalms: Chapter 2 in the Bible, the sovereignty of God is clearly pointed out. It also offers great encouragement in the present days. If we study the newspapers regarding the chaos in the Middle East, we will be simply surprised at the continuing enmity going on between Israel and many other nations. They remain ruthless forever. The leaders have been trying to produce the details of Judo-Christian heritage through which George Washington praised for foundational welfare. The miracles of the plagues in the Ten Commandments were being chiseled off walls of court homes. We see moral laws accepted in the past. Everybody was not only challenged but also denounced.

Here, we have to remember the second chapter as baptism, which would be treated by the readers as the most magnetic one. It is crystal clear that the Book of Psalms is the most beautiful manifestation of the Hebrew poetic style. As a matter of fact, Hebrew poetry is not as rhythmic as English poetry, as English poetry is characterized by parables without doubt and by the frequent use of figures of speech. The doublets consist of saying the same basic thought twice, but each time using clear sets of words to indicate the same truth. When the same thought is completed twice, it is called synthetic parallelism. When the second statement declares the negative of the first, it is called antithetical parallelism.

In Verse 1, “heathen rage” has its parallel: “people imagine.” In Verse 2, “kings themselves and rulers take counsel”. In the same way, in Verse 3, “let us break their bands” has its parallel, “casts away their cords,” and so forth throughout the Psalm. The psalmist began with the lamentation, observing that multitudes of the citizens of this world have become rebellious against their first creator (God). The following lines are the outcome of Verses 1-3.

*“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?*

*The kings of the earth, set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*

*Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” (Psalm  
2:1-3)*

**Verse 1:** The word “heathen” in the King James Version is from the Hebrew word “goyim.” It is also translated as Gentiles or nations in reference to the people outside. In ancient Israel, world travel became very limited. Also, geography became uncertain. Added to that, the culture in ancient days had much more to say for the word “heathen” in the Greek language; the contrasting word was “barbarians.” In this context, the psalmist seemed to have lamented that the Gentile nations as well as the people of Israel have been in constant confrontation and have become a complaining mob against God and His laws.

**Verse 2:** The second verse points out that it is not only the mass that is disturbed by those rebellious spirits but also their leaders, rulers, and kings. Those people not only complained against the laws of God and His will, but also took to one another in their mischief and plotted further evil. So to say, their enmity is directed not only against God but also against the Anointed One, the Messiah (in Hebrew, he was called the mashiach), the Lord Jesus Christ, and His followers. The case is quite clear in our generation as we gain to live at a time when Christians were being martyred, especially in the Middle East and Africa. We hear through the daily news now both officials and ad hoc leaders ranting against Israel and calling for the destruction, as well as the denouncement, of the United States.

**Verse 3:** Their intentions were openly declared in the parallelism of Verse 3 to break their bands and cast away their cords. They wanted to unite all kinds of ropes that would bind them to their God and His Anointed One. They could do this act by denouncing His name by testing the other religions and even no

religions at all. They rejected Him totally as a creator and as a redeemer. They persecuted His people continuously. This is really inhuman and quite contrasted to the gracious and forgiving God. He drew them with cords and with bands of love. The response of God is an assurance to His people that everything in this world is in His control. The following Verses 4-6 are from the Book of Psalms.

*“He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.*

*Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.*

*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.” (Psalm 2:4-6)*

**Verse 4:** Let us see how the sovereign God has reacted to such a rebellion. The inspired psalmist began writing with the attribution of inhuman characteristics to God. “Who was sitting in heaven would laugh by watching what is going on in the earth.” The verb taught here is translated as “Sachak,” which means to laugh in contempt or in scorn. That is, those who rebel against God cannot upset His divine throne in heaven; the time of their rebellion is limited, as Verse 9 eventually assures us.

**Verse 5:** The fact is that the first three verses were offered for all people, whereas Verse 5 speaks about the attitude of God toward the billions of people against Him continuously. In this context, we see the wrath of God and His utter displeasure against the unrepenting mass, whom we see in Revelation 6:16 at the opening of the sixth seal when the wicked cry out.

*“...hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” (Revelation 6:16)*

And also, Psalms 46:6 tells us:

*“The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.” (Psalm 46:6)*

**Verse 6:** We can see the singing of Verses 9-11, or praise the Lord which dwelleth in Zion. Here, we study that God's decree of Verse 6 will stand: "*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*" (Psalm 2:6) The word *Zion* is a symptom used for the whole Promised Land and at other times to Jerusalem. Biblical geographers labeled the southwestern hill of Jerusalem as Mount Zion, with the central eastern hill Mount Moriah upon which both the first and second temples were built. This is also considered Zion and no dwelleth location to which the psalmist referred. Many theologians could not see any future for Jerusalem about 120 years ago, because it became a barren, almost forsaken, city. For about 800 years, the Sultan of the Ottoman Turks kept the city in his control from the thirteenth century up to 1917 and then the British military leader Edmund Allenby captured the city of Jerusalem during World War I. Still, the words of God can be referred to as "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them ... and the places round about my hill a blessing." (Ezekiel 34:23,26) God spoke those words through Prophet Ezekiel about 400 years ago after King David.

The final look at the evil times will end when Jesus, the Messiah, the second David of a resurrected King David, shall rule from Jerusalem. It is fitting to all the Jews who needed a healed call in 1900 to return to the holy hill of Zion, and those people were called Zionists. This psalm looked well beyond King David of 1000 B.C. to the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy that His shepherd, the good shepherd of John 10:11, Jesus, shall one day reign over God's holy hill of Zion. So, it is called the spot of connection between God and those who would break His bands and cut His cords. The Messiah of God recalls the wonderful words on faith declared unto Him. Let us see the following words.

*"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*



*Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

*Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*" (Psalm 2:7-9)

**Verse 7:** In connection to this verse, let us recall the words of the angel Gabriel to pray. *"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."* (Luke 1:35) These words of God coming from heaven echoed at the transfiguration, *"...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."* (Matthew 17:5) The reference of Jesus in the Gospel of John is in Verses 1-14 as the only begotten son. In this context, the Greek word *monogenous* is first suitable to the English-only generated or one generated. It appears nine times in the New Testament, as we can find it in Luke 8:42. *"For he had one only daughter..."* (Luke 8:42) He was the only begotten son of God. Jesus Himself was conscious of this fact, even as a young boy.

So, while He was discussing biblical matters with the rabbis in the temple, he said, to Mary and Joseph *"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"* (Luke 2:49)

**Verse 8:** In this verse it says about the glorious and gracious gifts the Father bestowed upon His son, our Messiah and redeemer. And on that day, there shall be a root of Jesus which shall stand as an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek and His rest shall be glorious. Let us look into the following lines.

*"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."* (Revelation 7:9)

*“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*

*And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”*  
(John 6:37-39)

The story goes on further in Verse 8 to add that the son was also given “the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.” Actually, the valuable gifts to His Father were really wonderful and they correspond remarkably with Verses 1-4 of Isaiah 42.

**Verse 9:** This verse is in continuation of God’s sovereign promises to the Messiah. The son of God has not only inhabited the believers from all nations and ruled from shore to shore, but also He would have complete power over the earth to reign after His second coming. The wicked rebels that would gather at Armageddon wanted to break the bands of God and break all cords. It is repeated three times in the Book of Revelation (2:27, 12:5, 19:15). In Revelation 2:27, it is openly declared that Christ, in the middle of the events of the second coming, will rule the nations of the wicked and the rebels of Armageddon “with a rod of iron.” It will be an auspicious day for total rule and complete sovereignty will be His only. The previously mentioned parts of Psalms suggest us to love and pray to God.

*“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed... (Psalm 2:10); Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” (Psalm 2:12)*

**Verse 10:** These final three verses given to us to be wise, prudent, and loving appeal to all people, to turn toward God by His grace and to avoid the future-coming divine wrath at the time of judgment. Let us try to understand the clever statements in Verses 2 and 10. It is in Verse 2 “kings of the earth... and

the rulers” and in Verse 10 “kings... judges of the earth,” those who were converted as rebels among the people against God. We find here in the closing verses of the psalm that an appeal was made to them to be wise and turn in repentance to be faithful and true to the kings and judges because they speak with authority as if they are the only wisest men on earth, and the others are only subordinate to them in wisdom. Here, God commands those people who are spiritually wise and who are capable of doing good things or great harm by their leadership. A corrupt leader is an abomination and history will replace evil rulers.

**Verse 11:** In this verse, the appeal or command is spoken in a clear parallelism: “*Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*” (Psalm 2:11) Every one of us can understand this expression to a certain extent with rejoicing and serving the Lord; we can respect anybody in the society with fear and trembles. We can respect persons who are in authority. This is an intimation that we must love God with all our heart and that we must worship and respect the person of our Divine Lord.

**Verse 12:** The importance of this verse is the son of God. It is said, “*Kiss the Son...*” (Psalm 2:12). With no doubt, this is a reference to the son, the only begotten one of Verse 7. Here, the kings, judges, and all people are admonished to love and submit themselves to the son, the Messiah whom God has anointed. It is a reference to the Book of Philippians in the New Testament penned by Apostle Paul. In that book, Paul addressed to a jailer, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:31) According to the declarations of this psalm, God has declared the Messiah to be His only begotten son and given the Gentiles who believed in Him, we can better understand what is said by Jesus. “*He that hateth me hateth my Father also.*” (John 15:23) If one opposes the son Messiah, he is opposing the one who was sent by God the Redeemer, the one to whom God has given all authority. At last, “*Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*” (Psalm 2:12) In the Book of Hebrews in the Old Testament a commonly used Hebrew term for the

word *blessed* is *Barak*. It is the word used for worship and is used to refer to God in His holiness and majesty. If you have heard Hebrew prayers, most of them begin with *Barak*. It is translated into English from Hebrew as “Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe.” In the Old Testament, the Beatitudes are mentioned in many psalms that are referred to mankind being “blessed” begin with the different Hebrew words, and so the word “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...*,” (Psalm 1:1) “*Blessed are all they that put their trust in him,*” (Psalm 2:12) and “*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*” (Psalm 32:1)

“*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.*” (Psalm 33:12) So, here in the final verse of Psalm 2, the word used is *ashore* and it conveys the truth that those who wholeheartedly put their trust in the Messiah, the son of God, will be spiritually happy and also will be with the blessing of God. These particular psalms, like many of the letters, were sent to the churches. Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 began with a severe condemnation, but other chapters close with proper remedies and promises of blessings. This is the final suggestion to those who will “kiss the child” in faith and true love.

## *Propheses of Ezekiel*

It is said Ezekiel was originally belonged to the family of Priesthood. Apart from that he was a prophet, as God called him. God wanted to give him some more titles, like son of man and watchman of the house of Israel. One day, God told his servant Ezekiel, “*Son of man, I have made thee, a watchman of the house of Israel; therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them warning from me*” (Ezekiel 3:7), at that time Ezekiel was also one of the exiled as a prophet. So, he happened to minister unto his fellowmen the Jews, during the Babylon captivity. Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful king of Babylon at that time. But due to his power and pride he became undriven and did not even care God for which he was punished by God, to eat grass like an animal for seven years.

By his power, he made Jerusalem weak and finally destroyed in three stages. According to his plan he made Jehovakim, the king of Jerusalem, even though he was unGodly from the Daniel disaster rulers, only for name sake then in his first attack in 606 B.C, he took some Jews as captives, and also some members of the royal families to Babylon including Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The Jews were under the control of Nebuchadnezzar but found a lot and rebellious against him. Then he made his attack in 598 B.C, on Jerusalem and this time took about 10,000 Jews as captives to Babylon including the prophet and priest Ezekiel. As the rebellion continued the king with Jerusalem under seize. And in 586 B.C, which was called, his third attack. In this attack the king entered into the city, destroyed the holy temple the city to same extent, and took more captives to Babylon. The excited Jews took this issue very seriously, how they were kept far away from their holy and beloved city Jerusalem and then how the temple was left without priesthood.

This sacrifices for the atonement of their sin and above all they began to question the faithfulness of the Lord God for His covenant, and the power to

protect. In such strong circumstance Ezekiel was called by the Lord God to minister Israelites and console them.

In such critical situation prophet Daniel came to lime light but from its captivs God gifted him the power of the curse of gentle world. History that ruled the Jewish nation is clubbed with the information of books Old and New Testament, and the

2 chapters of the book is a masterpiece. This 2 chapter primarily built with the extended period of the heathen rulers during that time, Jerusalem and Israel nations had their rulers for centuries. That time, there was no strong and efficient Davidic dynastic rulers' eligible to rule, Israel nation or to sit upon the throne of Israel. During the early days of captivity, Ezekiel was the contemporary of Daniel mentioned the following points.

1. The greivous sin, of the Jewish nation is justified its captivity and judgment illustrating that God was neither unfaithful nor powerless.
2. The withdrawal of God's glory, from the temple before its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar who was not worthy. It was actually Israelites that were defeated by Nebuchadnezzar but not God.
3. The coming judgment of the surrounding nations, would illustrate that their gloating mischief toward Israel, during her defeat and captivity should not go unpunished.
4. The re-gathering and redemption of the people of Israel, to the land at the end of the age would speak about their captivity. It was reminded that punishment was not permanent judgment and God would certainly fulfill His promises to his patriarchs.

The remaining Jewish were called people to return home after seventy years after constant persecution in Babylon. With extreme happiness they came to their native land and beloved city Jerusalem. The unhappy thing was the number of people that returned to their home land was very few. They struggled for their survival. Added to that, they had no king worthy to rule from the dynastic of King David. As, the world heathen power was changed from time to time. Israel had gone into the hands of Assyrians from Babylonians, from Persians



to Greeks, and finally from Greeks to Romans, who were famous for their wickedness. The Jews were unhappy under all these rulers for centuries. The Jews again recalled against the Roman rule. It was four years again in the city of Jerusalem was seized. Then in a rebellion place in the year 66 A.D. The Roman soldiers, were commanded by general Titus, and attacked the city of Jerusalem. The result of the attack was some more Jews happened; to take to Babylon and the temple was miserably destroyed once again. It is as pathetic as most of the remaining Jews who wanted to live in this world left Israel permanently and scattered themselves into different parts of the world, only to return after 1900 years. It is said, it was the part of the judgment of God. The scattering of Israel made their lives more miserable in the strange places for many centuries.

Many years have passed and many heathen powers controlled Israel. They were Assyrians, Babylonians Medo-Persians, Greeks and Romans, Muslims, Suryethes, Mahares, Cruceders, Turks, and ottoman, and finally British who declared independence to Israel on may 8<sup>th</sup> 1948. Most of the above said rulers used the land for their own purposes, by taking whatever was available. They did not return anything back and they were never grateful to that holy land. They ruled the nation, but they treated Israelites as their enemies. No, one of the rulers took the holy land to their hearts, and such things would remain in their minds permanently. We as readers can understand its domination of the foreign invasions continuously for many centuries. Their ill treatment of the people, and the land they misused should be taken into consideration.

The marching armies used to cut down the trees indiscriminately. The second point is some of the land owners used to cut down the trees, in order to avoid tax from the authorities; it is said, if they have more trees in their land they had to pay more tax. By doing so, they made the land barren and loosing all beauty of nature. The third point is they used wood as fuel to the engine of the orient express train, which would pass through Israel, from Syria to Egypt. So throughout the way, the land and hills appeared barren without trees. As a result, the land became malaria infected swamp land.

But all those changes were not noticed by the people. The Jews who returned to their homeland with full of hope after about 1900 years at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century or the beginning of twentieth century. Anyway the Jews with sweet memories began to enter their holy city of their forefathers. How many generations must have died miserably in those strange lands? They happened to flee from the Eastern Europe and Soviet Union, because persecution was rampant at times in those nations. They found their land barren, desolate and largely abandoned, and in the North, malaria infected swamp land. The people who returned found only a handful of bedouine families and an occasional sickly villages and then the rest of the land was burred without any human occupation, or cultivation of the land for centuries.

After 3300 years of their life spent in different parts of the world, they returned to their homeland. Prior to this they were in Egypt in bondage for 430 years, God heard the cry of Israelites and put the responsibility on the shoulders of Moses to bring them to the promised land of milk and honey called Cana the descendents of Abraham. The Israelis entered that land under the able guidance of Joshua. But after 1900 years when they returned to their places, they were surprised to find their lands were not like that even then Ezekiel spoke about their restoration with full hopes and confidence. The watchman unto the house of Israel was commanded by God to do the following.

Prophesy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord God, "Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen" Therefore saith the Lord GOD; "I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame. But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come". (Ezekiel 36:6-8)

As a matter of fact, the restoration of the land at the end of the age, is not they wanted or it will be sovereignty and graciously bestowed. God once again

speaks to people through Ezekiel is then what God is going to do, at the end of the age? He will re-gather and regenerate, all Jewish people, from different parts of the world, who lived the life, of unbelief and who lost faith in the God of their forefather. So to say, the regeneration of the nation of Israel, did not take place during the captivity and ruling of Babylonians or at any time in the history of Israel. It is a particular time probably at the end of the age. But in this context, Apostle Paul, seemed to have something in his mind So he said, "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob".(Romans 11:26). Again prophet Ezekiel wrote in chapter 37 that consent must proceed Israel's spiritual redemption. First of all, there must be re-gathering of all Israel, in their homeland and also the twelve tribes of Jacob must be re-united. The spirit of the Lord, He set down in the midst of the valley, which was filled with dry bones. They suggest certainly that they were dried ones. They were the bones of people who died long ago. They appeared while probably due to the heat of the sun for such a long time moreover, it was not a single bone, but the valley was full of them. It must have been a startling sight to the onlookers and more astonishing to the prophet Ezekiel. In utter compassion the prophet looked at the surroundings, and the Lord questioning His servant Ezekiel.

And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. (Ezekiel 37:3). Everything was found normal for a negative answer to the Lord's question. Because they gave the impression that they would have a long story behind. That means, they were the bones of people who died long time ago. Actually God knows everything as he is the creator of the cosmos and He is the omnipotent. Perhaps God wanted to know what impression Ezekiel had about Him, regarding His power. The prophet understanding was that if the bones wanted to live, they would get life from God, and live because He is all in all. Finally while the prophet was watching the bones, he was surprised to see they were coming together. In the following lines the prophet described how the bones got life through his prophecy.

*So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.*

Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these skins, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, as exceeding great army. (Ezekiel 37:7-10).

God told the son of man, that all those bones belonged to the house of Israel. They spoke, they were died and lost the hope of survival. But God promised them He would open their graves and bring them back, and put them in their homeland, God said, He was the God of Israel, who opened their graves, and put His spirit in them and then, they shall live in their nation. God had spoken those words, and performed His miracle providing life to the died bones. The Jews were out of their land of blessing and covenant and burial in different nations of the world, without Jerusalem their capital city, without their temple and the priest to perform all the formalities after death and finally without their King.

Many events took place during all those countries to them due to their sinful way of life. They forgot their loving God who brought them from Egypt, who were there in bondage for about 430 years. But still the God of their forefathers was merciful toward them. So, He will bring them back from various places in the last days, and they can see their new capital city and the millennial Kingdom and also their holy temple. Here, we have to remember one thing God says, He wanted to perform a miracle by putting His spirit into the dead bones and give them life. Then He wants to bring them back to their native place Jerusalem. The 36<sup>th</sup> chapter from the book of Ezekiel gives us the full clarity of the restoration of the land of Israel, which remained as waste land for centuries. Then chapter 37 gives the account of how people were gathered

from different parts, of different nations and brought them back to their mother land. The most important chapters in the book of Ezekiel are 38, 39 because they deal with people who are going to invade Israel at the time of the end of the age. It is said, the coalition nations under the leadership of a man by name “Gog” of the land of “Magog” According to the Biblical history the attack will take place at the end of the age, and the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. The invasion has to take place, particularly in the later years, and also it is said in the later days. In this context, the word of God is very brief but shocking to “Gog”.

God addresses ‘Gog’ and decrees “And thou shalt come up against by people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heavens may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee. O Gog, before their eyes”.(Ezekiel 38:16). The main body of the force of going Gog will come from the North of Jerusalem, which is always the navel of Biblical Geography God asks Gog whether he will come with his allied forces from North places on horses back as a mighty army. But God says He will return them back only with fifth part of his army. The invasion will take place exactly, when the Israelites are settled and taking rest, and while they are in progress in all respects.

God again warns Gog, to go and attack gates. “When should Gog attack Israelites”? When they are progressing peacefully, after a long time of their return from strange places many centuries later. The secret is, after they return they inhabit the useful land and trying to make it fertile, with the hope they can progress well with their cattle and goods. Above all they are dwelling in the midst of their land which must be more profitable for them. As we have read already the invading armies will come from the North to attack Israel.

It is necessary for us to know who this Gog is? And the Northern forces that will attack Israel. Gog will be ruling Magog according to historical background. Many scholars are of the opinion that these Magogites seem to be the ancient Scythians. This tribe generally proved that they have occupied the region in

between the Black and Caspion seas. We can also say this region is just to the North of Caucasus Mountains, and today that area is called Southern Russia. Then regarding the nationality of these Magogits and where they live at present, or where did they live at the time of the prophet Ezekiel? Some scholars said that they lived at Asia Minor which is called modern Turkey.

Gog and Magog were the chief princes of Misheak and Tubal. These places Mishek, Tubal and Magog are mentioned in the Bible in Genesis Chapter 10:2. They were also the names of the sons of Japheth the third son of Noah. The ark of Noah was landed on the Mount Hararath, one of the mountain ranges of Caucasus Mountain. For invasion, the forces of gog will be increased by the other forces like Persia, Cush and Perth, and those two persons Cush and Perth were the sons of Ham the second son of Noah. The name Persia is changed into modern Iran in the year 1935. According to their plan Cush and Perth will attack Israel from the North. The correct location of Cush and Perth were discussed among the scholars of the Bible. They concluded with the information that Cush is located in the area of Ethiopia, and Sudan whereas Turk is appeared to be Libiya.

The other allied forces to Gog are Gomer, and his son Togarmah. So the leaders of the invading armies as mentioned are the sons of Japheth. They are Gog, Mishek, Tubal and Gomer and the grandson of Japheth. The sons and grandson of Japheth are called Japhitis. As per the information available, 5 members are going to attack Israel. Then the two sons of Ham called Cush, Phat along with Persia. All together the total number of invading forces are 8 in number Gomar settled in central Turkey and his son Togarmah in Eastern Turkey. At present these 8 nations are surrounding Israel nation; North, South and East. They have a plan to attack Israel, for three sides during the last days. But the plan will become futile, because God has His own plan. It is really surprising to see all these persons mentioned in the context. More interesting to find is that they were the genealogy of Prophet Noah. Now these people, the descendents of Noah, are trying to attack Israel, from three corners at the end of the age.



In this connection God says, “And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man’s sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ezekiel 38:21-23).

All these invading nations love one thing in common, because they are all Islamic nations. Though they will try to attack Israel from three sides, they will be destroyed by God Himself, they may plan to build a global caliphate modern Islamic law but they will fall in it. Even as terrorists or Jihadists, they cannot conquer the world, nor defeat Israel. The glory which belongs to Christ and His heavenly Father, can never be given to “Allah”. Our king the lion of Judah is descending from heaven with roaring and with absolute power to rule His people. He will destroy all the Islamic nations, surrounding Israel, and establish His millennial Kingdom on the earth in Jerusalem.

# *Prophet Zechariah*

*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee.” (Zechariah 9:9)*

Zechariah was also called the “apple of God’s eye.” The Book of Zechariah was considered to be one of the important books which contained the complicated visions and puzzles. The book offers the clear truth for a practical beginning. The book begins with wise-saying as a prophet to Israelites to come to God. They had completely forgotten the God of their forefathers, but now God is calling them into His fold.

*“The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers. Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye unto me, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 1:2-3)*

It is just a simple appeal that can be made to the people of God. The Israelites who have been away from Him for a long time - God wanted them to return to Him and serve with obedience and affection. That was the immediate call of God to the Israelites and such was the call to all believers. Then the remaining verse of Chapter 1 focused on two more visions given to Zechariah. The first one was about a man among myrtle trees with four following horses (Zechariah 1:1-11).

The second vision was about four horses and craftsmen (Zechariah 1:18-21). As a matter of fact, it is beyond the scope of the overview to examine the visions which were conversing God’s redemption of Israel. In this context, Zechariah penned a few lines.

*“I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.*

*I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies...*

*...the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 1:14, 16, 17)*

Here, Chapter 1 puts the passion of God for Israel was exhibited. Chapter 2 started with Zechariah’s third vision (he actually got eight visions) of a man with a measuring line (Zechariah 2:1). It is said finally that the 2 chapters are well-known, especially for their powerful declaration of God’s devotion to Israelis in verse 8.

*“For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.” (Zechariah 2:8)*

What we would do when a person whom you love most is accepted, you can think about him or her very seriously and plan sincerely. If you multiply your plan for a thousand times, you can then have an idea about the love of God to Israel, as if we all the declarations God made in favour of.

Israel’s Lord added, “Sing and rejoice O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord.” (Zechariah 2:10) Now, Chapter 3 begins with Zechariah’s fourth vision of Joshua, Israeli’s high priest at the time of the writing. At that time, Joshua was wearing dirty clothes and stood before the angel of God. While Satan slanders him, Satan was rebuked by the Lord by telling him that Joshua was His chosen instrument. Zechariah explained that Joshua was a picture of the Israelites’ Messiah.

According to Chapter 4, Zechariah had a fifth vision, a lamp stand and two olive trees. Here, the Lord explains to him that this vision represents the Word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah. “And what is that word, Lord?” asked Zechariah. “This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6) God tells the Israelites not to be discouraged by the human oppression, but to look beyond it, to the spirit of God. It is only the spirit of

God that allowed Zechariah to lay the foundation of the house of God, and it was finished on time.

Chapter 5 reveals the vision of the sixth and seventh chapters. The first vision was a flying scroll; the second vision was a woman in a basket. Both visions dealt with theft and perjury, lying, and wickedness. All those evil things can be expelled from Israelites during the time of the Millennial Kingdom after the second coming of Jesus Christ. The seventh chapter and the final chapter consist of four chariots emerging from twine mountains of brass. They were commanded to walk to and fro on the earth. This command shows the sovereignty of God over the whole earth and His supreme authority. And at the time of the Millennial Kingdom, He would use all of His powers. Then, as mentioned in verses 6 and 9 through 15, Zechariah would return to the high priest Joshua, who has to preside over the construction of the past exiled temple. This facility is to be the foreshadowing of a more glorious temple. And one day, this would become the “Tabernacle” of Israelites, the branch of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapters 7 and 8 would take us two years ahead to 518 B.C., and Zechariah happened to give four explanatory messages to the Israelites.

- 1) The first message was about the rebukes chastising Israelites for worshipping the Lord with retreat.
- 2) The second message was concerning repentance. It calls Israelites to address and attack social evils. They must show mercy and compassion, stopping the oppression of widows and orphans. They must stop the plotting of evil against one another.
- 3) The third message was about the restoration of Israelites. God promised that “I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 8:7-8)

4) The fourth message was really more rejoicing. It is about a time when many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and pray before the Lord.

The ninth chapter is no doubt a surprising departure from the contents of the previous chapter. In Chapter 9, verses 1 through 8, God declares judgment on the enemies of Israelites. This point gives scope to a large extent about the coming of the Messiah of the Israelites. So, Zechariah proclaimed in this connection:

*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” (Zechariah 9:9)*

During the time of Jesus entering into Jerusalem, this prophecy was fulfilled when He was in the final week of His life on earth, so Zechariah jumped in excitement when he recollected about the Messiah and about the Millennial Kingdom. Zechariah considered this extent as the future golden age, when the Lord shall save them as the flock of His people. They shall be as the stones of a crown lifted up as an ensign upon the land. Chapter 9 is the continuation of the subject of the Israelites’ golden age. Actually, it is a period of unimaginable restoration of them; on that day, God will bring them again to place them, for “I have mercy upon them and they shall be as though I have not cast them off for I am the Lord their God and will have them.” This Millennial Kingdom shall be exemplified by the mass return of Israelites to their promised land.

*“I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them.” (Zechariah 10:10)*

According to some scholars, Chapter 11 is treated as the most confusing of all scriptures. The main themes are Israelites, shepherds, and then political

leaders. Among the verses, verses 11 and 13 were fulfilled when the chief priest in Jesus' day used the same thirty pieces of silver to purchase a potter's field in which to bury the strangers. These references are difficult to make sense, but one thing is quite clear- that is, they expressed God's loathing of dishonest and uncaring leaders, brutalizing their own people regarding the notorious leaders God says.

*“Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.” (Zechariah 11:17)*

Here, Chapter 12 speaks about the return to the end of the age, wherein the Lord causes all the heathen nations reigned as they want to attack both Judah and Jerusalem. When the war takes place between Israel and heathen nations, God will fight for His people. The result of the war shall be the Israelites devouring all the enemies roundabout the right and left of Jerusalem, and it shall be again inhabited in her own place Jerusalem. When Israelites come to the point of destruction, they would be saved miraculously by the Lord and the result of that work might cause Israelites to open their eyes to recognize their rejected Messiah. This information prompted Zechariah to write the following lines:

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

The Jewish people at the time of their weeping and wailing will acknowledge their long-heard Messianic blindness. If the Jewish people will give their response positively, then, according to Chapter 13, Christ the Lord will bring about a time of cleaning and repentance. Then the Jewish people



would confess their repentance and sins. Unfortunately, this revival of nations will include only a fraction of the total population. So, Zechariah says:

*“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”* (Zechariah 13: 8-9)

It is certainly a mental disturbance to consider the destruction of the two-thirds of the Jewish population. Even then, we must accept the fact that the Divine Spirit spoke the truth of God’s Word. Those words appeared to be painful to our minds. Yet we must accept the voice of the Lord and trust in Him and His perfect ethical desire. Coming to the eleventh chapter, it is treated as a conclusion. The first verse of the chapter is conversed to the day of the Lord. So, Zechariah writes:

*“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.”* (Zechariah 14: 1-3)

The Lord will bring heathen nations to Israel with two purposes in His mind:

1. To punish Israel, the remnants not included.
2. To punish the heathen nations.

The day of the Lord is unique and the most wonderful and greatest in human history.

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not*

*day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.” (Zechariah 14: 6-7)*

At last, the Lord will establish His Millennial Kingdom on earth. Then for all people, especially for the believers, it will be a more glorious and precious day for those who claim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And it shall be a blessed time of majesty for the people of Israel. What is the importance of Israel today?

Today, Israel is a very small country geographically insignificant politically and feeble militarily. To such an unimportant state, God has His own promises. Then what about us? Do we feel small, insignificant, and feeble? Should we not know with Israel that we are the apple of God’s eye? God has great things planned for us, and we can find some of them in the Book of Ephesians. It is an old saying, but it is true; God has given His word to Israel, and the same holds good to us. He has given us the guaranty of promises and nothing can stop them, because God wins at the end.

Zechariah called Israel the apple of God’s eye. Such is the position of Israel. So, the nations and individuals must pray for them. At the same time, everyone is not looking at them as God is looking at them. Many western nations maintained their friendship with Israel for many years but their attitude was rapidly changed. If the west completely turns its back on Israel, then Zechariah indicates that if this is likely to happen, then the west will have to answer for its indifferent nature. Western nations have to remember God’s promise long ago to Abraham regarding Israel: “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

- 1) The Book of Zechariah is the most Messianic and eschatological (end times oriented) one in the Old Testament.
- 2) Scholars have discovered 41 allusions in the Book of Zechariah in the New Testament.
- 3) Zechariah was a Levite born in Babylon. (Nehemiah 12:1-4,16)
- 4) Luke, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah were all prophets and priests.

## *Seventy weeks of Prophet Daniel*

In the word of God, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Prophet Daniel is very important and thought provoking for its wonderful prophetic message. This is neither exaggeration nor own statement. This 9<sup>th</sup> chapter is sometimes referred to as the backbone of the prophecy, as well as the backbone of the eschatology. Let us try to understand the exact meaning of prophecy. It is anything which is fact filled any time in future. It has to be written in contrast to eschatology which means ‘the study of last things’ whereas prophecy, which is still unfulfilled. Here is Daniel’s 9<sup>th</sup> chapter merged both prophecy and eschatology.

So, prophecy is anything which has to be fulfilled in future from the time it was written. To be more clear let us see an example. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ, his sacrificed death, and his resurrection were clearly prophesized in the Old Testament, itself and all of them were clearly fulfilled in the New Testament, in his first coming into this world. So the prophecy is still unfulfilled and it will be fulfilled one day or other. The above said statement can be understood clearly the difference between prophecy and eschatology in meaning regarding the prophecy and regarding Jesus, anything that is unfulfilled by him, in his first coming, shall be fulfilled in his second coming at the end of the age.

Here, we have to deal with three most important events; that took place in the year 539 B.C. The first event was, general Cyrus of Mede-Persian army general’s entered into the highly fortified city of Babylon. They entered the city by breaking the massive walls according to some scholars. Another historical fact is that the Mede-Persian army broke the huge doors of the great walls and made their entry. The third trustworthy fact was that a tributary of the river Ephrates was passing into the city from the bottom of the huge wall. The soldiers saw that and directed the water outside the wall itself. Then the

bottom of the river became dry and made the soldiers enter the campus of the king easily. The Babylonians used that river water whenever they were in prolonged seize. The soldiers found the king was sleeping in his chamber after enjoying a great party with drink with his officials. Then in a spurr of movement, the mighty and most powerful Babylonian empire fell into the hands of the Mede Persian king, as the Babylonian army was not in a position to defend itself. Prophet Daniel foretold a few hours earlier about the king's end. He said, "Though art weighed in the balances and art founded wanting". (Daniel 2:27). In that night, the king Belshazzar of the Chaldeans (Babylonian) was slain. The third point is that Daniel became 83 years old by 539 B.C. At that time Daniel came across a wonderful manuscript written by prophet Jeremiah.

When he took the book into his hands began to shiver like anything and his eyes schemed to have shed tears. Anyway Daniel began to read the message. As a result his soul was also stirred with excitement and his mood was in alert. He thought it was the passage from God to him. For this saith the Lord, that after seventy years accomplished in Babylon, I will visit you and perform my good word, to you in causing you to return to this place (Jeremiah 29:10). Daniel was over whelmed by one most exciting question. He wished for an immediate answer to his question of seventy years. He wanted to know what would happen to his people and the Holy city Jerusalem after the completion of seventy years of his people in captivity.

Daniel began to pray to his God –

Daniel was just teenager (13 years old) when he was taken as captive to Babylon. Even from that age, he did not want to defile himself by eating the forbidden food provided in the royal palace. God gave him the gift of interpreting the dreams correctly.

In such conditions, one day Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream of an image. The dream was concerning the history of the world heathen rulers. Daniel interpreted wonderfully, and more accurately. Daniel happened to spend one evening in the den of hungry lions and came out freely in the next morning

undisturbed. Actually the hungry must have a good breakfast with the body of Prophet Daniel. He was a great prayerful man to his God throughout his life. But this was the special occasion for him and also final time to pray because his people were going to let free after seventy years of captivity. The prayer of Daniel was the most powerful, with insight and also very beautiful that we cannot find anywhere in the word of God. This comment and complement are not at all an exaggeration and which must have prompted God to call Daniel “My beloved Prophet”, with regard to the captivity of Israelites, the prayer of Daniel emphasized three major points.

First, he realized Israelites were evil nature, they were wicked and they led sinful way of life. So, they deserved the punishment from God, to send them to Babylon as captives for seventy years.

The second point was, Daniel said to be called three times as beloved of God; that is today Daniel was called the beloved prophet of God. No one in the entire Bible such an elevated compliment by God; though there were many like Abraham, Moses, king David, or Peter and Paul. That does not mean Daniel was much Godlier. It indicated only he was special to God. Nothing was said against him in the Bible. Still amazingly in his prayer in Daniel chapter 9, he repeatedly used personal pronouns more than forty times in the short portion of scripture, to link himself with the sin of his nation. He used “my” five times, “I” six times, “us” ten times and “we” and “our” eleven times.

The third point was that Daniel was above all in the center of Israelites captivity in a very high position in all seventy years. He was anxious to know what would happen to his people after the completion of seventieth year. He realized the fact about terrible sinfulness of the sin of his nation was justified the judgment of God, upon his people. While Daniel was deeply immersed in prayer for his people, God heard his prayer and sent his angel Gabriel to him with an answer.

Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me,

and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. (Daniel 9:21-23)

Answer to Daniel's question – The serious question Daniel put to God, in his prayer was, "Now that the end of seventy years of captivity is getting close. What is going to happen to my people and the Holy city"? To this crucial question, the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God began to answer in this way: Seventy weeks are determined upon the people and upon thy Holy city Jerusalem. There are twelve words in the above said passages which are divided into four parts and which require proper explanation.

They are:-

1. Seventy weeks,
2. are determined
3. upon thy people
4. upon thy Holy city.

All these expressions are filled with some significance. Let us try to explain each phrase; for the understanding of the readers here. Seventy weeks are seventy "heptads". These heptads are a Hebrew word, which means "sevens". Now it is clearly explained of years or seventh sevens of years. So, seventy sevens of years is counted as 490 years. Then seventy weeks of years are not at all consecutively that will be shown. Here, the explanation seems to be very complicated, still let us try to understand it patiently. The first week of years (seven years) will begin and the week of the years (final) (seven years) conclusions. It is essential to understand what Gabriel, the angel of God told Daniel.

The second phrase is determined. This is a reference to the span of time which is "cut out" or appointed time of God. That is to say that particular event is supposed to be accomplished by God alone. The third point is "upon thy people". This can be easily understood why because "thy people" were Israelites and Daniel was also Jew. The fourth point is about the holy city. Jerusalem

was referred to as the holy city. It is like navel on the planet earth. It is the same city in which Abraham tried to sacrifice his son Isaac, on the Mount Moriah; Abraham did this when God wanted to test his faith and obedience toward Him.

It is the same Jerusalem which King David made his capital, after defeating the wicked Jabusites. He also took the burden of uniting the twelve tribes of Israel, in his kingdom. It is in this kingdom, in Jerusalem; King Solomon built the costliest and most beautiful temple on the Mount Moriah. Many of the Psalms in the bible are called Psalms of Ascent. Why they are called so because, the pilgrims used to sing these songs when they ascend the Mount Moriah to see the temple and worship God. And it is said to be “going up” when the pilgrims leave the holy city, the term they used for it is “going down”. It does not matter whatever direction the pilgrims enter the holy city. So Jerusalem is a holy city forever and ever.

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city; in order to accomplish six items. These six points were part of God’s master plan for Israel, and they will have to be functioned at the end of the age. That is to say the final seven years of history, which were commonly called at the same time incorrectly referred to as the Tribulation period. All the six points, which are going to be discussed, may be considered prophetic because none of them are yet to be fulfilled. They are also called eschatological (last days) those things, we must believe, will be fulfilled during the second coming of the Jesus Christ.

Those six points are:-

1. To finish the Transgression – Which means “bringing to an end” the context here is the sins of Israel, and their wondering across the earth will be brought to an end. The outcome of this is that there shall be no more transgression and disobeying the law of God.
2. To make an end of sin – It means the sin of the people will be taken away or to bring the sin to final judgment. It will also carry with it the

issue of forgiveness of sin, and take away completely the previous transgression.

3. To have re-contribution for iniquity – Here, the word re-contribution gives the idea to cover and to wipe out non-existent. It is based on the work of Christ in his first coming. It will be appropriated by Israel in His second coming.
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness – It is also based on the redemption plan of God; Jesus Christ, in his first coming. Let us examine this in this context. One strange man of the church was asked by the pastor, whether he likes to go to heaven after his death. The strange man thought it for a while and said, that he wanted to go to heaven, after he dies but he wanted the assurance from God that he should do any wrong to him to enter the heaven, and he added Christ with his experiences in Calvary wished to bring all of us to the everlasting righteousness in his second coming. This particular man is in hope that Christ will achieve what we needed without doing anything wrong to his people.
5. To seal up the vision and prophecy – The meaning here is, that it is a safety feature of the last days the Phrase “seal up” indicates that no more is to be added by the vision or oral claims, to what has been already predicted whatever must have come from Devine revelation, will be confirmed by its actual fulfillment.
6. To anoint the most holy – A group of scholars gave their opinion after thorough discussion on the topic how it would be if the highest Jesus Christ is anointed. Most of the scholars have agreed for the anointing, because it is concerned to Jesus Christ. It is a reference to the Holy of Holies of the last time while Daniel was strongly praying the angel Gabriel came to him and said, “O Daniel I am now came forth to give the skill and understanding and the angel added, “at the beginning of thy supplications the commandant came for thee and I am come to show thee for thou art greatly beloved therefore understand the matter and consider the vision.



The angel made it clear that God had sent him to Daniel to answer his question concerning condition of his people, after they were released from the captivity and about the holy city Jerusalem, not only in near future but also to the end of history Daniel put this question with broad outlook. For this intelligent question the answer from the angel was with three points, which would occur directly and divinely determined seventy sevens of years (490 years) that would bring the people of Daniel and the holy city to the end of history.

The first point which establishes a surprising point for the 490 years determined by God. Basing on the reference God is commanding to rebuild the great wall and offers around the city of Jerusalem for the security purpose. This was the message from the angel, regarding the wall that should be built around the city. This must be an encouragement to Daniel and his people. Daniel must have felt happy because some positive thing would happen to his beloved city Jerusalem. So, Nehemiah was given the responsibility of rebuilding the walls and streets of Jerusalem by King Art Aharraus in 445 B.C. He was also called Xerxus in brief. The king ordered this in his twentieth year of rule. The mention of seven weeks or 49 years must have been the direction of Nehemiah's task. So, the command of God to rebuild the city and the walls, were fulfilled and so, this is one of the fulfilled items, of prophecies of 490 years story. Now there remained three weeks of years of 441 years. Then the mention of seven weeks is followed by the prophecy of an additional three score and two or seventy two weeks, which were added to the previous seven weeks. Then it is equal to sixty nine weeks are altogether 483 years. "The coming prince" (Christ) this is the name of a book written by Sir Robert Anderson. He was a popular classic writer. He said that the sixty nine weeks in the combination of seven weeks and sixty two weeks is 483 years, from 445 B.C to 483 years reached to 32 A.D and the time of Christ's crucification. Then the term "shall Messiah be cut off". This expression speaks about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a well known fact that the death of the Lord, due to the traitors and the cruel activity of the Romans. He was put on the cross, and caused his death. However, the death of Christ would, not have taken place, if he had not permitted to

happen. If we look into the Bible (Mark 10:45), he said “Jesus did not come to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life”. He spoke of his death at Calvary and said, “For this cause come I unto this world (John 18:37). Jesus said, “Nobody takes his life from him, I have powers to lay it down and I have powers to take it back John 10:18).

In the Bible we have two high priests, the first one was Melchizedek; He was anointed by God and used him for his personal work. The second one is Jesus Christ; He was also anointed by God as great high priest. He had to obey his father God and offer himself as a sacrifice for the sake of our sin, and that sacrifice has to be infinite in words and eternal in duration. Jesus offered himself as a lamb of God for our sins and this occurred in the sixty ninth week of years (453) from 445, which the God Father had determined and according to the Bible this is the fulfilled prophecy. Yet there was one more week to be completed. Then it is the seventieth week (the final seven years). Here, it is said something must have happened, between the sixty ninth and seventieth week. What really happened was certainly a mystery, which the apostle Paul said was revealed in the Old Testament (Ephesians 3:1-13).

The mystery is known as “church age” which provides the gentiles should be the followers of the same body; and also partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. The questionable problem here is the seventieth week, contained, the issues which will occur, during that time period. Some scholars are under the impression that the Anti-Christ will not come from Rome as it was taught often previously. But some scholars gave the guaranty that the Anti – Christ would come from Turkey. According to the prophecy the Anti – Christ would make a covenant with the Jews for seven years. After this event, the Anti-Christ, would ravage ottomans. Turkish Empire. (Which ruled the Middle East for about 400 years that is from 1417-1917).

The Anti – Christ will realize that simply with man – power, and more military weapons he can defeat Israel because it is a small country. At the same time, the Anti – Christ must realize the fact that Israel is a small country, yet very

powerful and can defeat the Anti – Christ till the end. The result of the war shall be devastation and Israel will set the Anti – Christ back for many years. Some people did not believe the above said covenant with Anti – Christ by the Jewish people for seven years. The people asked why Israel should sign a peace treaty with the leaders of the emergency. Eight or ten nations of Muslim caliphate who to treat them again and again it is said the Anti – Christ has a plan to wipe out the map of Israel nation forever. If we look into the conditions of modern Israel it has the experience of many miracles since her state hood which was granted to them in 1948 by the British Government. At that time, Israel was in the midst of full pledged wars bloody battles continuous terrorist activities time and again threats, and the loss of many finest young men and also women. In such circumstances offering of peace will be too appealing to resist. Tragically Israel will not realize that she is making “covenant with death” (Isaiah 25:15-18). The Anti – Christ will break the seven years with some plan covenant at the midpoint (after 3 ½ years) beginning what is called Biblically the “Great Tribulation” (Matthew 21:21) of “Jacob’s Troubles”. If those days were not shortened for the sake of the elect men to be saved.

What would God do to Israel? – According to the Bible the apostle beloved John was called to heaven; and in the heaven John saw God sitting on his throne. Then on the right hand side of God, John saw a scroll, with seven sealed scroll in most fundamental term is the title deal to the planet earth. John heard a crowd voice of a strong angels crying out for a man who has the right of power and authority, to break open the scroll and bring to function all which the scroll contained.

It became necessary to search for a man who is suitable to break open the seal. The angels searched for a man in heaven in earth and under the earth and under the sea. But no suitable man is available. John understood the situation and began to weep and became uncontrollable. John realized that if no man was found to break the scroll seals and bring out the contents to pass the judgment. If it is not opened righteousness and justice would be mortally wounded.

Now the angel Gabriel came suddenly with power and commanding voice and tried to console John and said, “Weep not”. It means “stop weeping”. Then the angel gave the reason, why he asked John not to weep. He said, behold the lion of the tribe of Judah the root of David, hath provided to open the book (scroll) and to lose the seven seals thereof (Revelation 5:5). After searching all the places, only one man was found worthy to break open the seal (scroll) and redeem the world from Satan, sin, evil and wickedness and establish a glorious Kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 5:1-9). This man comes from the tribe of Judah, because it was called royal tribe from among the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:10). And more than that this man (Jesus Christ) the only one among billions of man who walked on the earth was from the root of King David. But we have to know what made this worthy man from the tribe of Judah and also the descendant of King David.

Anyway the braking of the seven seals, the blowing of seven trumpets and pouring out of seven bowels of the book of revelation all these things will occur during the seventieth week of the seventy sevens of the years, that is determined by God for Israel. During that final week the whole world will be purged of all sin then Satan will be imprisoned, the Anti – Christ will be miserably defeated in the battle of Armageddon, and then there will be no more false religion. Yes, Daniel, your God has glorious future, for your people and the holy city. He will rule the world and your people will be herds of the nation, but not tails. The result of all this is that the people of the whole world become righteous as God wished to be from the beginning of time.

God told his beloved prophet Daniel that seventy sevens of years (490 years) are determined for his people within that time from:-

1. The walls of Jerusalem should be built.
2. Jesus, the Messiah of Israelites would be objected and crucified.
3. Israel will blindly make a covenant with Anti – Christ, which triggers the seventieth week.
4. From the tribe of Judah, and lineage of King David, will come as the ruler of the earth.



***Gabriel angel who appeared before prophet angel***





***The World's Largest Church: St. Peter's Basilica,  
Vatican City, Rome, Italy***



***Church of holy sepulchere built by constant***

## *Some wise sayings*

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge best fools despise wisdom and instructions.
2. Dear friends hear the instructions of the father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.
3. The fear of death is more terrible than death itself.
4. Some people hath knowledge and do not chose the fear of the Lord.
5. Let us not forget the law of the God and at our hearts keep His commandments.
6. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee.
7. In all thy ways, acknowledge God, and He shall direct thy path.
8. Be not wise in thine own eyes, fear the Lord and depart from evil.
9. Happy is the man who finds wisdom and gets good understanding.
10. Be not afraid of sudden fear neither of the desolation of the wicked when it comes.
11. The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked but He blesseth the inhabitation of the just.
12. The wiser shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotions of fools.
13. Wisdom is the principal thing therefore get wisdom gets and with that get good understanding.
14. Enter not into the path of the wicked and go not in the way of evil man.
15. Give not to sleep to theine eyes and nor slumber to thy eyelids.
16. Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise. It does not have any guide or overseer, or provideeth it's meal. During summer and gathereth food in the harvest season.
17. We must be far away from a man, who has proud look, a lying tongue and the hands of the shed innocent blood.
18. Can a man take fire in his bosom and his cloths not be burned?

19. Can one go upon the hot core and his feet not be burned.
20. The house of the Lord is the way to thee, going down to the chamber of death.
21. Wisdom stands at the top of the high places by the way in the places of the paths.
22. Wisdom is better than anything and all things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.
23. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride arrogancy and the evil.
24. When God prepared the heavens wisdom was there and when He set compass upon the face of the earth wisdom was there.
25. So, let us hear the instructions from the wisdom and be wise and refuse it not.
26. Forsake the foolish and live and go in the way of understanding.
27. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the holy understands.
28. A foolish woman, is clamorous, she is simple and knowing nothing.
29. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.
30. Blessings are upon the head of the just, but violence covers the mother of the wicked.
31. The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life but violence covers the mother of the wicked.
32. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for want of wisdom.
33. Speech is silver but silence is gold.
34. The blessing of the Lord makes rich and He added no sorrow in it.
35. The fear of the Lord prolongs the days of life, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.
36. He that is fond of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a moment of understanding holds its place.
37. The merciful man does well to his own soul but he that is cruel troubles his own flesh.



38. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband but she that makes ashamed is as rottenness in her bones.
39. The lip of truth shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment.
40. A prudent man conceals his knowledge, but the hearts of fools proclaim their foolishness.
41. He that keepeth his mooth keepeth his life, but he that openeth wide his lips shall have distraction.
42. A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.
43. The light of the righteous rejoiceth but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.
44. The love of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.
45. A wise woman builds her house, but the foolish woman plucks it down with her own hands.
46. The crown of the wise is their riches but the foolishness of fools is folly.
47. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life to depart from the sinners of death.
48. The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and good.
49. The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but he will establish the border of the widow.
50. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, but the words of the pure are pleasant words.
51. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom and before honor is humility.
52. By mercy and truth inequity is purged and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.
53. An evil man seeketh only rebellion therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

54. The name of the Lord is a strong power the righteous renath into it and is safe.
55. Love not sleep, rest thou come to poverty, open thine eyes and thou shalt be satisfied with bread. \*\*\*\*\*
56. There is a gold and multitude of rubees but is lips of knowledge is precious jewels.
57. Whosoever cureseth his father are his mother his lamp shall be part put in obscure darkness.
58. The glory of young men is their strength, and the beauty of old men is the grey head.
59. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
60. It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious and an angry women.
61. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favour rather than silver and gold.
62. The rich and poor met together the Lord is the maker of them all.
63. Humility and fear of the Lord are riches and honour life.
64. Train up a child in the way he should grow and when he becomes old he will not depart from it.
65. The rich rules over the poor and the borrower the servant to the lender.
66. Rob not the poor because he is poor neither oppresses the afflicted in the gate.
67. Speak not in the ears of fool, because he will despise the wisdom of thy words.
68. Buy the truth and sell it not also wisdom and instruction and understanding.
69. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice and see that begotteth a wise child shall have joy of him.
70. My son gives me thaine heart, and let thaine eyes observe my ways.
71. Be not thou envious against evil men neither desired to be with them.

72. Through wisdom is an house builded and by understanding it is established.
73. Wisdom is too high for a fool he opens not his mouth in the gate.
74. Rejoice not when thaine enemy falls down and let not thaine heart be glad when he stumbles.
75. It is the glory of God to counsel a thing but the honour of the kings is to search out a matter.
76. A word filthy spoken is like apple of gold in pictures of silver.
77. Confidence in an unfaithful man is a time of troubles is like a broken tooth and a foot out of joint.
78. If there enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat. And of he be thirsty give him water to drink.
79. For though shalt keep coals of fire upon thy head and the Lord shall reward thee.
80. It is better to dwell in the corner of the house top, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.
81. A righteous man falling down beore a wicked person is like a troubled fountain and a corrupt spring.
82. Answer a fool according to his folly lest he be wise in his own conceit.
83. Let another man praise thee and not thaine own mouth, a stranger and not thaine own lips.
84. Open rebuke his better than secret love.
85. He that giveth into the poor shall not lack but he that hidden his eyes shall have many a curse.
86. When the wicked rise wise men hide themselves but when they perish the righteous increase.
87. A man's pride shall bring him low, but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.
88. Every word of God is pure; he is a shield into them that put their trust in Him.

89. Open thy mouth judge righteously and plead for the cause of the poor and needy.
90. Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies
91. All the labour of a man is for his mouth and yet the appropriate is not filled.
92. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting because that is of all men, and the living will lay it to his heart.
93. Sorrow is better than laughter for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made bitter.
94. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
95. Wisdom is better than weapons of war.
96. A wise man's heart is at his right hand, whereas the fool's heart is at his left.
97. Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man.
98. Learn to do well, seek judgement finding must, relieve the oppressed judge the fatherless plead for widow.
99. All that glitters is not gold.
100. All the world is a stage, all the men and women are more actors on the stage of the world, they play their role and exit from this material world.

## *Restoration of Israel*

The book of Isaiah chapter 40 is one of the topmost spiritual mountain peaks, so say all they words of God Almighty. Regarding the language, the theme and the grandeur, it is unsurprised. In this context, it is quite appropriate to quote some lines concerning to the topic.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isa 40:1-5).

Prophet Isaiah used this chapter for inspiration to the believers. He wrote this chapter for the people to understand that it is incomparable chapter regarding the coming Messiah. He began to write that chapter with devine pronouncement. "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people said your God". The prophetic proclamation is evidently equated; the glory of God shall be received with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a logical conclusion in the light of the fact Jesus is the image of the invisible God; (Colossians 2:9) and in him dwelled all the fullness of the God heard boldly (Colossians 2:9). So to say all the believers of the world would have been coming to this 40<sup>th</sup> chapter for centuries. The believers must have been over whelmed by God's omnipotent power infinite wisdom and eternal (mystery) while demonstrating something of his wisdom and power by way of disclosure, the lord historically inquired. "Who hath measured the waters in the hallow of his hand and meted out heaven in with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed to mountains in scales and the hills in a balance" 9Isaiah 40:1-2)

The weak, discouraged and defeated people, who have come to Israel to find required strength, comfort and assurance of ultimate victory. What spring can a man or woman come and drink to receive an unending flow of refreshments and strength which is greater than this:-

“He giveth power to the faint and to them that have no right he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utter by fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall war and not faint” (Isaiah 40:9-31). The chapter 40 is truly prophetic. It moves 150 years beyond the prophetic own days to the return of the remnant of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity in the latter part of the sixth century B.C from there its spirits Millennia are to be reached out to the end of the age. At the same time, it is quite appropriate to announce the ultimate restoration of Israel and the return of God in fulfillment of God’s unchanging premises. Proclamation of Prophetic issues – Here is the strongest tension; here is contract at its starkest. Here is hope at its love brightest. The first thirty nine chapters from the book of Isaiah are concerned to the messages of sins; judgment and darkness inward personal and corruptive and outward national defeat.

Only on certain occasions the cloes are lifted to reneal flecked glimpses of Messianic glory of the righteous king who will be born to a virgin. After his birth, the government will be on His shoulders. When the people see him as the king of Jews, they certainly have the wonderful glance of him. They also feel happy at the reign which will be glorious.

Even then the beginning of chapter 40, the scene changes from the history of Israelis failure to a prophetic glimpse of God’s victory and from the present dismal darkness to future resplendent glory.

Message concerned to comfort – “comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God” that is a divine command concerning Israel. The word comfort conveys the idea, “cause to breathe again” and for our understanding it is repeated comfort ye, comfort, it is also, to give emphasis and underscore its importance. The inner force of these words can be comprehended only from

the perspective of Israel's long lonely, torturous exile. It is also included the defeat of the nation the sacking of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple, its termination of the priest hood the stopping of sacrifices, all these disappointing things caused and forced the withdrawal of the glory of God from the temple; which is really inhuman we have to take into consideration the Babylonian captivity, the persecution of Roman rulers, the Spanish inquisitor the Russians programs the Naze Holocaust, the un ending conflicts of the century, and the still future catostrophic time of "Jacob's Troubles" and the other "great tribulation".

Basing on all these things, and how the country has experienced. These are all the pathetic conditions Israel saw with their own eyes. The inhuman attitude of those people is certainly beyond comprehension. It became helpless and hopeless with no one to come to their rescue or pity for their unfortunate condition. The sons and daughters of Jerusalem were haunted and hunted Jerusalem was cut off from the surrounding nations. And all those nations of the world finally surrounded Israel nation.

In this context Lord Jesus said "For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meal; I was thirsty, ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. (Matthew 25:35-36). In that day the pure and righteous will inquire of the Lord, as to when did they do those things and he would response. As a matter of fact, the Jews have done all that unto the Lord. As a result, this will be a direct fulfillment of the divine command "comfort ye, comfort ye my peoples". In spite of all these peace less conditions all the Israel has done her sin, transgression and iniquity. God still calls Israel my people what a wonderful love and affection to the people of Israel. Added to that God may withdraw, his glory and withhold his blessings, and implement his rod of chastening but he never break his word of forget his promises. He is not such as people with regard slackness. His love even toward wayward Israelites has not diminished (Psalm 137:5-6). Therefore, the great command the lord has given is, comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith the God.

### **A message for consummation –**

The command of God is still continues speak ye comfortable to Jerusalem. Then the word comfortable has come from “Hebrew” language and it is tenderly translated into English, it is called “tenderly”. The idea is to speak to the heart of Jerusalem. The emphasis is on the emotion rather than the intellect. The Bible readers know how the Israelites have rejected the Messiah, who has come to this world to save the sinners. It has been a matter of heart, emotion rather than of the mind intellectual. Partly it is the reaction of the, historically uneven accusation that she happened to kill Jesus and partly the persecution. This event ended after almost two thousand years. Then those who brought reproaches on the name of Christ, called themselves as true Christians. In fact if we speak to the heart that does not mean we speak quietly or timidly or passively. Then there comes the adminination. “Cry unto her”. And the meaning of that saying is to “speak publicly” and emphatically. The message in this context is very important the text permits no notion of a silent witness. The forces is yes and show love to Israel and make sure to speak to the Messiah. Here, we have to think about important message to be spoken to Israelites for their understanding at the end of the age. The message that is going to be given is of two types. The first one is about the warfare to be accomplished the importance of the second point is iniquity or in difference to be pardoned. This is more amazing on the part of Israelites. Then we have to think seriously regarding the statement here about the phrase. “The warfare is accomplished” or better that her appointed time of hardship, misery and servitude is ended. This is really an awesome (wonderful statement)

The readers must keep in mind one technical point that is individual sin cannot be attained simply by suffering. The reference in the context is for Israelites only in connection with their national restoration to a covenant relationship with “Yahweh”. The Israelites happened to enjoy all this only in the Old Testament, before the glory of God departed from their minds. The message of comfort has to be publicly and emphatically proclaimed to Israelites for their future day. Then their appointed time for misery, hardship and servitude



would be ended. And also their iniquity shall be pardoned. This is really a wonderful message for those people who have lost all hopes. Then what is the basis for such glorious promises.

A message of compensation - Prophet Isaiah writes about Israelites, concerning their condition at the end of the age. He says, “for Israel hath received from the Lord; hand double payment for all her sin”. If we understand this carefully, the punishment God gave was almost double to her crimes. If that were to be the case then God can be called an unjust judge, God expected more righteousness from his people of Israel. The idea we can understand here is that Israel has received ample payment for her sin then, the word “double” is employed in the same sense, as and when we speak of an identical twins that they look exactly alike from one another.

Israel has received double for all her sin. We can also say, that here punishment is down through the ages, which is quite equal to her offense. Even then restoration of the covenantal relationship with the nation does not give guarantee for personal salvation. Something more is required for that.

The way prepared – According to the prophecy the Lord Jesus Christ, is going to come, to Israel with music of trumpets. It is also called his second coming. His wish is that the Jewish people must receive him warmly. In his first coming the Jewish people rejected him, bluntly and his Messianic claim. As a result, he told the Israelites that they would not see him, again unless they were ready to say, “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the lord”. (Matthew 23:39). In advance of his coming they wanted to hear the voice of a prophet to announce to the people the king is on his way.

A voice in the wilderness - John the Baptist led his life as an ascetic throughout. The meaning of ascetic is that one lives a simple and contemplative life. His living place was wilderness. His clothing was camel’s hair only and his food was locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4). John the Baptist led such a strange life. According to the bible he was the forerunner of Jesus Christ. His word to Israelites was clear, concise, and uncultured. Then his message to the Israelites was very brief and concise, that is, “Repent ye for the Kingdom of heaven is at

hand” (Matthew 3:2). John was called a voice in the wilderness. It was called so because the voice was of the established religious leaders, in Jerusalem. This voice had a long tradition of man for the truth of God. John was used for the first coming of Jesus, whereas Elijah for the second coming of Christ. In the last book of Revelation and in the last chapter God says, he will send Elijah to the earth, “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord”. (Matthew 4:5). Moses the law giver was associated with Elijah in that end times ministry. It was Moses and Elijah who appeared with the glorified Christ on the mount of Transfiguration. It was God himself who buried Moses, in a valley in the land of Moab (Deuteronomy 34:6). At the same time, there is a strange incident, regarding the Arch angel Michael. He has fight with the Satan for the body of Moses. But in the case of Elijah he never experienced death; at least in the visual sense. He was directly taken up to heaven in a whirl wind (2 Kings 2:11)

It is believed that both Moses and Elijah will reappear on the earth, to remain as witnesses at the time of seventieth week, as already said in the Book of Revelation. The Jews would face so much misery for 3 ½ years. It is said during that time prophet Moses will rekindle in the hearts of all Jewish people to reinstitute the law. Regarding Elijah, he will stir in the souls of the Jewish people a hope for the return of their king. Moses takes the responsibility of representing the law and Elijah will represent, the prophets from Isaiah to Malachi.

The miracles those two prophets (Moses and Elijah) perform at the time of the end of the age will strongly reflect the Miracles they did in the Old Testament. Even to the present day there is an integral part of the Jewish Passover services, which bear on this subject. One point during Passover dinner, the door of the house is kept open with the hope; Elijah would enter the room and announce the coming of the Messiah undoubtedly. The believer will understand that Elijah is the “voice of one crying in the wilderness”, for which Isaiah made reference in this context there is a question that is what must be the proclamation of the prophet on that day?

A way in the Desert – It was a regular custom in the East, for the king to have a herald. The herald was very important for the people. Their responsibility was for the king whenever they went out. Then while going they have to announce in the following manner. The herald was proclaimed to the people that, the king was coming. With that brief information, the people had to remove all the obstructions on the way for the easy going of the king. In the way the mountains and hills were to be towered and the valley should be raised. The crooked places were to be made strait and the rough places must be made smooth. All these things were made for the king to go without any difficulty. John the Baptist also gave a message concerning the first coming of Christ and the same message will be given by prophet Elijah at the time of his second coming. The message is of “every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low and every crooked shall be made strait and the rough places plain” (Isaiah 40:4). We must understand that human monarchs concern themselves with physical obstacles only. Jesus is not a human monarch but the divine king of kings and Lord of Lords.

So, the obstacles to his entrance into man’s presence will not be there, and also his entrance is not physical but spiritual. They are not of the body, but they are concern to soul. Then the crooked places of reduction the rough places of human tradition these were the obstacles for refused Israelites. But these things would be removed by Christ in his first coming. He would gather his people before like a hen gathers her chicks with more love with tender heart, and with more protection. The catastrophic calamities at the time of “Jacob’s troubles and great tribulation” will be the catalyst that stirs Israelites to remove all the obstacles of his second coming. We have to wait and see what will happen after this event.

The Glory is revealed – The glory of God is the sum and substance of his intrinsic eternal perfection. To say clearly it is the manifestation and possession of quality and action of God. It causes him to impress and influence his creation. It demands, humanity’s recognition of God. His uniqueness and distinguishes

him as the self incident infinite eternal God. Since God is infinite his glory is inexhaustible.

We can see the glory of God, in his holiness justice, truth, love, grace, goodness, longsuffering, mercy and so on. The heart of man and woman unknowingly longs for humanity because they were created in the image of God himself. So, they know the ultimate fulfillment as the heart of men and women. There are without restrictions exposed to the glory of God.

A Devine Glory – The truth of solemnity is that it is almost beyond the utterance of human soul. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed in any form to the people. The glory we are talking about is not housed in the tabernacle; the glory is not future dwelling within the carnal church. The Pathatic thing is that, it is not even valued within the flesh of the Lord when the glory of the Lord is revealed in all fullness, then it appears like unseathing the sword of omnipotent truth. The powerful sword will pierce into the body of the wicked people and, protects the righteous. In such situation, it will be like hot rays of the sun. During the midday that hot sun can melt the wax and make the day more hot. The outcome of all this is that the manifestation of the glory of God will separate from the regardless the unrighteousness.

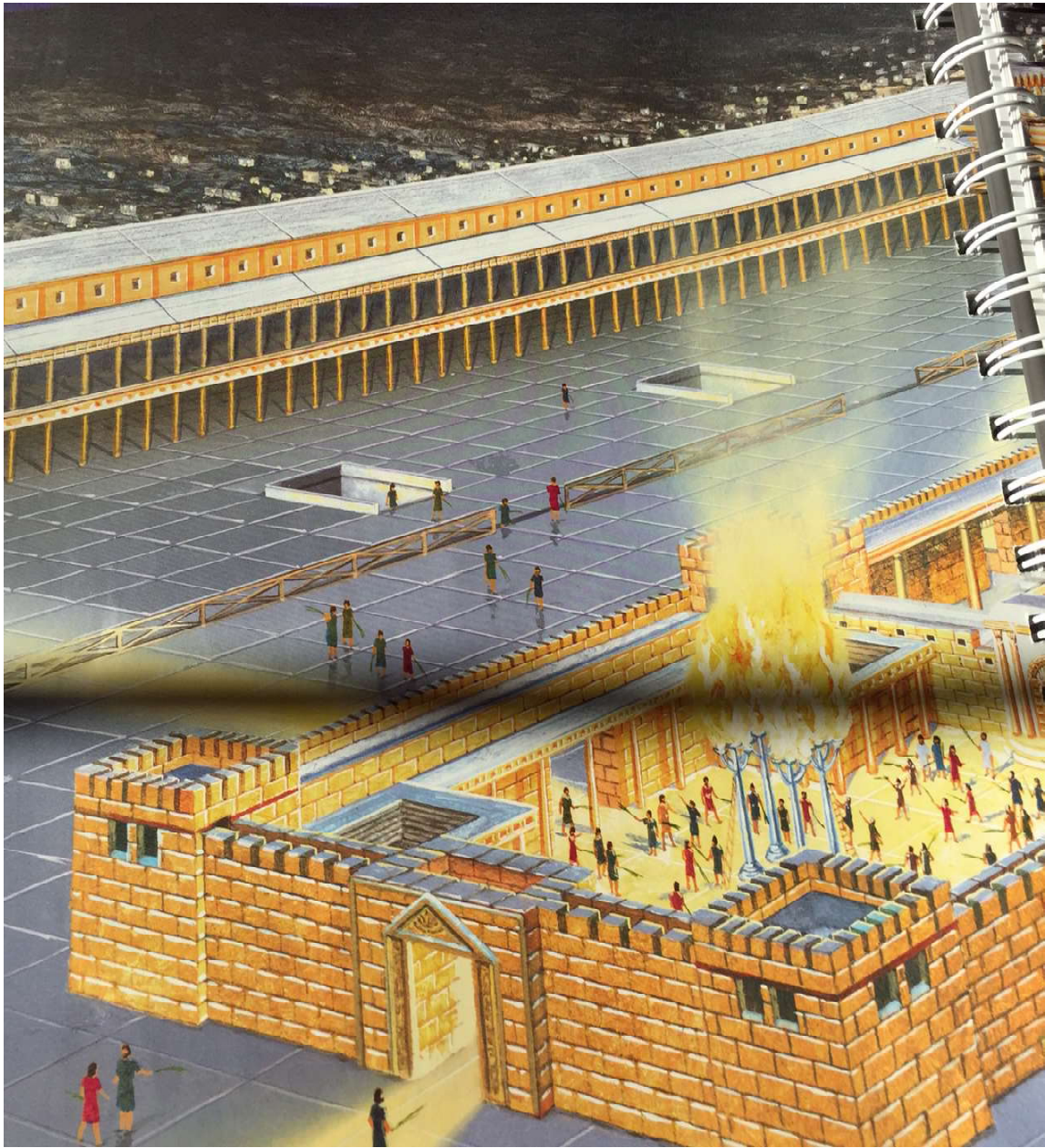
The universal Glory – When Jesus returns with all his resplendent glory, it has to be done openly. So, prophet Isaiah tells us “all flesh shall see it together” there will be a universal exhibition of the glory of God. All the people will see it together not in the television, but in the form of writing as if it were on the parchment of heaven itself. Then how it would be that God darkens the universe by snapping of the light of the sun; the moon and stars. After all these wonderful changes in heaven, God will dispel the darkness with the appearing of the sun of righteousness. “Who comes with healing in his wings” (Malachi 4:2) Jesus Christ describes that day in the following way.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they

shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory”. (Matthew 24:29-30)

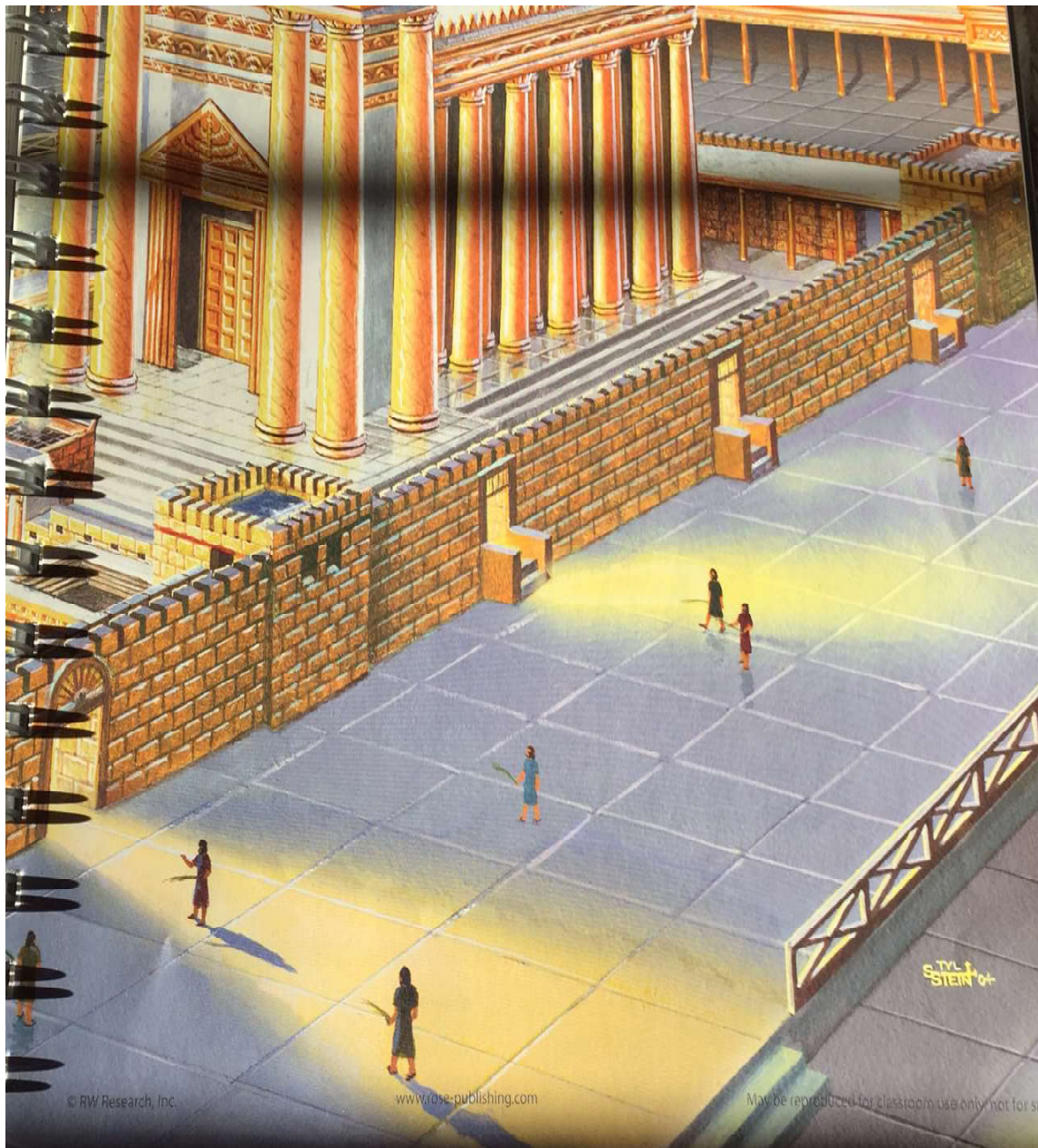
When Jesus came into the earth for the first time, it was the manifestation of the glory of God in humanity. As a matter of fact, he came as a “Lamb” to die on the cross. The glory which was seen through his life and teachings were seen primarily in Israel. When Jesus comes for the second time, it will be a manifestation of the glory of God, in power. He will come as a lion of the tribe of Judah to rule the earth. Then the glory of God will be witnessed universally by people of all walks of life. There is no doubt all men and women, will see him. On that day curse of sin will be taken away; then the righteousness and justice will become a reality in the earth.

A certain Glory - we can understand the mental setup of some people. Sometimes they like to mock at people; some ridicule and ignore the promises of the coming of Jesus Christ and the manifestation of his glory. In this context prophet Isaiah wrote; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it” so to say life is not dead and street of a long journey without any destination. There is rhyme reason, and hope in life. Those who are willing to take part through faith in Christ in his humiliation and also, take part in his exaltation and endless Glory.



**A magnificent temple built by King Herod**





## **A magnificent temple built by King Herod**

## *War in its final stage*

God knows accurately and fully about our future. We know the things that will be as they are completely in His control. He knows the things of small and larger, important events of history. He has been and He is always perpetual contemporary. He is immortal; God, with unbounded love. So, His sovereignty wanted to rule all of us end of time. The revelation is the precious vehicle called the Bible. Now our present duty is to discern rightly the word of God, for our spiritual food, then pray to God genuinely. So that God will be our means with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In the book of Zechariah 12 to 14 chapters revealed most important matter which we cannot find anywhere in the word of God. The word of God is concerned about the later days of human history unfortunately this most important topic was neglected, compared to the topics of prophecy. What we have to do is to throw light on the important topic which is concerned to our future life. The important prophecy before us reveals end of the times and God will be the undisputed victor of human history. As a matter of fact, the future is certainly troublesome. A true believer will be saddened by all kinds of troubles and terrible events by the wickedness of Satan and due to political problems people become restless. In this context political leaders are becoming responsible. So in the society, people who are in greater positions must set aside their status and do something to the society because the prophecy contains vital truth.

The God who created the universe kept the stars hanging in space. He created man from the dust of the ground. At the same time most of the nations were tragically healed. Yet all those nations are going to attack Israel, and that day is not far off. The battle is more concerned to God because, the fact is that Israel is an apple of Gods eye. (Deuteronomy 32:10). And that eye has become as sensitive as part of the body. If men can understand the choice of God of



Israel, they will certainly agree with this choice God is a sovereign authority in the universe. He need not call for a committee meeting, and ask their approval of his choice. Our opinion should be only to comply with His purpose otherwise we are at the wrong side of His redemption and conflict with Satan.

The Re-gathering of Israel –

The belief of the people concerning the end of the age must always come from the word of God, but never from the unfolding world events. The present events that are happening now and then are not at all reliable to indicate the future conditions of humanity. We come across now and then some sensational happenings from the Bible teachers and take them for granted that they are the fulfillment of the prophecies. Yet those events should not divert us from Biblical belief because they might throw some light upon future life.

The book entitled “are you ready for end of time” written by C. Ryle. As a servant of God, he had great insight into the plan of God for human history; particularly regarding the end of the age. In that book there are two points worth to look into. One is the Second Advent (coming) of Jesus Christ before the millennium. Second is the gathering of the Jewish people from different parts of the world into their nation. Ryle was a Zionist before there was a modern Zion. Then at the time of the re-gathering of the Jews in their home land, no significant voices were heard. It is estimated about 20,000 Jews were at Palestine alone. There was nothing on the horizon to even him that the dry bones spoken of by prophet Ezekiel would begin to come together. The Jews who were returning were persecuted in Russia, and Eastern Europe, and it is called “Aliah” which means “to ascend” or “to go up”. It is a Hebrew word. Normally it is a reference to going up to Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is the home of God on earth.

In the year 1697 Theodor Herzl was considered the modern father of Israel and a moving force at that time the first Zionist congress meeting was held by Martin Basil at Switzerland, and in that meeting Herzl raised the topic for the formation of a new Jewish home land. Then in 1914 to 1917 the First World War took place dramatically changed it.

Geopolitical land scape of the Middle East and much of Palestine, it so happened that the whole surrounding areas were put into the hands of the British and French for about 400 years of rule by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Then in 1917 the British Government approved the Melbourne declaration which is named after its chief architect Lord Balbour. The outcome of the declaration is for the establishment of a home land for the Jews in Palestine. Finally during the “League of Nations” was formed in the year 1922. This League of Nations gave to the British a “mandate” which was an authorization for the purpose of establishing a Jewish nation. This League of Nations was also called the “International Legal body”.

Then between 1933 and 1945 six million Jews in the world wide population of fifteen million were murdered in the death camp of satanically controlled Adolph Hitler. The situation was really terrific and incomprehensible. In the mean time the Second World War started, but the Jews acquired worldwide sympathy and it was generated a support for a Jewish home land. In 1947 the president of the U.S.A Harry Truman under his leadership declared the separation of Palestine as Jewish Nation and Arab nation. It was done with the effort of Harry Truman and it would not have been possible without the interference of the president Harry Truman and the existence of Jewish nation today.

Here the prophet Zechariah says once again “All this shall be the plague where with the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold everyone on the hand of His neighbor and His hand shall raise up against the hand of His neighbor. (Zechariah 14:12-13). For all the gentile nations there shall be great suffering before there is salvation and participation in Christ’s millennial reign. This is the tragic news and the burden, for both Israel and the gentile nations, will have indescribable peace, joy and blessing are foretold. But before the blessing,

they are going to face terrible judgment. There is law that men cannot escape and this is the law God should not be mocked at and men cannot turn up their dirtiness at God. God is long suffering, but He has perfect memory. A day of reaping will come for everybody. So, whatever men or nations saw that is if they reap flesh they will reap flesh. If men sow the spirit, they will reap the spirit.

A question of Timing –

With regard to the time of the prophetic message, we are not left in doubt. The expression “that day” is found seventeen times in chapters 12 to 14. Again it accrued seven times alone in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter which has only fourteen verses.

“In that day will I make Jerusalem” (12:3)

“In that day saith the Lord” (12:4)

“In that day will I make the governors” (12:6)

“In that day shall the Lord defend” (12:8)

“That is feeble among them at that day shall be as David” (12:8)

“In that day that I will seek” (12:9)

“In that day shall there be a great mourning” (12:11)

Here, the expression “that day” or “in that day” both are the references to the Day of the Lord. This Day of the Lord should not be confused for a period of twenty four hours time. The Day of the Lord is an indefinite time period beginning near the end of the age, lasting perhaps a year or two when God is going to intervene directly into the affairs of man.

Some commentators tried to find fulfillment in the prophecy of Zechariah in the centuries that followed the utterances. And some other scholars tried to associate the prophecy with the expedition of Alexander the great along the west coast of Palestine and down to Egypt in the third century B.C and others with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D by the Romans. The fact is that all these conflicts do not even remotely resemble the events described by Prophet Zechariah. These commentators were of the opinion that God is finished with Israel because she rejected Christ. So Israelites cannot have the divine protection at the time of their re-gathering and redemption of

Israel at the end of the age (days). It is no doubt foreign to their theology and more than that it will decide their theology. So the final result is that all those commentators have vainly attempted to explain away the obvious teaching of this prophecy and other prophecies as well.

Debate concerning Location –

The geographical location of events is also quite clear according to the prophetic message of Zechariah. Eleven times in the fourteen verses of 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Zechariah. Jerusalem is mentioned by name six times the tribal region of Judah is located. South and East of Jerusalem are mentioned and there is five times reference to the house of David. So, Jerusalem Judah and all other places of Israel are clearly pointed out. This message gives us the idea that the words of the Bible are the words of God. Jerusalem the capital city of Israel is situated with the Mediterranean Sea to her west, and Arab Muslim countries to her North, South and East. So, Jerusalem is surrounded by Muslim countries three sides and one side Mediterranean Sea.

The Battle –

The message of the Lord given to Prophet Zechariah was almost autobiographical. The message was not concerned to the conflict between Israel and the gentle nations at the end of the age, but it is the direct involvement of the Lord Himself in the conflict. He is going to do and it will impact His character. His coming and consummation of this age is in preparation for the golden age to come, “and wise men will pay very close attention”. The Lord tells men seven times in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Zechariah, what He is going to do, when God begins His message with two words “I will” the Prophet Zechariah starts writing His message. God has given us a list of things He is going to do through His prophet.

1. I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about (V-2)
2. I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people (V-3)
3. I will smite every house with astonishment and his rider with madness (V-4)

4. I will make the governors of Judah like a hearth of fire among wood (V-6)
5. I will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem (V-8)
6. I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem (V-9)
7. I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplications (V-10)

These seven 'I will' statements given by God Himself communicate vital concrete and prophetic truth. The truth here is that many gentile nations are going to attack and seize Jerusalem at the end of the age. This is not one day battle but it would continue for some time at a place called Armageddon and this battle is associated with the second coming of Jesus Christ.

And the following nations are going to attack the holy land.

1. Mogog is associated with the Scythians the rugged caucusing mountains served as these satheren borders. Some commentators suggest that Mogog includes all Russia.
2. Meshach: this is closely associated with Mogog and it is located in Cappadocia in North Eastern Turkey
3. Tubal: Like Meshach Tubal was also closely associated with Mogog. Tubal is connected with South Eastern Turkey in the area of Cilicia.
4. Persia: It is located East of Jerusalem. This Persian Empire was one of the most powerful kingdoms, in history. Today there is no such great nation as Persian nation. In the year 1935 she had changed her name from Persia to Iran.
5. Cush: It was the name of the region, in North Africa, South of Egypt. Today it compresses part of Sudan and Ethiopia.
6. Put: Much is said about this in the news today. It is also in Northern Africa, west of Egypt and today it is known Libia.
7. Gomer: This is located in the area of the ancient Simmerians in central Northern Turkey.
8. Togarmah: This place is located near the important ancient Biblical cities of Carchemish, where the Babylonians under the command of Nebuchadnezzar

defeated the Egyptian army and Haran where Abraham stopped for some time on his way to the Promised Land Canaan. So this Togarmah is located at Eastern Turkey.

9. Sheba: This is probably found in the region of South Western Arabian Peninsula.

10. Dedan: This is also located in the Arabian Peninsula with the identification of these ten nations; a good number of facts are going to emerge. These ten nations are going to surround Israel from three sides, North, South and East and on west there is already Mediterranean Sea. So, Israel is trapped totally. The second point is that all there nations join together and form a coalition or caliphate under one leader.

Third point is all these ten nations are Islamic. And their attack was against Israel, against Christianity and finally against Jesus Christ himself.

The forth point is Meshach, Tubal, Gomer and Togarmah are in Turkey only because it is a very large country and with very large population and with most powerful army in the world. The army has the complete control of both the rivers Euphrates and Tigris and through a good number of dams the water is controlled totally. And finally because of Muslim president, Turkey became a Muslim country religiously. As a result, hostility between Turkey and Israel increased from time to time. The attacking nations will destroy the people of God, through the prophecy of Jeremiah. The following words are assurance of God to the Jews:

“Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; the Lord of hosts is His name. If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

God says that the gentile nations must first destroy the Sun, Moon and Stars then only they can destroy the Jewish people. To destroy Jewish people means to defeat Jesus Christ who returns as legitimate heir to the legitimate throne over a legitimate people. Christ is not a usurper of the throne. He is a lion of

the tribe of Judah and King of Israel. He will not be defeated at any cost. We have to think about the nations that are going to attack Israel. There are ten nations against one small nation Israel. The battle is incomparable so to say it is one sided battle. The enemies do not know who is hitting them. The ten plagues God used in Egypt were nothing and insignificant to what he is going to do to those attacking nations. God is going to use seven things against the attackers of His people the Israelites. Six of them were against the nations and one against his own people.

First – the Lord said, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about. When they shall be in the seize both against Judah and against Jerusalem. (V.2) The enemy nations in their ignorance to destroy Israel will be psychologically intoxicated. They will become irrational and mentally not sound. We have seen enough the bitter experience of the Middle East against the Holy Land in their policies.

Second – The Lord said, I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people that burden themselves with it (the stone). Shall be cut in pieces; all the people of the earth gather together against it (v.3)

What is the purpose of the heavy stone for the people? Let us examine if they are going to leave the stone. Again we have to see whether the nations are going to cut into pieces. The very heavy stone will cut into pieces, when they try to leave it away; the heavy stone here is Christ Himself. In the Bible Christ is repeatedly represented as heavy stone by various writers. In the book of Daniel chapter 2 Christ is represented as “smiting stone” who would smash the feet and toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream statue. The statue represented the important heathen world. In Ephesians chapter – 2 Christ is seen as the “chief Corner stone”. Apostle Paul tells about the true church, which is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets and Jesus Christ is deputed as the “Corner Stone” of that church. (Ephesians 2:20). Peter says in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter about Christ that the Jews stumbled at the stumbling stone (Peter 2:6-8). They did not really stumble over Jesus Christ but the Jews believed in the second coming of Christ or Messiah. What are the events that made them

stumble, because He was crucified? So, for Jews Jesus was a stumbling stone. In the Bible the son of man is presented as a “smiting stone” to the nations. He was presented to the churches as a “Chief Corner Stone”. He was presented to Israel as a “Stumbling Stone”

And Prophet Zechariah presented him as a “very heavy stone” at the end of the age; the Islamic nations cannot do anything to Israelites. The enemy Islamic nations wanted to replace Jesus in the battle. They do not understand that humanity will be cut into pieces. The book of psalms in the second chapter the writer says “Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the lord and against His anointed saying. Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us. (Psalms 2:1-3). All enemy nations at the end of the age will seek the bands and cast away all the divine restraint. But they will not succeed in their attempt. In spite of their entire plan they cannot be successful in them and they cannot cast away Jesus Christ, because God has decreed. Let us see the lines quoted from the book of Psalms.

“Yet In spite of man’s rebellion have I set my King upon my Holy hill Zion. I will declare the decree the Lord hath said unto me thou are my son this day have I begotten thee; ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen nations for part of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break thin nations with a rod of iron thou shalt thy nations in pieces like a potter’s vessel” (Psalm 2:6-9)

The heathen nations while trying to leave the stone away of severing all divine restrain; they will be cut into pieces.

Third – The Lord said “I will smite every house with astonishment and its rider with madness (V-4). To the ancient people, the house is a symbol of power and might but this attacking army is no way equal to the son of God. He will smite the houses with astonishment or more correctly with confusion. So to say the riders themselves will experience the madness.

Fourth – The Lord said, I will make the governors of Judah hearth of fires among the wood and like a torch of fire in a seath and they shall devour all



people that are around them that are on their left and right. But Jerusalem shall be inhabited in her own place. (V-6).

The Lord is going to strengthen the governors (teachers) of Israel to make them more powerful in two ways. The leaders will be “like pan” which is used to carry coals for the purpose of starting the wood fire. And the leaders will be like torches used to set dry winds on fire. Here, two similes are used to illustrate the power of God. Those two similies are ‘fire pan’ and ‘torch’. God will devour the heathen armies like fire in the last days.

Fifth – The Lord said, I will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem and he that is week at that time shall be as David and the house of David shall be as God as the angel of the Lord before them (V-8). King David was called the greatest warrior among Israelites. King David had most powerful army. As far as military strength was concerned “the house of David” shall be as God as the angel before them” that is to say, Jesus Himself was the house of David, the one “angel of the Lord will fight the battle on behalf of Israel (V-8)

Sixth – The Lord said, I will seek to destroy the nations that come against Jerusalem (V-9). In this context repeatedly said how many ways and how many times he will destroy those nations that attack Israel. We must think deeply and then get the correct answer. God used that I will only for emphasis sake. The reason is that, the nations will be without excuse, when they find themselves to be sinners in the hands of a very angry Lord.

Apart from Prophet Zechariah, Prophet Haggai the contemporary of Zechariah also speaks about that day in the following way. “I will shake the heavens and the earth; and I will over throw the thrones of the kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms and I will overthrow the chariots and those that ride in them and the horses and their riders shall come down, everyone by the sword, of his brother” (Haggai 2:21-23).

Seventh – The Lord said, I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplications, and they shall look upon me, whom they have pierced and they shall mourn for him. One

mourneth for his only son, and shall be bitterness for him, as one is in bitterness for his first born” (V-10).

Here, the scene changes suddenly from severe judgment upon the armies that will be attacking Israelites and now the Lord poured the spirit of grace upon Israelites. The blindness of the Jews was sovereignly bestowed that the gospel would go to the gentle nations. The result is their blindness shall be lifted. When that blindness is lifted then God has decreed. They (Israel) shall look on me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first born. (Zechariah 12:10).

So, to say in brief, the emotion of that particular day, or hour or movement, cannot be overestimated or totally comprehended. The Jewish people were not at all blind because the only reason is they rejected Christ. Blindness is not a punishment for rejecting Christ. As a matter of fact Israelites had been blind and disobedient throughout the Old Testament. That blindness was sovereignly bestowed so that the gospel would go to gentiles in fulfillment of Abrahamic covenant. What is the covenant? “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:3). That blindness of the Jewish people would continue until the fullness of the gentiles become in” (Romans 12:25). It is only at the end of age, the blindness of Jews will be taken away from them, and will see the face of Jesus Christ. So, in terms of time the Jewish people have rejected Jesus for 2000 years.

It is the Jewish woman who gave birth to Jesus. It is the Jewish Prophets that called Him Messiah. He was called the son of David and the king. Jesus said, salvation is of Jews (John 4:22). It is Jewish people who gave birth to the hope of mankind and His name is Jesus. When He returns as the King of the Jews, He will become King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords. Then, out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (Isa 2:3)

1. When Jesus returns, He will consummate the redemption of all believers, through resurrection or rapture.

2. When Jesus returns, He will recapture, man's last destiny as the King of the earth.
3. When Jesus return, the spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him. His wisdom will be perfect. His power infinite and His reign benevolent.
4. When Christ returns, the world will lie down with the lamb.
5. When Christ returns, He will bring with Him the everlasting righteousness and peace.

The Jewish nation has a particular date with destiny. She will come across the son of David her king and Lord of Jerusalem. The main reason is that Jews must reconcile with their God through faith in Christ. Then there will be abundant blessings like life giving water, with continuous flow to all believers and believing humanity. In this connection Apostle Peter called this restitution (regeneration or rebirth) of all things" (Acts 3:21). When the whole world will be purged, of all defiled things, and when the glory of God fills the earth, then only the believers take to heart and rejoice. But that time is not too far.

# *Glorious Birth of Jesus Christ*

It is a fact that every believer must have felt happy at the birth of Jesus Christ in Glorious way. It was also called the birth of Messiah. It was the story of a baffled prophet, a humble carpenter, a lovely shepherd, a faithful widow and teenaged mother. And all these people have several things in common. Then who were they?

1. They were Israelites.
2. They were of little consequence in the light of the society.
3. They were the chosen people of God.
4. They were among the first to know.
5. They were touched by the glorious birth of the child, Jesus Christ.
6. Their stories have touched the hearts of millions of the Bible readers of Millennia.

It is really wonderful that the birth of the heir to the throne of king David. That event must have touched or praised traditionally with pomp and glory. Here is an important reference in connection with the birth of Jesus. It was the birth of Edward VI was a heir to the throne of England. He was the son of Henry VIII, when he was born (Edward VI) the bells of the churches were pealed throughout London. In addition to that Hymns were sung, bonfires lit procession took place miles together in the streets. The merchants in the streets gave fruits and wine to the gathering people. Finally the festival came to an end, with the celebration of stunning conclusion from the gala hundreds of courties were dispatched throughout the land to report the splendid matter. But at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, there was no such merriment and the appearance of festivity. But the most precious and memorable thing was the heavenly chosen songs by the angels, and it was witnessed by a small number of shepherds that came from the hills of Jericho.

Then there were only fires for keeping the hands warm. There was no missionary to carry that happy news and also no proclamation for the spreading of the news anywhere. It was shepherds who saw the baby Christ began to tell the people whosoever they came across them. The widow Anna aged 84 was living only to see Him before her death, and spread the happy news as far as possible particularly to whose hearts were pained to Israelites redemption. Joseph, a carpenter and father of Jesus Christ spent some time comely pondering. What it must have been? To understand clearly Jesus was the “son of God” and son of man. Another elderly man Simeon, a devoted worshipper of ‘Yahweh’, saw Jesus when he was brought to the church at the age of fourteen years. Simon saw him in the church and said he was still only to see him and die. These were the ingredients of the gladness birth of Christ which was simple loveliness. The Gentiles proclamation, the humble meditation of life cleaning contentment, these were also the ingredients that would make the greater part of your life and my life.

The following points would reflect the glorious birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born to save humanity from its sin. He came to the world to save the:

1. To save the wealthy and destitute
2. The humans and the obscure
3. The young and the old
4. The lowly and the modest
5. The high and the low
6. The assertive and the passive

In other words the glorious birth of Jesus is for you me and for everybody of the humanity, whether it is now or in future, we should fall down at the feet of the lord Jesus, who was born king and who will certainly rule the earth at the end of the age.

A great satisfaction:

Regarding the birth of Jesus a minor prophet Micah gave his testimony. He abruptly started his story. He was sitting on a hill, and looked at Bethlehem. He felt the place of God Ephrath, he was visited by the touch of dissatisfaction. He again wondered and said Ephrath is really a beautiful place but it has no importance. And got lord you say our Messiah who is from everlasting the eternal one God. Himself will be born here? In Bethlehem Epharath but not in Jerusalem which was first six miles. He proclaimed the orcle of God for four decades, Micah then closed his eyes and said O Lord I do not question you, but I question that I do not understand our anointed Messiah to be born in this tiny Bethlehem. My curiosity remains unsatisfactory.

Micah questioned about Bethlehem as it was a small and insignificant at that time. But he was confident; it would become a big city one day. Micah wanted to go to a high place, and look around Bethlehem. He wanted to ask God to satisfy him. Then these words one day Lord I shall go there and look out upon this fair town perhaps at that time Lord you will satisfy my desire. But became old among for any adventure, still in that old age he made a journey on his trust worthy mule and with some difficulty mounted a hill. He reached the top of the hill to survey the hamlet Bethlehem the house of Bread. This phrase was quite appropriate to that town because it was famous for the production of all kinds of food stuff like grains vineyards and olive orchards. "I am grateful Lord Micah said, that you specified which Bethlehem, I was the visitor. Micah closed his eyes and said Lord I do not question you but I confess I do not understand the long awaited Messiah to be born in tiny Bethlehem. My curiosity remains unsatisfied.

He expressed with God what all he had in his mind. He face became brightened and said again "Is this your message Lord?" "Will our king come humbly?" "Is this your will Lord?" Our king will come in humbleness before He attains His glory. At last he descended from the hill downward his mule and smiled.

It was the smile of one whose soul had been satisfied. The point here is that he received maximum satisfaction. And a splendid satisfaction awaits every one of us, who looks for the savior in humble submission.

#### Unfamiliar News of Joseph:

Joseph was unfamiliar with what was going on regarding the birth of Jesus. As a carpenter he knew only the instruments like saw, and axe, hammer chisel etc. These were the popular tools used by the carpenters. Joseph was about 20 years old at that time living in the Galilean town of Nazareth. What he did not know anything about the role he played in the human history. It was the role of the father to Israelites messiah Joseph was only an ordinary carpenter, received that shocking news from God of the universe. Joseph did not understand what God told him through the angel nor the story explained to him with all details by his betrothed wife Mary or Miryam, it was a Hebrew name for Mary.

If we look into the Bible we find how God choose Melchizedec for His personal matters, in the same way God choose Mary among many women for the character of mother to Godly son and Messiah of Israelites, she had wonderful story behind her becoming pregnant and how God has chosen her to be the mother of the son of God. As she became mother to the coming Messiah, she was divinely impregnated and after hearing this news from both the angel and his betrothed wife Mary, Joseph was much surprised and could not have faith in such unbelievable stories. So, he was shattered at the information and when he went to bed he could not sleep. He was tossed this side and that side on the bed. At last, he cried and prayed to God. As he could not condemn me nor could he accept it, then said, “Oh why God, why this girl? Why did you bring her to me?”

When the sky was calm, with full of twinkling stars, and when the heart of Joseph was much disturbed and he was restless with tattered soul, Joseph the carpenter heard a voice. It was the voice of an angel of the Lord. The angel said to Joseph “Joseph the son of David fear not to take Mary into thee as thy

wife for that which is conceived in her is of the “Holy ghost”. And she shall bring forth a son and thou shall call his name “Jesus” for he shall save his people from their sin.

There is something certainly impossible and incomprehensible movement in the life of the carpenter. The gift of God was indeed most beautiful and beyond comprehension. It was the gift of a beloved woman even God liked her most. The name of that woman was Miriam (Hebrew) in English Mary. When Joseph was asked to Mary as if there was no other woman in the world, but it was his destiny. There was some specialty in both of them. The name of Joseph remained forever and even in the history of the world because it made him earthly father to Jesus. That is both Mary and Joseph were called the earthly parents to the son of God, who was also called Messiah of Israelites. Finally, we see the humble answer to God from the carpenter. He said, “you know Lord I am but a poor carpenter, Joseph. He said you do Lord. I am but a poor carpenter of little account, of course you do Lord there is nothing at all about this, but I know you had chosen me for this task for your sovereign purpose. I will trust in you”.

#### Despaired Shepherds –

The life of shepherds was very pathetic during the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. As shepherds they were frayed edge in the social life of Israelites. They were treated as lower than even carpenters. They were lower than the millers. They were more neglected stuff and lower than the blacksmiths. Finally they were considered below even the door keepers. They were more loathed than the unscrupulous merchants. That was the social status of the shepherd at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us keep all this and look into the Bible. Then we can find only shepherds as the only prominent persons. The first example was Melchizedec, king of Salem. He was an ordinary shepherd. God called him one day for his personal work anointed him as the first high priest God and asked him to build a town on his name. After the completion of



it Melchizedec called the town Salem, which later became Jerusalem. He was called in the Bible as Melchizedec, king of Salem (Genesis 14:18). Moses became a shepherd for his father in law after he was dethroned as prince in Egypt; God used him to liberate Israelites from bondage after 430 years. David was also from the family of shepherds, who later became king of Israel. He was the most prominent person in the Bible. Then 'Amos', a minor prophet, was a shepherd before God called him for his purpose, that is to preach to stiff necked Israelites.

But the treatment of shepherds during the time of Abraham was different. It was considered noble profession. As time went on this occupation became the domain of thieves. Yet the aristocratic Israelites despised them to a large extent even the rabbinic law forebode the Hebrews from purchasing the byproducts of the sheep and there might be many more things against the shepherds. But all those things were not counted at this auspicious day. And it was the time of the birth of the son of God and Messiah of Israelites. The most exiting reference here is that it was those disposed shepherds that visited and worshipped the son of God.

At the time of the birth of King of Kings the skies were lit up with astonishing with Devine illumination that indicated the birth of the son of God. But, it was shocking news to the innocent shepherds. They thought they would become blind due to that light. That light was called "Shakinah glory" of God and the shepherds were wrong in their thinking that they would become blind. In the midst of heavenly glory a mighty angel appeared in fears flaming and brightening to the shivering shepherds. They fell to the ground immediately as they were afraid that something would happen to them and to their lives. But their fear had gone, when the angel said "fear not".

The shepherds were freed their breathing and looked at the angelic titan. The angel wanted to tell them something after they came to their sense. They told their fear had gone completely. The angel was going to tell them an important

message which was beyond their comprehension. He said, “Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be as sign unto you, you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling (clothes lying in a manger)”.

The birth of Christ made the heavens explode in a show of unnatural splendor. Added to that a multitude of angelic being cried out in triumphant adoration “glory to the God in the highest and on earth; peace and good will toward men” The poor shepherds heard the words of the angel, became spell bound and then came to normal condition. Then one of the shepherds reminded that they would go with the words of the angel and then they walked to Bethlehem to the place where the manger was, where the swaddling clothes were, where the Baby Christ was wrapped with in as the angel told them. They saw the baby fell to the ground and worshipped Him. They said farewell to everyone and came out. They were the first people who spread the news about the birth of Jesus.

## *Why was Jesus of Nazareth rejected?*

It is really interesting to the true believers to open the Bible, and read about the great heroes of faith. At that time undoubtedly our excitement will be beyond comprehension. When we walk in the places of which our patriarchs Abraham, Elijah, Daniel, John, Peter and Paul walked we feel that it is the gift of God for us to give chance to visit such kind of Holy places. It is certainly a unique opportunity to walk in those places which Jesus Christ walked and feel like singing “I happened to visit Israel and walked those places where Jesus Christ walked”. Why because it is an unforgettable experience in lives. I understand that nobody would feel exhausted to visit the home of our God any number of times, and the place, where our Lord purchased our salvation with His blood. If we visit that place again and again, we come across new Biblical thoughts that make us extremely happy. The believers will be excited and captivated at every new Biblical event, when they come across in their walk.

When some pilgrims questioned about their favorite site, they immediately, answer that it was the Sea of Galilee with its panoramic view of the sea, of glistening at the early noon sunshine. It was known as focal point of the Lord’s early ministry. For those people who visit first time will have the glance of the most beautiful city called Jerusalem; and look toward west from the top of the Mount Olives, and across the kidran valley toward the Temple Mount. Another most exciting scene is the “Gordon’s Calvary”, it resembles today a skull upon which the Lamb of God must have been crucified and nearby is a green Garden and empty tomb, where the son of God through His resurrection conquered death for all ages.

The most important site in Nazareth is Greek Catholic Church; it is no longer worth seen, because of its pathetic condition. It stands in marked contrast to

the ornate large and with stained glasses windowed, Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation. The church is a five hundred yards away from the major traditional site commemorating the angelic message to Mary concerning the birth of the son of God. Then to reach the obscured church, one has to walk through the narrow streets, Arab Bazaar, after that a number of narrow turns, then walk into an inconspicuous and with another turn, one can find that noted church. This church generally not kept open, so one has to take prior permission from the authorities to look into that church. At present there is no other church except Jewish synagogue built on the same ruined place of ancient one.

At the time of the Lord Jesus Christ, Nazareth was a small insignificant village and not highly regarded. In this context we can recollect the words of Nathaniel. He questioned himself, “Is there any good thing that comes out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46). The population of that village was about 100-150 families. Basing on the population there was only one synagogue to which, Jesus, Mary, Joseph and his brothers and his sisters used to attend. Even today, the Arab of Nazareth calls that church, “The school of the Rabbi”. It was the synagogue, at Nazareth that one of the important roles played during the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The beginning of Christ’s Ministry – Jesus walked to a small town near the Southern terminus of the Jordan River. It is not far away, but North of which the river enters the “Dead Sea”, the small area to which Jesus had come was “Bethabara”, and that place was located in the Northern section of the Jordan wilderness. The distance between Nazareth and Bethabara was about 75 miles. The visit of Jesus Christ to the place of Bethabara was prompted by the ministry of John the Baptist. He was in that wilderness preaching to Israelites the need for their repentance. Then John Baptized those who believed as an outward sign of commitment to that urgent need. Jesus must have gone there to be Baptized by John in publicity doing. By doing so, Jesus identified himself with John’s ministry, and call for national repentance. His baptism was recorded in three gospels. Apostle Matthew wrote the following lines.

“And Jesus when he was baptized went up straight way out of the water and lo the heavens were opened unto him and the spirit of God, descending like a dove and lighting upon him; and lo a voice from heaven, saying. This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17)

Like Matthew, Apostle Luke also commented the following lines about Christ’s Baptism.

Now when all people were baptized it came to pass, Jesus also being baptized and praying the heaven was opened. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like dove upon him and a voice came from heaven which said thou art my beloved son in thee I am well pleased (Luke 3:21-22)

In Israel men were anointed for identification. And while anointing on behalf of God may have to say “this is my prophet” or “This is my priest” or “This is my King”. Here, anointing was also an indication of empowering, the “title Christ” came from “Greek” word “Christos”, and the word “Messiah” came from the Hebrew word “Mashiach”. The Baptism of the lord was his public anointing in the bible men were anointed with olive oil which was seen as a type of the Holy Spirit. In ancient Israel the priests used to be anointed (Leviticus 21:10). David was anointed as a king by Prophet Samuel. Elijah was commanded to anoint Elisha for the prophetic ministry. Why God wanted to anoint Israel men because whenever God wanted the service of men, he would chose someone and provides power to get the work done. When the work could not be done on any occasion, then it is not lacking the power of God, but due to his unfaithfulness. When the spirit of God descended upon Jesus Christ it is for the purpose of identification. God said, “This is my beloved son”. Then Jesus was led up of the spirit into the wilderness for the temptation of the devil.

Prior to this incident Jesus did not participate in any public meetings. However, Jesus was identified as the son of God and empowered with Messianic ministry. The Holy Spirit himself led Jesus into confrontation with Satan. The wicked evil Satan three times tried to tempt the son of man. The testing of Jesus by Satan happened at three different places, and this testing was in the following

way Satan asked Jesus to command the stones to be made bread. It is an appeal to the lust of the flesh. The next test was, if you are the son of God, cast thyself down, it is an appeal to the lust of eyes and the third one was “Fall down and worship me”. It was an indication of pride.

Jesus in all stages was tempted like other people, but he never committed any sin, and if he had committed any sin, he would not have become a savior of sin. The testing of the son of man was recorded for the purpose of demonstrating it for the future generations. This attempt has become necessary to exhibit his capability of the Messianic role for which he had come into this world. The first Adam when he was tempted by Satan capitulated the last Adam remained faithful. The Satan failed in his trial to tempt Jesus Christ, for committing any sin and the scripture made it clear assessment. Then the angel came and ministered unto him. After the wilderness testing by the devil, the Lord began to move North ward toward his home in Galilee, which is about three day’s journey. Jesus on his way to his place came across some villages and he preached them in the synagogues.

And Jesus returned with the power of the spirit (Devine enablement) into Galilee and there went out a fame of him through all the regions round about. And he taught in their synagogues being glorified of all (Luke 9:14-15)

Jesus had returned to Nazareth, after he became successful in his confrontation with Satan. He was empowered with the Holy Spirit and identified as the son of God. Jesus was thirty years old by then. He lived for three more years and died at the age of 33. His first encounter was with his own home town Nazareth, then with his family members in his own synagogue. Apostle Luke described the event in the following lines:-

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place what it was written. The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the

captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all of them that were in the synagogue transcend focused on him. And he began to say unto them, this day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, is not this Joseph's son? And he said unto them, ye will surely say unto me this proverb, "physician, heal thyself; whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country". And he said, "verily I say unto you, no prophet is accepted in his own country". (Luke 4:16-24).

Apostle Luke was in the habit of using less vocabulary in his writings. It is said, Jesus was out of his home for not less than forty six days. But when he returned, exactly and greeted his mother, brothers and sisters was not mentioned anywhere. Luke was more anxious to make us know the crucial issues as quickly as possible he mentioned here three important points.

First point: Jesus was brought up in Nazareth. Though Nazareth was his home town, he was not born there. He spent his early years in Egypt.

Second Point: It was his custom to attend the synagogue in Nazareth. He was an observant Jew and Jesus went deep in Judaism. He could know in a very short time the custom, culture and religious practices of his people. About all in his perfect humanity, he was taught each morning by God himself. In this context, prophet Isaiah wrote the following lines:

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary; he walketh morning by morning, he walketh mine ear to hear as the learned. (Isaiah 50:4)

It is really difficult to speculate about him for growing up in synagogue in Nazareth. He was at the age of twelve confronting with Rabbis in the Temple of Jerusalem. But in His synagogue at Nazareth whether he observed the traditions and prophecy or whether he remained calm before the Rabbis and aged people. The principle of the authorities was that a man below thirty years was not allowed to teach or preach in the synagogue. Jesus was reasoned with

the Rabbis for years and they must have been best taught in the history of humanity. Though he was in their midst for more than twenty five years he did not take any major role.

Jesus used to attend the synagogue week after week and year after year, and listened to the Rabbi preaching in glorious terms of the promised Messiah. They spoke of the coming Messiah, as a great and mighty deliverer to break the yoke of Roman oppression. They never thought, that their expected Messiah had already come and living with them and finally put on cross by his own people and died to save the people from their sin. They never realized their expected Messiah was moving among them and told on certain occasion that he was the Messiah.

Third Point: On one occasion in the synagogue Jesus stood up to read the scripture. It was a customary in synagogue to give first preference to the Leviti (Priest) to speak. It is not available the next person they preferred was a visitor and finally any one from the congregation. Jesus after Baptism began his teaching in Galilee. In a very short time his fame spread like wildfire and now he returned to his home synagogue and stood up; He did like that whether through invitation or because his fame was spreading or because he has been anointed by the Holy Spirit at the river Jordan. He wanted to assert himself as he began his Messianic role that we do not know.

Jesus stood before the small congregation and we can take it for granted that it was a poor synagogue in Nazareth; which could accommodate men, women and children. And all the gathering was known to him, because he was also one of the members. Then the scroll of prophet Isaiah was brought to him from behind the curtain of the ark in front of the synagogue. Jesus had not asked for a particular scroll to be brought for him, the Hebrew Scriptures contain the law, the prophets and the writing and Isaiah is part of the section known as the prophets. When Jesus opened the scroll to read, he did not read from the seventh chapter of the book of Isaiah which spoke about his virgin birth (V-14) or from the ninth chapter which foretold about him as the King of Israel (V-6). Instead of that, he opened the book of Isaiah chapter 61 to read.



In Judaism the scripture reading was assigned for each Sabbath day of the year. Jesus opened the book of Isaiah chapter 61 to read for that Sabbath. “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me”; and Luke wrote And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, thou art my beloved son in thee I am well pleased.(Luke 3:22). As a matter of fact, the spirit of the Lord was upon him. Jesus had been anointed last at that time and the prescribed that for the Sabbath service at his home synagogue certified to that incomparable fact. This wonderful time was of course the Divine origin.

There are six points mentioned below with specific reasons for anointing Jesus.

1. To preach the gospel to the poor (those who realized they were poor in spirit)
2. To heal the broken hearted (those who were grieving over their sin, and the sin of the nation)
3. To preach for the deliverance of the captives (those who realized they were enslaved to the world to the flesh and the devil)
4. To provide recovery of the sight to the blind ( the giving of Divine perspective and spiritual discernment to life)
5. To set all liberty to those who were bruised (to offer relieve to all who were wounded as a consequences of their sin)
6. To preach the acceptable year of the lord (to indicate this was the year of Divine redemption, as foretold by the prophet of Isaiah)

All this matter was bound up in the message of John the Baptist according to his proclamation to Isaiah; “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”. Here the more interesting thing is that, when the Lord read from Isaiah 61, he abruptly stopped in the middle of the verse he read.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance of the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set them all liberty that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.(Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus happened to stop his reading all of a sudden. “And he closed the book (Scroll) and gave it to the minister again and sat down. The eyes of all the people that were gathered on that particular day in the synagogue, were focused on Jesus” (Luke 4:20). Why he stopped reading at a point because, everything to that point described the truth associated with his first coming. And what followed next “and the day of vengeance of our Lord” God (Isaiah 6:2). These words would speak about the outpouring of his wrath of his second coming. This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Luke 4:21) when Jesus sat down all eyes were concentrated on Him. They were anxiously waiting to hear what he would say. And what he said stunned the congregation beyond comprehension. The matter was what the Messiah would do after his second coming. This news stunned all the congregation that gathered in the synagogue on that day.

What is Redemption?

Redemption is a religious term or context the most important one in the vocabulary of Biblical words; because it plays a crucial role in the life of a true believer. Christians now and then talk about redemption, when singing hymns in the churches or anywhere. The fact is that all the humanity is redeemed from their sin through the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God. First of all what is redemption? And what is the meaning of it? Before God? Remember the church, sing, read, redemption center no stamps are necessary. The singing was technically right because men who experience divine redemption do so, freely or literally without cause” (Romans 3:23-24).

That is to say, men made no contribution to their own redemption stamps or payments are unnecessary and the fact is that attempt of payment of any kind, to secure redemption would negate the transaction of redemption. “God’s grace is unmerited favor”. Let us see the following points:-

1. Where there is grace, there is no debt.
2. Where there is grace, there is no obligation.
3. Where there is grace, there is no merit.

Is there any law to observe and to acquire the grace of our Lord. It is said Redemption is by grace through faith apart from any human contribution. What millions of intended people who call themselves Christians try to do. Most of the false religions try to circumvent the grace of God, through some kind of works. To say in nut shell, that is what the core of the protestant reformation was all about.

If someone reads the sign “Redemption upon no stamp necessary”, and perceived that require redemption requires no payment of any kind that would be equally erroneous. And price of redemption was paid completely by the son of the God Jesus who came to pay a debt he did not owe by men, owe a debt that they could never pay. So, the definition of Redemption is the act of deity in which Jesus Christ paid the whole demand of the law, for a sinful man. Then God the father receives the man who is redeemed as a son and heir and the Holy Spirit dwells in the redeemed man. And this act would deliver him from the bondage of sin dwelling in him and into freedom of Christ. The entire glorious truth of redemption is summed up in the Bible by using three words. And each of the three words is translated “Redemption”, but each word has a particular shade of meaning.

Ransom – The Bible used the word “Agorazo” to speak of redemption with the use of Agorazo, the emphasis is put on the ransom price to be paid. Let us look into this carefully. The beloved apostle John addressed this subject in the book of Revelation. He wrote “And they sung a new song, saying thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof, for thou hast slain and hast redeemed (Agorazo, which menns to pay the ransom price) us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. The ransom price to redeem men for the curse of sin is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have another statement of Apostle Peter in this regard. He condemned the false teachers in the latter days in this way. “But there were false prophets also among the people, as there would be false teachers among you, even denying the Lord who brought them “Agorazo” to pay the ransom; and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2Peter 2:1) what Peter wanted to say is that in

the later days false teachers would deny the power of the blood of Christ in purchasing men's redemption unfortunately, it is a perfect, description of millions of people, who call themselves today as Christians, but deny the efficacy of the blood of Christ on Calvary for their salvation.

Another great apostle Paul gave his testimony like John and Peter. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth "For ye are brought (once again brought is the transaction of "agorzo" means to pay the ransom") with a price therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 4:20). The logic of Paul is quite simple. Jesus through his blood has paid the price of our redemption. Therefore it is a logical and quite appropriate to glorify God in our body and spirit which legally belong to Christ who paid the price to redeem us.

Removal – The second point here is that the Bible uses the word "exagorazo" to speak of redemption. And by adding preface 'ex' to agorazo it become exagorazo and the emphasis is now on the re-moral of the redeemed from the slave market of sin and the jurisdiction of Mosaic law, which declared "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 13:20). Apostle Paul's great epistle is Galatians on Christian liberty it has correctly been called the believers emancipation proclamation. Paul's clarion call is Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, as it is written, curse is everyone that hangeth on a tree. Paul was of the opinion that Christ through his crucifixion has removed us from the curse of the law. The statement of Paul is that to be adopted into the family of God, man had to be removed from the curse of the law which keeps man separated from God and for that to be accomplished Jesus had to become a man.

Release – The third point is that Bible used the word "Lurton" to speak of redemption. With the word 'Lurton' the emphasis is made not only on paying the price and removing but also releasing the one who was redeemed from all obligations, so that he may choose whom he will serve. Matthew was the tax collector turned disciple. He gave an excellent illustration of this word 'Lurton'. The disciples were joking over their place of honor in the Lord's kingdom

they thought the Lord was about to be established and Matthew recorded the Lord's response. "And whoever will be chief among you let him be your servant, even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom (ransom comes from 'Lurton' which means to redeem and set free) for many" (Matthew 20:27-28).

The most brilliant use of this word comes from the inspired pen of the apostle Peter. He said with the precious blood of Jesus as a Lamb without blemish and without spot. The price for our setting free was not the corruptible things of this world but the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The three words for redemption in the New Testament put together give a complete picture of the glorious doctrine of redemption.

The picture behind these words is that of a Roman slave market. The word Agorazo speaks about the ransom price that was paid to purchase slaves from the slave market. The exagorazo speaks of the "removal" of the slave from the slave market; Once the ransom price was paid the release of the slave; and he is made free now, God is really great and gracious. He has paid the price of our redemption. He has freed us from the enslavement of this Godless world and the way of life headed by Satan. He made us free from all kinds of bondage. If we serve Him, it is not because of any force, but because of our love and devotion toward Him. Wisdom gratitude and love argue for willing a must and millions of people through centuries are with unanimous voice proclaimed "His yoke is easy his burden is light".



*The Tomb of Jesus Christ*







*Necaea conference held by Constantine*



*The statue of Constantine*

# *Apostle Paul's Light for Law and Grace*

According to some scholars, Apostle Paul was called the greatest theologist among the Bible writers. As described in this article, Paul strongly fighting not the physical battle, but the spiritual fight; and this contained the message of Christ. The outcome of this message would have an impact on the eternal destiny of millions of people; throughout the centuries. So to say, there is no exaggeration in the above mentioned statement and the reality is that, the fight would continue even in the present days.

It is on the part of the believers to say that whether Paul was a great personality or not. Most of the Bible readers know that he had an eye problem. (Galatians 14:14-15). But the truth is that when it would come, to defense, the death point, in the Good name of the gospel message of Christ. He was like a roaring lion to rule us throughout. It is beyond comprehension, whether Paul was the greatest theologian, and Missionary, the world knows it. The commentators offend compared Paul with Moses who was also one of the greatest minds, God ever produced. This Moses, was also called the servant of God, gave us under God's command, five books, and (the first five books of the Old Testament). They are called Pentateuch and they are primarily the Law of Moses to Israelites through God.

Apostle Paul, under the influence of God, gave to the Christian believers at least thirteen books, out of twenty seven in the New Testament. Those books contained his most, and the clearest and complete teachings of God's grace. These two men Moses and Paul were treated as the best and the most influenced persons, in the human history, and also considered most important characters, in the biblical history. Actually they deserve human praise for their achievements and great service to humanity. So to say, without them there is no existence of the Bible, and they were called the true servants of God. And



without them what we call, the present civilization would not have existed, and there is no exaggeration in that statement.

Moses and Paul faced many hardships in their lives, but those hardships did not prevent them from accomplishing the works of God. And what all they did under such circumstances, was similar in many ways. As mentioned in (Exodus 4:10) Moses was a stutter where as Paul had an eye problem. Both of them encountered God in different ways. Moses met God at the burning bush of Mount Sinai, where as Paul met God on the Damascus road through the bright light from heaven that made him fall to the ground.

Both were opposed by their own people, on certain occasions. In spite of their hurdles from their people, they love their people more than their own lives. Moses interfered for his people at Mount Sinai, and said to God, to save them. But really God killed a particular number of people for their sin at that time. In the same way, Paul loved his nation so much, he happened to intervene and said, he would be willing to be separated from Christ forever. Let us hope for a while that both Moses and Paul happened to live in our times, the life of Christians would have been completely different. As we know, Moses was a “Law giver” where as Paul a teacher and defender of God’s grace. You can take it for granted that both are always with us and encourage us how we must live in this material world.

There is no doubt; both of them were really warmest of passive friends. Moses would have enjoyed Paul’s wonderful teaching of the grace of God and Paul would have enjoyed the Law of God. Here, Paul’s fighting in his letter to Galatians was with some legalistic teachers who were missing the law, and grace, which was impossible.

The letter of Paul to the Galatians was the first of all he wrote out of thirteen letters, to different people and we see them in the New Testament. It was written probably in 49-50 A.D, after his second missionary journey, and at that time he visited Galilee, also. After the completion of his thirteen letters Paul was considered by eminent people as “Apostle Paul”.

There are different compliments about Paul, regarding his thirteen books.

1. In the Romans it is said that Paul was a servant of Jesus Christ, and he was called to be an Apostle. (Romans 1:1)
2. In the first Corinthians Paul was called an apostle of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthian 1:1)
3. In the second Corinthians Paul was called an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. (2 Corinthian 1:1)
4. In the book of Ephesians, it is said Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. (Ephesians 1:1)
5. In Colossians it is said, Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. (Colossians 1:1)
6. In the first Timothy it is said that Paul was an apostle, of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our savior (1 Timothy 1:1)
7. It is said in the second Timothy that Paul was an apostle of Christ, by the will of God, according to the promise of life, which is in Christ. (2 Timothy 1:1)
8. In Titus it is written, that Paul was a servant of God, and an apostle to Jesus Christ (Titus 1:1)

Apostle Paul's prophecy was understood, that the divinely established position of Apostle summed extremely important. His apostleship by the grace of God gave him special and unique authority. As a result of this during these two thousand years, there must be millions of 'disciples'

#### Paul Defends his Apostleship

In the letter to Galatians Paul began with the information, concerning his apostleship; He did not reveal this in and other letter previously about this. He introduced this letter in the following manner. "Paul an Apostle", and then he added not of men, neither by man. There were legalistic teachers, who came from Jerusalem and wanted to discredit Paul's teaching of salvation by grace through faith. Apart from the law by attacking Paul's Apostleship. Those legalistic leaders strongly believed in Jesus. The true Christians believed in the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ yet they argued vehemently that it was an extension of Judaism and the law. It was also time for the gentiles

who believed in Jesus in order to be truly convinced. According to the Judaism the redeemed must be circumcised and also they must strike on to the Mosaic Law.

In this way legalistic Jewish believers in Jesus could keep the gentile believers under their influence and control. Some people attacked Paul's messages of salvation by grace through faith by saying that Paul was not among the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. They further argued that the twelve members were properly trained by Jesus for three years from the beginning of His ministry till the end that is till he died. In all the stages of the life of Jesus and His disciples Paul was nowhere to claim anything numerous pastors and equally a good number of leaders, and numberless decins in the churches. All of them played their own part in the churches. Some of them claimed the title in strange circumstances and we have to believe it is only the gift of God. The false apostles are always in conflict with the word of God. The most amazing thing is that there were thirteen apostles only throughout the ages for us to remember. The twelve apostles excluding Judas lived and properly trained by Jesus Christ for three years. The eleven disciples received enough degree than any other university. The wonderful thing is they learnt from Christ well where did I come from? How am I being? Where am I going? What it be like when I can go there and what does God truly like?

The apostles with either wrote or sanctioned the 29 books of the New Testament. And those apostles happened to guide the churches during the first century and spoke the truth. So to say they were the guardians of the theological truth. The fact is that the apostatic truth has been continued until the New Testament was completed, almost at the end of the first century, when the beloved apostle John penned the most amazing book called "the book of Revelation" which contained many crucial ideas which are beyond comprehension.

Till the time of the death of Jesus, Paul was not known to anybody. He was rather against Christianity and even on the work of killing Christians only. When he was going to Damascus on some Mission, Christ appeared to him on the way and changed him completely. Prior to this Paul did not know Jesus

any more till he died and went to heaven to His father. But some legalistic teachers took the initiative to defend Paul and said that Paul was an apostle. He was an apostle of lesser degree, with lesser authority and with lesser status than the twelve original apostles. So, the teaching of grace in addition to Law was treated as error.

Paul said he was not “an apostle of men”. But some leaders in the church simply wondered at the abnormal knowledge of Paul in the Bible, in activeness, his courage, his zeal, his faithfulness and love for Christ. By keeping all of them together he was declared apostle. Paul also said, he was an apostle “neither by man” that means, though he was not one of the twelve apostles like Peter, John and James, who were called the pillars of the church; recognized the gift of Paul. They called him and singularly declared him an apostle. Again there arose a great question to be answered. That is if Paul was not a member of the original twelve apostles, and if he was not declared as apostle by a group of leaders of the early church, and also if he was not appointed as an apostle, by twelve original apostles, like Peter, John and James, (who were called the three inner circle of the Lord,), from where, Paul could have his apostolic authority? Paul was originally an orthodox Jew; and his life was completely devoted to the Mosaic Law. He was a Pharisee, and more than that, he was trained by Gamaliel one of Israel’s greatest rabbi. He became a fanatic toward Judaism and quite against Christianity. He whole heartedly, participated in the stoning death of Stephen the first Christian martyr according to the Bible.

Paul also got a letter of authority from the high priest to go to Damascus to persecute the Jewish Christians. While he was on the way to Damascus on that purpose, a miraculous thing happened Paul saw a bright light that came down from heaven and threw him to the ground and blinded him. In addition to that, he heard a voice from heaven with the following words “Soul, Soul why Persecutest thou me” (Acts 9:4). Soul was his original name before he accepted Christ. So, Soul a persecutor later became a renowned apostle, with a name Paul. Then he responded to the voice by asking “who art thou Lord”? The response came immediately “I am Jesus though Persecutest”.

Paul was taken to Damascus and there he was taken care of for a few days. Then without the consultation of any apostle or the leaders. Jesus sent Paul to a far off desert place of South east of the “Dead Sea” for three years. Jesus had some aim, when he sent Paul, to Southeast of Arabia without consulting any apostle or leaders of the church. The fact is that Jesus wanted to train Paul, for three years there as he trained His twelve apostles. The apostle Paul tells us himself that the gospel he preached directly was Revelation.

Paul’s apostle authority came to him like other twelve original ones, from the son of God. Paul in the first chapter of every letter greeted the church with the words, “grace and peace” He did that on every occasion. It is grace and then peace. It is the grace of God, which is always the persecutor of his peace. The apostle Paul greets the church of Galatia with the following words. Grace unto you, and peace from God the father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul after his apostolic authority was confirmed; he left all his power and ferocity against Jewish Christians and began to love them with his speeches. But the disciples did not believe him for some time. On one occasion he addressed the church of Galatia with the following super strong words. “I marvel (which means Paul was amazed, Perturbed, perplexed and saddened over what he was going to tell people in the following passage. “That you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace, of Christ unto another gospel which is not another but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ”. (Galatians 1:6-7)

Some of the legalistic teachers were perverting the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:7) Perversion is unnatural, particularly in this context. It is brought about by trying to unite law and grace which are both mutually exclusive. The bold and courageous servant of God apostle Paul kept the true believers on the right path of biblical doctrine with his wonderful messages. Paul repeated the warning to those who were perverting the gospel by mixing law and grace, which are mutually exclusive. The readers were particularly requested to note the following passage. “God’s grace is unmerited favour, where there is grace, there can be no guilt, and where there is grace, there can be no obligation.

Grace is appropriated by faith and leads to peace”. Law requires works, things to do or refrain from doing, which always leads one to sin or bondage.

Work is never completed and never without sin. Christ died on the cross, so that you and I may live a life of faith that leads to peace. It is no wonder that Paul marveled over the insanity of the foolish Galatians were listening to those legalistic preachers. They were moving themselves from grace that leads to peace, unto law that leads to bondage. After Galatians he preached to the Ephesians. For by grace (unmerited favour) are ye saved, through of yourselves, it is the gift of God, Not of works (which is required by the law) lest in his own work” (Ephesians 2:8-9) grace appropriated by faith always leads to peace; Law appropriated by work, always leads to bondage.

Christ died on the cross for our sins so that we can live with faith that leads to peace and salvation.

#### The Biblical Order of the New Testament Books

The New Testament and the Old Testament were written by a group of divinely inspired and selected penmen, during the first century. Those 2 Timothy 3:16; Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 107; John 10:3 were primarily written as and when God inspired them. The writers wrote them at different times and in different styles. Even then, all of them were sacred contribution of some gifted writers. As a matter of fact God is the Devine author of the whole Bible. For writing the books of the New Testament, His instrument players were, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude. Luke was a noted physician. He wrote his book in complete Greek style than John; who wrote as a profoundly and in a simple grammatical style. The difference in style between Luke and John was quite conspicuous and easily explained as Luke was a learned physician, where as John was only a fisherman.

The memorable events of the first century were the messages of Jesus Christ. His death, resurrection and speaking of gospel messages at certain places like Asia and Europe which were taken a long time. During the first century, the Christians did not have computers or any other advanced items. So, it took a long time for writing or completing the New Testament and spread among the

people. The copies sent to different places, were true with genuine works of the apostles. They were considered as scriptures and identified as God inspired new canon by the visible church. This process took some centuries. It was due to the Roman rule that started in 64 A.D. They began to persecute the innocent Christians on some plea or other with inhuman behavior, for such brutal crimes Emperor Nero was most popular.

Athanasius Stalwart of the council of Niece in 325 A.D, and in 367 A.D listed 27 books we have in our New Testament as canonized. Then Jerome and Augustine considered those books as canonized at about 400 A.D. the Ecumenical council of Hippo 398 A.D carthage mentioned above there were many other officials wanted to maintain this process of writings on a separate scroll in a chest. Then they could be seen and glued together in pages as a book. So with that new invention and with the blessing of Emperor Constantine, the first and the earliest whole New Testament book appeared during the early fourth century A.D.

#### Chronological order of the New Testament books

The exact dates of some of the books of the New Testament were not known people of authority discussed among themselves seriously and came to a decision with probable dates. And also, they discussed, regarding the authorship of some books. For example, the book of “Hebrews” has been debated for centuries but in vain. The probable dates of some of the books, and their authors as follows:

Mark            35 – 55 A.D

Matthew       35 – 60 A.D

Luke            45 – 60 A.D

John and his books 1, 2, 3 about 80 A.D

Mark – The book of Mark was commonly accepted by all as earliest gospel written (35 – 55 A.D) It is really strange that every event we see in Mark’s gospel, can be found in the book of Mathew or in Luke and even found in both. It has been traditionally ascribed to John and Mark, that in their mother’s house, the early Christians used to meet. The real surname of John was “Mark”

(Acts 12:12). He was a cousin of “Barnabas”. He followed Paul and Barnabas during the first Missionary journey (Acts 12:23; 15:36, 39). He must have known Jesus and apostle already. His personnel information he got was from the house of Mary mother of Jesus, made him to write correctly. Eusebutes also gave his personal opinion about the accuracy of Mark in his writings. And the gospel of Mark was found in original Greek in Baker’s book house in 1966.

Matthew – 33 – 60 A.D. Matthew was recognized according to his book in 10:3 as a Tax Collector. He was a Republican, who used to collect Taxes to Roman government. Such a man was called by Jesus when he was in Galilee. He was one of the original apostles Matthew happened to travel with Jesus throughout his ministry. He also witnessed the passion and resurrection of Christ. The Detach (teaching) a first century document quotes and refers to the gospel of Mathew as the first century document and that was confirmed authentically.

Eusebutes was a great early Christian historian. He quoted four gospels only origin knowing. According to Eusebutes, Matthew first wrote the sayings of Jesus in “Aramaic” language and later repeated the entire book into Greek. The noted scholars believed that Matthew and Luka did not have any access to each other’s gospel as similar accounts such as the sermon on the Mount, the Lord’s Prayer and the olivet discourse have not been worked either to have an exact duplication in wording.

Luke 45 – 60 – He was a physician (colonially) and a companion of Paul during his second and third missionary journeys, probably during 15 A.D. his Greek style was note worthy and perhaps matchless. He wrote another book “Acts” also, in a complex and learned Greek style; which has been labeled as classical conia. His book was divided into 24 chapters and it was compared to Matthew 28 chapters. Yet it is called the biggest book in words and it contained more miracles and parables. The believers can also find different ideas and prayers of Mary and the Genealogy of Jesus Christ through the line of Mary His mother who gave birth to Him, by means of the Holy Spirit. According to



some reliable record, John and the mother of Jesus Mary, left Jerusalem, and lived at Ephesians. It is also said authentically that both John and Mary mother of Jesus died in Ephesians only. In that place there are some churches built on their names. As a companion Paul, Luke happened to go to Ephesians, when John and Mary were there and collected more information and also about the details of the apostles as far as possible and other authentic data about all of them.

John 90-99 A.D – It is said the fourth gospel, the book of John, “Revelation” and his other three small books were written in perfect Greek style. In the book of Revelation, also he maintained the same style, Mauritanian the person who translated. The Revelation was for the purpose adding to the New Testament of King James Version of the Holy Bible. This book was also with perfect style and penned in simple Greek grammar, so that, it would be easier and more suitable even to a common fisher man of Galilee rather a scholar. This work was done probably in the year 185 A.D.

After some time John the disciple of Jesus Christ, thought of himself in his heart to published a gospel, when he was in Ephesians, which is in Asia. The Mauritanian canon (during the second century) says that the fourth gospel of John was written. Then he put a condition to his fellow disciples and Bishops who urged him to write must fast with him for three days and then when they got their minds must be revealed to their minds must be revealed to one another. But in the same night it was revealed to apostles, said that whatever would come out of their mouths must be written.

John through the Holy Spirit remembered many things that were not recorded and that were already in circulation; the synoptic gospels like Matthew, Mark and Luke. In addition to that the brethren urged him in his later years to write down all those things in a gospel. John had the gift of super natural and the Holy Spirit that made him to recollect those past things perfectly. Jesus said “but the comforter which is the Holy ghost, whom the father will send in my name he will teach you all things and bring them for your memory and whatever

said unto God” (John 14:26). So, we have the blessings of the “I am “says of our Lord, which enrich our heritage even more.

The Book of Acts - 60 A.D. This book contained the full details of the spreading of gospel messages of God, and the development of early churches both Luke and the book of Acts were dedicated to Theophylus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). Both of them were written in an identical and beautiful style. It is also called the complex classical Konia learned style, which was most suitable to an educated physician like Luke chapters 1-12 of Jerusalem ministry, from 13-21 were the details of the three great Missionary journey of apostle Paul, and chapters from 21-28 described Paul’s rest and prison ministry. The book of acts is an ideal transformation between gospels which speak about primarily the ministry of Christ, and then the work of the Holy Spirit encouraging and guarding the church as found in Ephesians.

The thirteen Epistles of Pauline were written during the three missionary journeys and his first imprisonment by the Romans and also during his second imprisonment. The book of ‘Revelation’ was given to John on the ilse of Patmore during 95 - 96 A.D.

## *A New Heaven and A New Earth*

Robert Browning an English noted poet, wrote the following words: “God’s in His heaven. All’s right with the world’s. Some commentator’s pointed that, he needed some drastic correction regarding his quotation. We all know that God is in heaven. But it is not true that all is well with the world As a matter of fact, in the public life, when we watch TV, study the news paper talking with our friend or reading a letter from our relatives, about some unhappy news or deaths we cannot say with confidence that all is right with the word. So, we have to realize that something is wrong somewhere in the society for the unrest of the people. Here are some points for our understanding.

1. The philosophies of the world are flawed.
2. The governments of the world are corrective.
3. The pleasures of the world are fleeing.
4. The glories of the world are fading.
5. And the destiny of the world is destruction.

If we look at the society with our naked eye, we find only corruption, wickedness and perversion pervading. Some great people tried their best to set the world right but in vain people needed only wealth, power property etc to enjoy life. But they never think how the world is going on. In such circumstances, all is well with the world, will not applicable to the present day society.

Here are some more quotations.

1. The ascetic who by self denial tries to resist the wicked currents of the world.
2. The monk, who by solitude, tries to withdraw from the seductive influence of the world.
3. The epicurean by indulgence tries to saturate, himself with the carnal pleasures of the world.

One thing is common in the world, people lose the battles but the world bears them every time. Let us study about one top most man in the Bible, His name was King Solomon, the richest and the wisest king with one thousand wives. Anything in this world is his. So to say, the world itself lavished on King Solomon. After enjoying everything in this world, he became a philosopher and wrote in his book of Ecclesiastes, “vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). The words of the king can be translated in the following way. “Soap bubbles of soap bubbles, all is bubbles”.

The soap bubble floats away leisurely as it is colorful and appealing. The soap bubble makes many promises. But before man tries to grasp something from it the beautiful bubble vanishes “that is the present position of the world without God. The world is really colorful, very attractive and magnetic with its promises. But when man tries to poses the things of the world, it will vanish. The son of God while speaking to His disciples said, “For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and loose his own”. (Mark 8:30). We can put it in some other way, the soul of a man is worth more than the whole world. The word ‘world’ (cosmos in Greek) appears more than two hundred times in the New Testament. This world is described as both elevated from God and standing in opposition to God. That is really a bad thing. Jesus told His disciples “the world cannot hate you, but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil”. (John 7:7). Jesus, while speaking to corrupt religious teachers said, “ye are from beneath, I am from above, ye are of this world, I am not of this world” (John 8:23).

### **Apostle Paul wrote**

For what man knoweth the things of a man saw the spirit of men which is in him even to the things of God knoweth. No man but the spirit which is of God. That we might know the things that are freely given to us of God (I Corinthians 2:1 – 12)

Secular writers define the world (cosmos) in a different way. One wrote the world (cosmos) is the orderly systematic universe.

A second person wrote the world (cosmos) refers to a universe that is complicate, harmonious, an orderly system.

And a third person wrote the world (cosmos) is the embodiment of order and as harmonious, as distinguished from chaos, a complete harmonious system. The outcome of those three writers is that the world is an orderly system which is headed by Satan. In the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the wilderness it is recorded as follows:

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (Matthew 4:8-9). The Satan did not have its world to give; there would have been no temptation of Christ. The Lord himself called Satan the “prince of this world”. “Here after I will not talk much with you, for the prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me”. (John 14:30).

“In this world ye shall have Tribulation, (problems and pressure), but be of good cheer, I will overcome the world” (John 14:33).

“But godliness with contentment is great gain for we brought nothing into the world and it is certain we can carry nothing out of it” (1 Timothy 6:6-7).

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world is lieth in wickedness (or literally in the wicked one) (1 John 5:18).

God is in His heaven, but all is not right with the world. It is like the true Christian is called upon to swim upstream against the powerful currents of this treacherous, riptide of this world until the Lord returns. The Christian must not be shocked when he faces some problems, sometimes sudden changes in the world; in the way of living he should not be perturbed because Satan is the prince. Christians, theologians have been punished by Satan through the spread of gospel; they can salvage the world, God never called the church to salvage a last world which has to come one day under divine judgment but to preach a saving gospel to last men. The truth behind is that the church cannot bring the everlasting Kingdom of God, but Christ will alone will accomplish that after His coming.

### **The world in its original condition:**

The book of Genesis gives the complete picture of the creation of the world. God created it into existence out of nothing but regarding divine commentary on His creation was that, “ it was very good six times once for each of the six days of creation God said it was good (Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,25). And then the creation of the world summed up His creation with these words. “And God saw everything that He made, and behold it was very good. (Genesis 1:31). And so we are faced with the reality that on one hand the world God created was very good and on the other hand the world in which we live and breathe and have our being is exceedingly bad. What major event must have transformed, the world, which was very good once into the world which is very bad now.

### **The world in its fallen state**

According to the return report in the Bible, man was created on the sixth day of His creation. He was created last in Him but first in importance and God created man in His own image, man was supposed to have domination in over everything that was created, and also to rule over the world as a vice regent under his sovereign Lord. That was called the theocracy rule by God through man. But God put one condition. Man should not eat the fruit of the tree that was in the middle of the Garden of Eden. For disobedience, a punishment would be physical and spiritual death.

Lucifer the highest of all angelic beings, after he was thrown down to the earth tried to take revenge against God through the first human beings Adam and Eve. This Lucifer became Satan, after he was thrown down to the earth. He tempted the first parents to eat that forbidden fruit and caused them to commit sin. So, Adam and Eve brought sin into the world and planted the seed of death. Because of sin man forfeited the scepter of kingship, over the world; Satan usurped man’s right to the throne. So, Satan is now the God of this age and the prince of this world. As a result men became enslaved to the God of this world. As estimated the world of future is ultimate tragedies of human

history. The fact is that Satan made man blind, so he is under the impression that the world is good and but after the fall the world has been, under the satanic influence.

### **The Role of the Christian –**

The true Christian has been called, “Regenerated” or “Born again”, born from the above, “or saved”. It means that the believer had changed his citizenship. He is now through faith alone became a citizen of heaven living temporarily in a hostile environment. Therefore, those men no longer submit themselves to Satan. Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit of God should live soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world.

God is giving option to the believer, whether he should yield to Him or submit him-self to the world and unsaved. It is good that the believers are not to function in this evil world, or enjoy life, or the things which are not suitable for believers. Worldliness can be described as participating in this ordered world system headed by Satan. The believer must be “light” and “salt” in this world. We have to tell men that we are once beggars have found the one who is the bread of life. In reality it is only where the righteousness of Christ is manifested through believers.

### **Coming of a New World –**

The beloved and aged Apostle John reached the final end of climatic section of the book of Revelation (Revelation 21:22) and in many respects, he wrote the apex of human history in that. “And I saw a new heaven and new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea” (Revelation 2:1). These New heaven and new earth John described were not new ones but presently they were cleansed completely regenerated, and absolutely made perfect. John beheld heaven and earth, in their pristine beauty Adam and Eve saw, in the Garden of Eden, before the advent of sin, and consequent curse upon all creation. He saw them with Satan the former prince of this world, and the God of this age in chains. (Revelation 20:2).

When John speaks of the new heaven and new earth, he uses the Greek word (Kainos) and is emphasizing the qualities of the new heaven and new earth. It is the same heaven and the same earth, which will be purged during the day of the Lord the day of judgment of the earth during this end of the age. Henry Mories in his commentary “The Revelation records” said that the new Cosmos is not a novel cosmos (world). It is a renewed cosmos (world). It is just like the first except that all its age long ravages of decay have been expunged and it is fresh and new again. The present heaven and earth have not blotted out, nor swept into nothingness. But they are totally purged, cleansed and regenerated, all their old disorders and imperfections will be gone.

Joseph Seises, in his commentary on Revelation, though it was written more than one hundred years ago spoke about new heaven and new earth. The words of Joseph Seises, which were beautiful and with insight, warned the believers to give a second reading with thoughtful meditation. It is nothing but a description of our future dwelling place. Obviously the illustration is not sufficient since we are sinful beings, our purging is not perfect when God purges the cosmos by fire and regenerated the earth planet, will be qualitatively perfect. It will be a new heaven and a new earth.

The son of God, on the day of His crucifixion, stood before Roman procurator Pontious Pilate. In the midst of questioning Jesus, Pilate asked “Art thou the King of the Jews?” (John 18:33). For that question, the son of God answered, in the following words: “My kingdom is not of this world”. The fact is that the kingdom of Christ is the spiritual kingdom in the hearts of men and women but not a physical kingdom upon the earth”. The Bible readers totally misunderstood the teaching of Jesus Christ. He was not denying the physical visible literal kingdom the earth over which He will rule. When He said, “My kingdom is not of this world”, He was stating that, He will not rule over the present heaven and the present earth, which are totally defiled by Satan and sinful man, a world that was corrupt everywhere.

The Lord himself spoke of that day, while he was conversing with His disciples, He taught them, “verify I say unto you that ye which, have followed me in the



regeneration when the son of man sit in the throne of his glory shall also sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:20).

The word regeneration means “new birth” and this is used by Apostle Paul to describe the believers “new birth” (Titus 3:5).

Some people have suggested that the terms used by Apostle Peter describe the annihilation of the present heaven and earth, stating that the present heaven and earth cannot be associated with the new heaven and new earth. While speaking of the Noah flood, peter wrote, “whereby the world was being overflowed with water perished”. Peter also argued that similar fate to the world is in store to the earth. In the next time it is only through the judgment of God the earth may be ruined by fire but not by water. Due to the flood of Noah the world perished but the earth remained. The world perished, but eight souls, Noah, his wife, his three sons and three daughters in law survived. The world perished but the animals representing all species of life, - two by two, disembarked from the ark. Finally God blessed Noah and said “Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth” (Genesis 9:1). It is quite clear the old heaven and earth remained after the world said to have been perished. Peter also spoke of the elements in heaven melting with fervent heat, and the works of earth (all of man’s accomplishments in every area of end over) being burned up (2 peter 3:10).

The teaching of the word of God is due to the fall of man the present creation is the condition of captivity tied down bound (Romans 8:9-23). The dissolving of everything that is peter speaks, is not in the words of Joseph sees “the destruction of them” but the breaking of their bonds the housing of them, the setting of them free again to become what they were originally meant to be”; the “dissolving” of the present heaven and earth, is not their annihilation. It is that long anointed deliverance and loosing from the bonds of sin. To say briefly it is the resolution of all things.

During His six day creation, on the second day God created the universe and on the third day he created earth. The divine commentary on all that God created is that God saw everything he had created and behold it was very

good. But soon Adam and Eve disobeyed God and because of their disobedience curse was put on them (man) and the dominions of heaven, earth and sea on which He was authorized to reign. The heaven and earth were created very good now became bad; why because our first parents Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden where there was no death, disease famine war natural catastrophe etc., that pledged man at least for six thousand years according to history. As a result of sin, under Satan's reign man has polluted the oceans, raped the earth, and poisoned the whole sphere that God committed to man to control it. If it is that really surprising then the present heaven and earth must be dissolved (that is purged by fire to lose it from the bondage of sin) to clear the way for a new heaven and earth.

#### **When the new world comes –**

For the people who are unsaved, a new heaven and new earth is a terrifying prospect; what all the unsaved people possess (including their lives) is associated with the present heaven and present earth; which will be one day burned up with fire in this context Peter wrote:-

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are there in shall be burned up”. (2 Peter 3:10)

It is wonder if they are able to understand the basic fact. For those people who are made righteous in Christ a new heaven and a new earth is a glorious prospect. For those righteous people in Christ everything that has brought sadness and tears, will be dissolved and completely replaced with joy and everlasting peace. When can we expect new heaven and new earth into force? Some great people who have strong faith on the pre-millennial return of Christ feel that the new heaven and new earth will commence at the end of the coming of the Lord for one thousand years reign. That reign is otherwise known as the messianic or millennial age.

First of all those people who hold this view that John's beholding of new heaven and new earth in his vision follow continually, on the heel of a discussion of the millennium for a reference in a the previous chapter. So all those teachers who sit for an argument must come to a favorable conclusion that the new heaven and the new earth, must occur at the end of the millennium. However, people need not follow the above said statement. John pointed out that Satan was bounded with chains for a thousand years duration. He wrote in the book of (Revelation Chapter 20:2) and he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. Whatever may happen to Satan at the end of the thousand years, it becomes naturally a crucial issue. And for that doubt also John gave the answer. He said that the Satan would be loosed for a season to deceive the nations and finally he would be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:3). And John calls the attention of the people to the fact, that the faithful martyrs of the great tribulation are going to be resurrected at the beginning of the Millennium as part of the first resurrection unto life.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”. (Revelation 20:4) It is the policy of the nation to nation to decide about the status of unfaithful, who have died before the Millennium. The impact of the resurrection upon the unfaithful is that they will participate in the second resurrection at the end of the millennium. Then they will be certainly consigned to hell at the great white throne judgment.

With regard to Satan and the wicked died, their position at the end of the Millennium is given in Revelation 20:11; 14:15. The discussion about the new heaven and new earth is freely discussed in revelation chapter 21 can be quite natural. So it will focus more in the beginning of the Millennium but not

on its end. The second point is that, it has been argued again and again and come to a conclusion regarding the new heaven and new earth, that there will be no sea. Apostle John also wrote in this connection. "For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea, but the Bible indicates that there will be a sea during Millennium (Ezekiel 47:1; 8:12). Basing on the above said information the elite are under the impression that the heaven and new earth must occur only after the Millennium, this will take its course. So, the only solution for this complicated issue is to have a closer look at Revelation 21<sup>st</sup> chapter. At the same time it is affirmed that there are so many people who say that there will be no sea in the new heaven and new earth. That means the heaven and earth passed away and the sea as part of man's dominion must be also cleansed from defilement of sin to pass into the new age.

The pouring out of second vial a bowl during the day of the Lord. It is written that the second angel poured out his vial (bowl) upon the sea and it became blood. Which is like that of a dead man and every living thing died in the sea at that time even the rivers must have purged of defilement. And the third angel poured out his vial (bowl) upon the rivers and foundations of waters and all became blood. The Day of the Lord will be

1. A time of destruction from the Almighty (Isaiah 13:6)
2. A time of Devine wrath and fierce anger (Isaiah 13:13)
3. A time when God ariseth to shake terribly the earth (Isaiah 2:19)
4. A time when God will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for its inequity (Isaiah 13:11)
5. A time when God's indignation and fury will be directed against the nations (Isaiah 34:1-2)
6. A time when God's vengeance will be resealed (Isaiah 34:8)
7. A time of darkness in the heavens (Isaiah 13:9)
8. A time of fire from the Lord (Joel 1:23)

The above said verses are related to the judgment of the Lord, of the earth at His second coming before the commencement of the millennial reign. If the

teaching of Peter from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> chapters are understood and placing the Day of the Lord at the end of the Millennium is impossible then they follow his logic in this important discourse.

1. In the last days there would be scoffers walking after their own lusts. (V-3)
2. They would ridicule the promise of Christ's return (V4a)
3. The reasoning of the false teachers was based on their presumption of an unimpaired history. Things would continue as they always had (V-4b)
4. Contrary to the philosophy of the scoffers, Peter noticed that God in fact did intervene in the course of human events with judgment through the Noahic flood (V-6)
5. The present heavens and the earth are reserved for the judgment once again. The more time it will not be by water (flood) but by fire. (V-7)
6. Judgment has been withheld by a long suffering God, giving man the opportunity to repent (V8,9)
7. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night and the heavens and the earth will be judged by fire (V10)
8. In the light of certain facts of the coming judgment men are to live holy lives looking for the coming of Christ (V-11,12)
9. His coming will be followed by a new heaven and new earth (V-13)

The entire argument of Peter revolves around the fact that God entered the flow of human history for judgment with Noahic flood. But now God will enter human history for judgment for the second time during the Day of the Lord. Then the Lord's second coming and during that time only He will imprison Satan, execute the Anti Christ, purge the earth, destroy the false religion, and judge the wicked and bring a thousand year messianic age;; which cannot be seen as a divine intervention in history. We see clearly how Peter linked here, the new Heaven and new earth with the Day of the Lord and since the day of the Lord, occurs in connection with the second coming of Christ, the new

heaven and new earth must be associated with the beginning if the Millennium not the end. There are some additional facts from some writers that the new heaven and new earth will start at the beginning of the millennium but not at the end.

### **A New World** –

In the life of man a new day will be coming. It would be really pitiable in the future of man's life. Both heaven and earth are destined to be purged, cleansed and restored to the perfections that were there before the advent of sin. That new age will be really glorious, and the occupants of that new world will be abundantly blessed. But who are those blessed people? And who are going to occupy the renovated new heaven and new earth? Then the rapture of the church will take place. And that rapture will take place, immediately prior to the opening of the seventh seal. Then the wrath of God will commence. The wrath of God will be for the purpose of purging the cosmos (world) of everything that has been defiled by sin. Even then during that time the grace of God which continues to be manifested?

In this connection there are two witnesses, who will continue to prophecy until the end of the seventieth week. (Revelation 11:3) The result of the prophecy is that there will be 1, 44,000 men from the twelve tribes scaled for protection in order to prove their fidelity to God. Next there will be an angelic being having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth (Revelation 14:6-7). As a result of the evidences there will be a gathering of the precious souls, at Christ's physical appearance to the earth at the end of the seventieth week of Daniel. And the kingdoms of this world, become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15). Among all those people who have survived physically will be designated as "sheep and goats".

And before him all the nations shall be gathered and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd (Matthew 25:32). Then the goats will be sent into everlasting punishment; and the sheep into eternal life. This later group still in mortal bodies, will be cleansed, through faith in Christ; will enter the new heaven and new earth. Keeping in mind the events that are mentioned in

the book of Revelation, and the events, that are described in the article, we can make an assessment that only a small number of men and women from the earth about six billion people will survive the seventieth week. Those who are purged will be sheep and they enter the millennial kingdom. Those lucky people will have an extended life, with the absence of death, war, disease famine natural catastrophic incidents.

### **A New Capital**

Apostle John not only saw a new heaven and new earth, but also he saw a new city Jerusalem the Holy city coming down from God out of heaven. She was prepared as a bride decorated for her husband. In the Bible the first reference to Jerusalem is the occasion when Abraham happened to meet the Melchizedec, who was also called king of Salem, upon his return from and restoring his nephew Lot. The name 'Melchizedec' literally means "king of righteousness". He was a priest of El Elyon means 'Most High God' and ruler over the city of Salem. Which means (peace) and it became later Jerusalem which means (House of peace). The divinely appointed destiny of Jerusalem is seen in that very first mentioned city. Jerusalem will become one day a city of peace which was ruled by a royal priest, the king of righteousness and the priest of the "Most High God". It was in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah came to sacrifice his only son, when God asked him to test his faith.

It was Jerusalem to the same mount later called Jebus, to which king David came and deputed war like Jebusites and made their fortress his capital which was later called Jerusalem.

It was the same mount Moriah in Jerusalem that king Solomon built a magnificent temple otherwise known as the house of God, to be a habitation for God on earth.

It was the same Jerusalem, wherein the Lamb of God died on the cross for the sake of the sinners of the world. To this same Jerusalem Jesus will come for His coronation as the lion of the tribe of Judah, to become the king of kings and the place where Abraham Lord of Lords.

Jerusalem is the center and the capital city of human history. New Jerusalem will be the center and capital of Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

New Jerusalem is the city father Abraham looked for which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 4:16)

New Jerusalem is a city built for the church the bride of Christ  
(Revelation 21:9-10).

New Jerusalem is a city which will descend out of heaven like a chandelier and rest upon the earth. (Revelation 3:12; 21:10)

New Jerusalem is a city in which God himself will dwell  
(Revelation 21:11; 22:23)

New Jerusalem is a city constructed with the most precious material  
(Revelation 21:18, 21)

New Jerusalem is a city of safety and perpetual day (Revelation 21:25)

New Jerusalem is a city, where nothing that defiles can enter  
(Revelation 21:27)

New Jerusalem is a city, whose inhabitants will know only good and endless life  
(Revelation 22:1)

New Jerusalem is a city of unending abundance and provision  
(Revelation 22:2)

New Jerusalem is a city whose inhabitants have intimate access, to the Lamb  
(Revelation 22:3-4)

New Jerusalem is a city of spectacular dimension. It may be in the shape of pyramid or in the form of a great mountain. The Bible also describes that it must be 12000 furlongs in each direction an equivalent of 1,500 thousand miles wide, deep and high. It is compassed of floors at one side, intervals and there would be 1500 levels. There would be no other city comparable unto New Jerusalem. This will be the home of all those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God. There are two worlds that might collide, and from them only one will survive. The world that will survive has to be ruled by the son of God and savior of men and women for a thousand years in the new heaven and new earth.



1. The new heaven and new earth is the present heaven and earth; purged by fire and made the people perfect through regeneration.
2. The new heaven and new earth commences from the beginning of the Millennial, but not at the end.
3. After rapture of the church, those left on the earth, who survive the “Day of the Lord” and exhibit faith in Christ after His return are the “sheep” that will enter the new heaven and new earth.
4. The New Jerusalem, after it’s coming down from heaven, as the capital city of New heaven and new earth and it will be the dwelling place of the true Christ and the New Jerusalem shall be the bride of Jesus Christ.

## ***Should Christians observe Mosaic Law?***

It is said some believers of God have advised their fellow believers, to observe the principles of Mosaic Law. With the exception of animal sacrifice those laws are clearly mentioned in the first five books of the Old Testament called Pentateuch. The Evangelistic church members have been also trying to convince the other members, to follow the practice of Mosaic Law. In such case they must become more Jewish to practice like eating “Kosher” (clean food), observing Jewish Sabbath which requires to attend synagogue, or church, either on Friday night or Saturday before sunset, and doing circumcision, observing all those things means, one must become Jewish in everything. Under such circumstances, the believers may have to change the name of Jesus into Hebrew as “Joshua” and the anglicised names of both Joseph and Mary as Jesse and Miriam. In addition to that the believers have to observe two Jewish high holy Jewish holidays. They are ‘Rash Hosanah’ (the New Year) and you kipper (the Day of Atonement)

One thing is more fascinating in the context. The teaching that Christians should follow Mosaic Law is being done by the Jewish believers of Jesus and also propagated by gentile believers. Such teaching was upheld by the Christian denominations with “seventh day Adventist”. The church members of this set, observe not only the Sabbath, (Jewish) but also Christians. “The Ten Commandments”. They are some more Adventist Churches also trying to live the life of Jewish. They totally oppose the teaching of New Testament Scripture. We have to question ourselves how far it is necessary to follow Mosaic Law. To understand this properly, it is better to look into some passages from the New Testament. It is true, there is nothing new about the issue of legalization of the church, because it was as old as the truth of church itself in the first century. So, whether to follow Mosaic law or not, became a burning issue among the members of the church of “Galatia” there is a common word is

used for such people, who insist on observing the law, are called “Judaizares”. Some false teachers pollute the church and the congregation without peace. Thou this issue caused some conflict among the church Goirs, Apostle Paul taught them that salvation would come only thought faith but not through work. And to provide His salvation to all mankind Jesus came to this world. He declared that by His death, burial, resurrection and eventually ascendance. Paul wrote a letter to the church of Rome saying “But now righteousness of God without law is manifested being witnessed by the law and the prophets” (Romans 3:21) Paul taught Mosaic Law was in sufficient to being men and women to God. What he wanted to say was instead of the Mosaic Law, the Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ would Suffice and follow the text of the law, for the acceptance of God; Paul further said, the permanent sacrifice of Christ for the sin of mankind would be sufficient atonement and acceptance of God and for eternity. In essence Christ became the fulfillment of the Mosaic Laws. So, what was going on in the church of Galalia was like a stinch in the nostril of Paul. He showed his disinclination toward the fowl teaching of some believers in the church. Here, Paul was referring to the false teaching of Judaizars you as another gospel. He condemned their teaching and said it was foreign to the truth upon which the church of Jewish was built. Added to that the Judaizars were misleading the church, and the gospel.

Paul became antagonistic toward them and became dumbfounded at the congregation which was feasting on their foul teaching. He tried to bring them back and keep them on the correct track. He wrote to the believers of Galilia, “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” (Galatians 3:1).

He appeared to be rude, and intolerant toward Judaizars, but it was wrong. He was frustrated at the attitude of them. He was like a loving father, whose son had gone astray. He used to grab the children of Galelia by them shoulders and shake them vigorously trying to awake them from their deep slumber. He

tried to put them on the right track or on the correct the theological ground. He called them foolish Galatians and passionately requested them to come to normal position from the Mosaic laws, which is nonsense. He politely asked them to think about the law reasonably and logically.

Paul followed this with simple direct and without any argument. He wrote “Received ye the spirit by the works of the law or by hearing of faith”. The Galatians should have known the answer to this question. The answer is quite clear. “We are saved by faith through the spirit” Paul really loved Galatian church, and did not want to hurt them anymore. The only thing, he was surprised at their foolish thinking and disappointed at their lack of correct judgment. The impression about the Galatians was you are saved by the grace of God, a work of the Holy Spirit; how then can you turned around line out your salvation by your physical works successfully, the proclaiming of the Mosaic Law.

He questioned them, Is circumcision going to save you? Is observing of Sabbath going to save you? Is eating of “Kosher” (clean food) going to save you? The answer is no. Paul called Galatians my beloved Galatian foolish Christians stop all that nonsense, and return to the basic teaching. Paul had strong faith that the Galatians would certainly abandon the Mosaic Law, and look for salvation. According to him if anyone would suggest the Mosaic Law the grace of salvation, it is deadly and curse. Paul said no man is justified by law in the sight of God, and it is really quite evident. “The justice shall live by faith”. He stressed more that salvation is through faith and it is unquestionable and undisputed faith. That is only through faith on Jesus salvation can be achieved but not through the observation of Mosaic Law.

What must be the opinion of Jesus regarding Mosaic Law. Once Jesus was travelling in His ministry through towns and villages in the region of Galilee in Israel. He came to the area of mountains near Capernaum and sat on a higher place to preach the gospel of God. It was a customary for a Jewish Rabbi to sit as a higher place, before the audience or student. Jesus did the same before His disciples and others that gathered there. He had the wonderful

attention of a group of Jewish humble fisher men silver smiths, farmers, bakers, shop keepers, carpenters and house wives etc. There were some Roman soldiers, also probably to maintain peace.

The crowd had finally settled and all their attention was drawn toward Jesus Christ. Having understood the pulse of the audience, He began to speak. He addressed the gathering that those who were poor in Spirit would be blessed, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. He said those who mourned, were assured of comfort. He promised the men that they would inherit the earth. He assured those who were seeking righteousness would certainly find it. He told the merciful that they would receive mercy in return. He said the faithful, who followed Him and suffered, for such people the earth would become hostile and heaven temporarily because the people always sinned and so this sacrifice was to continue. The permanent solution was found finally God himself provided a permanent alternative. He offered His only begotten son Jesus Christ, as He lived a flawless life with virgin birth and with sinless existence. Jesus possessed all the criteria to be humanity's permanent sacrifice for sin. So we must accept Him as our savior and Lord as He pardoned our sins and assured eternal life. So from the time Jesus was sacrificed dead, buried and resurrected the sacrificial system.

We have to remember one point in this context. God never declared regarding blood sacrifices were no longer required. As we see in the Bible this blood sacrifice had been continued from the time of Adam and Eve, till the coming of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. Jesus by shedding His blood on the cross provided blood requirement for the sacrifice. Then the only required is that all men and women should accept, Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord. It is technical point and we must come into the moral value of the Mosaic Law, even though it was mentioned by Jesus Christ. The fact is Jesus Christ had fulfilled all the technical points of the laws, and asked us to stop the practice that the what are the salient points in the laws? They are sacrificial system, deadly laws, observing of Jewish holidays, undergoing of circumcision,

eating of Kosher (clean food) etc. Though the Jews practiced law, they were far away, from love. Hence the law was like school mate that led the Jewish people to Christ, so that, they might be justified by faith.

Jesus Christ forced the humanity from the practice of the Mosaic Law, Principles. So, we are no way bound to keep the physical requirements, though the moral principles continue. For the fulfillment of things like the sacrifice, dietary system, holidays observances, Kosher food, circumcision, all those things are supposed to be followed. But they were all accomplished in the life sacrifice of Jesus Christ through His resurrection. By accepting Jesus as our savior and Lord as our final sacrifice for sin takes the place of practiced Mosaic Law. What Paul wrote in this regards, “for Christ is the end of law, for righteousness to everyone that believeth”. (Romans 10:4). The final result is that, the believers must forget about the Mosaic Law, because whatever was needed for salvation Jesus Christ fulfilled that.

Regarding Sabbath day, observances there are still some believers who wanted to follow that, the correct time of the Sabbath was Friday after sunset, and Saturday before sunset. We have to study whether they were right in their thinking we have to look into the New Testament also, if it is encouraging to Christians to observe Sabbath day like Jews. Jesus in His ministry on the eve of His Sermon on the Mount happened to go into green fields with His disciples on Sabbath day. He plucked some green and ate. Some pharises saw that and accused. Jesus and His followers for breaking the Mosaic Law. They said, behold thy disciples for that which is not lawful to do on Sabbath day” (Matthew 12:2)

If Jesus was unmindful of the situation and break the law of God, then we can say, he commits sin, and did not lead a perfect life. As a result Jesus would have been considered disqualified as a sacrifice for sin.

Before concluding about the remarks of Pharises, let us for a while think about the period in which they lived. In those days, the Pharises evolved some laws of their own even without giving priority to the moral values. The Jews during

the time of Jesus in Jerusalem had very peculiar traditions. For example, the Pharises said, the Jews should not carry any burden on the Sabbath day. The burden was like carrying pieces of paper, horse hairs, wax, a piece of broken earthen ware, animal food, dried fig etc. if any one of the Jews carry any one of those mentioned above, he would be treated as committed sin against the God of Israel. In addition to that the Israelites should eat, only food specially made for the Sabbath day. If a hen laid egg on Sabbath day, accidentally it should not be eaten by them. However, if the hen was kept for becoming fat then the egg of such hen might be eaten.

Healing the person was permitted only when the patient was in life and death condition. But making of a disease on the Sabbath day caused Pharsies to attack Jesus. So every event like that made Pharises to attack Jesus. For eating the green also made them to attack Jesus. Then He made their mouths shut by telling the story of King David, which occurred about 1000 years ago. David ran from the presence of King Soul. He ate the Tabernacles and “shrew bread” which was meant for the priests. When he was disparately hungry. Jesus reminded the Pharises, how the priests in the temple Prothadeth Sabbath and are blameless. According to Jesus the priests Prothaned the temple works like, sacrifices lighting incense etc on the Sabbath day.

Jesus then told the Pharises, that if ye had known what this meanth. I will have mercy and not sacrifice; ye would not have condemned the gentiles. Jesus addressed again in the Sermon on the Mount not about the artificial, physical aspect of the law fact concerned to the moral objections. The compassionate aspects of Mosaic Law in blindness they condemned the one who was even greater than the temple. Jesus affirmed His Lordship and fulfillment of the Mosaic laws assured the son of man is Lord even on the Sabbath day. To say more clearly, the Mosaic Law is nothing but the shadow of good things to come, but not the image of things. A shadow is as we see nothing but an image created by some object.

Likewise, the Mosaic Law is only shadow of Jesus Christ. The shadow was real but not a permanent one. So this Mosaic Law was an indicator of the real objects and here coming savior Jesus. He came to this world and replaced the shadow and fulfilled His work. So giving away the life of Jesus means fulfilling the requirement of Sabbath. We can put this in some other way briefly. To trust in Christ means fulfilling the requirement to the Sabbath. This particular point might plunge the readers into another genuine doubt. How can a man trust in Jesus by observing the Sabbath?

The seventh day of the week was declared as Sabbath day by ancient Israelites. It was also the day of rest to God after the creation. He took rest on the seventh day after He completed the whole creation in six days. It means men and women have to rest from their regular work and devote their time to the work of their loving and gracious God, whether the work involves physical sense or meditation on Him. As a result there would be peace of soul and sharing of goodness, between the creator and His creation. For the confirmation the writer of Hebrew quoted the following words. There are mainly therefore you rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, He also hath cursed from His own works as God did from His own. What is the nature of the rest according to the writer?

The writer was speaking about the rest to one needed theologically, by a searching soul continuously striving to find out acceptance from God. As soon as the striving soul reaches Jesus Christ the labour is over. Then Jesus would say “ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and

ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29-30)

In fact no striving of soul is coming to Christ, also there are no works to be accomplished in order to secure the salvation of God. It is also said, Salvation is obtained by people in a very simple way. So, we confess with our mouths, then the Lord Jesus Christ will believe our heart that God had rescued Him



from the dead, thou shall be saved. In the promise of salvation in Christ, there is rest for the soul. Since the body needed physical rest, from his labour, on the Sabbath day the soul would find spiritual Sabbath rest in Christ. In nut shall Christ is our Sabbath and Christ is our rest. The believers can understand now that Christ is their spiritual Sabbath, and satisfy all their requirements. Apostle Paul gave detailed explanation about the teaching of Christ regarding Sabbath. “Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink or in respect of holiday or of a new moon or of the Sabbath day” (Colossians 2:16). What must have made Israel to say these words because the Judaisers were interested on the church members of Colossians who deserved some Mosaic Law practices like dieting requirements, holiday celebrations and the Sabbath? Paul attacked them boldly and said, Jesus by dying on the cross and raising from the dead blotted out the hand writing of the Mosaic Law. In other words the laws of Judaism and traditions that led to salvation according to them were dead and buried. So, the only thing we have to do is that we must have sincere faith in Christ. Since that was the outcome of the Mosaic Law, Christians need not observe, as Christ is the embodiment of Sabbath, and every day observances.

About eating of Kosher – (clean food) – It is really unfortunate because many Christians wished to eat Kosher and observe dietary system, which was of ancient Israelites. Other believers used to think about those believers, who would never sustained their claim. They should question among themselves, whether the New Testament is demanding them to eat “Kosher” The pharases confronted with Jesus, again in Galilee when He ate with disciples. They went with some teachers of law to Jesus and questioned Him, why His disciples transgressed the tradition of the elders by not washing their hands before eating. This washing of hands system was created by some rulers and in course of time. This washing rituals were extended to cups pitches and cattle’s. But Mark referred these practices, as probably the tradition of the elders. For a question of the Pharises concerning washing of hands, Jesus called them a lengthy question in the following lines.

“Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded saying, Honour thy father and mother and He that cursed father and mother let him die the death, but ye say who so ever shall say to his father or mother it is a gift by whose for them might be profited by neither or nor not his father or his mother, he shall be forced thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition” (3:6)

Some of the Jewish leaders hatchel a plan to circumvent the law of God like the fifth commandment. “Honour thy father and Mother”. They declared a precious item as a dedication to the Lord and kept it in their houses instead of turning it over to their needy parents. Jesus confirmed this action as odious and hypocritical with this remark. Jesus took the Pharises to task. He contrasted the physical observance of the law and traditions with far more significant moral and compassioned necessities of the laws. While the agreement was going on a good number of people gathered around and watched them. Then Jesus turned toward the mob and said. “Not that which goineth into the mouth defileth a man but that which cometh out of the mouth difileth a man”. (VII) Mark added to the above said statement “purging all meal or purging all foods” the modern version of the bible is, in this way Jesus declared all foods clean. Jesus seized this opportunity, and proclaimed that there were no unclean foods with abolishing the Mosaic Law, dietary system the meaning of Jesus was that food would not defile the human soul. To understand this clearly, whatever was eaten by anyone would not reflect ones character or spirit or soul, with all the explanation and quotation it became futile for the Jewish people of Jesus times, particularly promises to understand the revolutionary changes. The fanatic attitude of those people toward the Mosaic Law did not allow them for correct thinking, regarding the teaching of Jesus. The main reason was most of the ancient Israelites refused to know the true identity of Jesus Christ that He was the Messiah of Jews and the son of God.

Anyway all the teachings of Jesus were recorded in the Bible, for the future guidance of the believers. They would become free from the future of dietary

requirements of ancient Israelites. That was not the only occasion; God declared all the foods were clean. In the book of Acts chapter 10, the Bible readers can find the story of a vision Peter got. According to the vision Peter saw the heaven was opened and a big vessel distended toward him. It was a big sheet with four corners and full of different beasts and fowls. Then a voice came from heaven rise Peter “kill and eat”. As a Jew, Peter was a close observer of Mosaic Law. So, he replied “not so Lord I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean” for that God replied what God hath cleansed that could not be common”. It is said the same vision was repeated two times to Peter because; he could not comprehend the exact meaning of it. The vision of Peter served two purposes. It was confirmed that Israelites dietary laws were stopped. The Jews were eating now freely from all plenty of God’s creation. They began to treat Gentiles equally and understand that they were in no way inferior to them with this kind of wonderful change, they became closer to God. And Peter also made this point clear before some Gentile believers. He confessed that God showed him not to look down upon others or calling anyone command unclean.

Apostle Paul also confessed and declared all food clean for the people of God. He said this in the book of Romans. Paul humbly requested the believers not to judge one another because God is the judge of all. According to Him all are equal and foods are clean. All the words of Jesus touched the hearts of the believers. They began to eat whatever is available. They kept the Mosaic Law aside concerning Kosher. Regarding the meat sacrifices to the idols was also proved null and void because the idols had no life and manmade objects. Paul was more concerned about the strong believers who might try to harm and check the weak believers in faith; if they eat in the name of Jesus Christ. The strong believers wanted to eat unkosher food. If the modern Christian believers insist on following Mosaic dietary laws then we can take it for granted they did not correctly understand the Bible and the teaching of Christ.

The impact of circumcision – In Romans 2:28 Apostle Paul clearly pointed out that it is faith and obedience to God for the identification as the children of God; but not the Mosaic Law. Regarding the circumcision Paul said it was an act of spiritual purification. He quoted, for he is not a Jew, which is outward in flesh. That is thou a Jewish man is physically circumcised, that act would not make him believer in God, by faith and righteousness if a man undergoes circumcision when he was only eight days old, it is no doubt the fulfillment of the Mosaic Law, and this act would make him to identify himself as a Jew. But this act would not serve the purpose of salvation. Here Paul worked different types of circumcision, that is inside heart, called spiritual circumcision.

Paul continued his idea in verse 29 about circumcision “But he is a Jew which is one invariably and circumcision is that of the heart in the spirit and not in the letter”. He added it in Israelite was asked at the time of Jesus, he would have said, that a Jew was a physical descendant of first Patriarch Abraham an observer of Mosaic Law and circumcision. His opinion about a Jew was that he would have God and seek to obey Him in everything. He was a descendant of Abraham, circumcised like him spiritually purified, in heart, the seed of human emotion and conscience. Paul emphasized true circumcision was not concerned to the body but springs from the soul in faith love and obedience toward Almighty God.

The outcome of this is man required only spiritual circumcision and physical action was not at all a requirement for salvation. He further said, circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing but keeping in mind and honoring the Ten Commandments of God. Both Jesus and Paul happened to preach about the moral and heart related aspects of the law and not the physical aspects. If the Jews still unable to understand the aspect of circumcision and Mosaic Law, Paul advised to such people to look into “Galatians 5:6”, “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision, nor anything nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love”. If anybody thought of circumcision, even after salvation

through Christ, it is nothing but lasting of the grace of God, an entangles in the Mosaic Law which has no power, to save such unfortunate souls.

Paul somehow brought the topic of circumcision and; in his address to church members in and told them whether one was a Jew or gentile, God would live in everybody and people have everything they needed in Christ for salvation. This is what apostle Paul wanted to tell the believers. He further explained clearly that circumcision had a symbol of believers' new spiritual birth and cleansing of the soul from sin and their entry into the eternal life with Christ. Conclusion – Paul put a very big question here to the believers of Galatian church. The question was whether they would get their salvation through the deeds they accomplished from the Mosaic Law, or through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ. The answer is crystal clear. All are saved through faith but not works. So, the law had nothing to do and no way concerned to the modern Christianity. Yet with all the pros and cones of the Mosaic Law had its own importance, because it was instituted by God Himself. It was meant for redemption of humanity from their sin. But this Mosaic Law would not provide salvation as people were enable to obey and practice it perfectly. So, Paul said But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.(Galatians 3:23-25)

In the above said passage, the phrases like “kept under”, and “shut up” are used to describe the life of Mosaic Law. To its credit the law would work as our school master and as our road map to God. Now that god provided some means to redemption. As God showed some means there is no necessity of following the Mosaic Law which acted like school master. That was the appeal of Paul. The fact is that the law in the Old Testament or covenant, appeared to be good, understanding and it achieved the go faithfully and effectively. But the New covenant or Testament was replaced by the Grace of God. For detailed truth one can look into the book of Hebrews.

There is one more point people have to look into on the law. On one occasion, Jesus was talking with pharisees and Sadducees. Just at that time a lawyer came, and asked Jesus, what the great commandment was in the law. The lawyer actually wanted to know what the greatest of the law was. The reply of Jesus was “Thou shalt love, the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind”. This is the first and great commandment. And there is “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self, and these two commandments hang all the laws and prophets. (v.v.30:40). This is the heart of the Mosaic Law and all should adhere to it. But Paul quoted a similar law bear ye one another burdens to fulfill the law of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:2).

All the believers must walk with Jesus with faith love, and humble submission to the Mosaic Law. By doing so, they would become closer to the law. Paul’s final answer to this controversial issue was mentioned in the book of Romans 8:3-4.

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sent his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit”.

# *The Resurrection*

Death be not proud, though some are called thee mighty and dreadful for thou art not so, for those whom thou thinkest thou dost overthrow die not poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me from rest and sleep which but thy pictures be Much pleasure then from thee much more flow And soonest, our best men with thee do go. Rest of their bones and souls, delivering Thou art slave to fact, chance, kings and desperate men.

And dost with poison were and sickness dwell. And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well. And better than thy stroke why swell'st thou then One short sleep past, we wake eternally And death shall be no more Death thou shalt die”.

The above mentioned poetic lines are taken from the most famous poetry of John Donne. Through these lines, he gave a wonderful description of death and its unimportance. Here, the poet advised the Christian believers that death is like a shadow which leads a person toward the grave (tomb). But death and tomb cannot do anything when a believer died and put in the tomb. This statement is general but no way connected to the tomb of Jesus Christ. But it is the belief of every Christian that the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the opening of the stone door of the tomb and all the story behind this event finally got freedom to all believers and achieved eternal life.

Even this strange death of Jesus Christ, has been lingering in the minds of the believers through centuries; though all of us will die one day or other, we will have eternal life because of Jesus who died on the cross and shed His blood. So, we can boldly say that we will conquer death like Jesus. We can take it for granted that this belief informed the believers of Western Civilization for about twenty centuries. But the fact will not be taken for granted by the radicals. Death is not like re-occurring of cycle of spring season; on the other hand the resurrection happened as an event, simultaneously as historical and physical, when the re-occurring of the cycle of spring itself is a mere shadow.

The real defeat of death hangs on as implausible as anything is impossible. In a hewn rock which has a miraculous story behind was just outside the walls of Jerusalem. The corpse can be also said that space and times both pointed and reversal course, undoing the curse of death that had been upon it; since the existence of the Garden of Eden. Can this beautiful myth for our practical mind? Or it must be miraculously and literally happened in our like. it is impossible that a human being really and truly died will become inert corpse with all the attendance and unpleasant attributes.

It again becomes a living with everything like breathing walking talking and eating like human beings. So, there would be no doubt and it is natural to occur with a small miracle. The claim of this event that took place was not merely important to the Christians, who were faithful, but it is central and crucial. Apostle Paul said that Christ had died and rose from the dead on the third day. In that case there is nothing more to discuss in the Christian faith. Paul wanted to say that if Christ actually and literally raised from the dead then the very Christian faith is useless. And also if Christ did not die and rise from the dead, then our sins would not have been condoned and washed away. So, the central idea of Christian faith is the death of Christ and His resurrection. This event mentally transforms and redeems every one of us, if we have faith in Him.

If we believe, He did not rise from the dead, then we do not rise from the dead, and as a result, Death wins the race. So, fundamentally Paul pointed out, if Jesus did not rise from the dead then, we are all so called believers must be pited. If the claim of death and resurrection did not happen then the faith of Christianity is unthinkable because both happened literally. The event was superlatively central and crucial. According to Apostle Paul if the resurrection did not occur really, there is nothing more to discuss about Christianity at all. The opinion of Paul in this context was, if Christ did not rise really and literally, from the dead, then Christian faith is useless. So, the central idea of Christian was the death and resurrection of Christ, which fundamentally transformed



and redeemed every one of us that put faith in Him. It seems some scholars during the last century, missed the statement of Paul, which was more suitable that Jesus had not risen from the dead, as science is more advanced enough, we have to take it for granted the death and resurrection of Jesus had taken place miraculously.

We have to think seriously how those things must have happened. Still all is not lost in the contrary let us see what we might salvage from the riched people must have thought movingly as how Jesus had not risen bodily but risen spiritually. Whatever may be the meaning of their expression they must have understood that Jesus had raised in the hearts of His disciples? They must be the people of materialized temperament that would have dismissed the very idea of literal resurrection and with that every other kind of bonafide miracle. But Paul in his writings said that he heard such things before centuries ahead of his time. By meditating upon this, Paul also dismissed this kind of thinking. The church fathers and the church councils must have ratified the thinking of Paul as canonical and practically all this is nothing. Christians have no other alternative to change on this point. As a result the entire belief of Christianity is predicated on this miracle.

Paul said, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, we are left precisely with nothing we are left with no forgiveness of our sins. Then we are considered more pitiable in the society. And it is really a pathetic situation and the so called Christians are worse than pagans or non – believers. In this context Paul quoted the example of Prophet Elijah. What he had done can be found in the second book of Kings. According to the event the prophet had a bet with the priests of baal who was a heathen god. Elijah wanted to prove who the real God was. For that purpose both Elijah and the priests of baal, built piles of wood and then asked their respective gods light their piles on fire. Elijah poured gallons and gallons of water also on his pile. The god of Elijah acted immediately. His pile was burned before 450 priests of Baal and Elijah won the bet. This is only a reference to show the power of our God. Let us say Jesus must have risen

bodily from the dead or He did not. If He did not rise then we lost everything. Some people might say that the miracle did not materialize.

We must remember what Paul said. It matters more than anything and it has a great history of two thousand years ago of the church. If anyone said Jesus rose in the hearts of the disciples, we simply smile and leave it. It is a fundamental contradiction to what Paul said. Christian leaders have been saying since the last century. So, this remained as the biggest question to be answered. The information so far we got and studied is enough evidence to make an informal decision on this burning issue. Did this miracle really happen? This issue which appeared long ago, that is about resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. It is no doubt a startling and seemed to be unbelievable. Many people did not know much about it as we never know where Adam and Eve were buried or how the voice of Noah was. As we know there were many great personalities mentioned in the Bible. But the birth and death of Jesus took place within the historical times.

The famous works like Iliad and Odysseys were written seven centuries earlier. The complete and brilliant plays of Euripides, Sophocles and Aeschylus were written more than four centuries back. Regarding Alexander the Great, Aristotle and Socrates too had their history who lived just a few centuries before the birth of Jesus. What we could know about Jesus was through the Roman history. About 54 Roman rulers ruled the nation of Israel, but their rule was not palatable to the Jews because they persecuted the Jews and Christians too much. The cross punishment was common during their reign. Among the Roman rulers the most cruel emperor was "Nero", and also a kind hearted and good Samaritan was emperor Constantine who embarrassed Christianity with his mother Helena.

We also know the prosecution of the Jews by the Roman rulers. Whatever we know about the Roman rulers and how the Jews were ill treated by their forces made the Jews to hate them. So, with this brief information let us think seriously and determine whether this miracle of miracles regarding resurrection happened

or not, whether such things are impossible to happen. Let us discuss this controversial issue that has been circling round the “Epic” event that took place during the reign of Pontius Pilate.

Jesus was crucified on the basis of his final judgment. So according to scriptures, He was crucified and resurrected. Through this achievement it is crystal clear, that Jesus lived really and crucified, and laid in a tomb. Then on the third day, some disciples went to the tomb to see Him and they saw the stone door was removed and the tomb was empty. This fact forces us to say there is zero doubt about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

The next doubt was how the body was missing from the tomb. There are two options to clear the doubt, whether Jesus left the tomb by Himself through resurrection or through a less dramatic means. The next question is who must have stolen the body of Jesus Christ? There were already sixteen powerful soldiers guarding the tomb. It was closed with massive stone door and properly sealed with the cord across it, with an official wax bearing Roman the “imperial mark”.

In such circumstances, missing of the body of Jesus from the tomb was a mystery, whether the dead body was given to somebody by taking the bribe which was impossible because if the Roman soldiers did such things the punishment was death. It was really a pathetic scene watched by many when such a diety was killed and kept in the tomb. If Jesus had already risen from the dead, what people must have understood about Him? We imagine the skepticism of some toward the miracle about the death of Jesus and also the behavior of the disciples if they had seen Him when He was resurrected. Actually, Jesus in His resurrected body was seen by about 500 people in 40 days before He went to His father.

There was another theory called “Swan theory” that came into existence two hundred years ago. It appeared with bald and Sun burned head, but with dignity. It was also called, “Swan Hypothesis”. According to that theory, Jesus did not die but went into a “Swoon” or temporarily into “coma” sometimes such

incident would take place in the case of some patients as per the medical sciences or we find such information in books. It is very important to note here, that Jesus was scourged terribly and due to that lost too much blood in His body. Thereby He became too weak to carry the cross to the site of “Golgotha” the place of crucifixion.

During the third century there was a historian by name Eusebius who said that veins were laid bare and the very muscles, sinews and bowels of the victims were open to exposure; Most of the victims of the crucifixion were first scourged and brutalized this way. So, most of the poor would have this experience before they died. Jesus died after six hours and Pontius Pilate heard this news and marveled at His death. The Bible readers know that the hands and feet were nailed to the cross with spikes and due to that Jesus lost so much blood and finally died. Then the authorities declared for the removal of the body from the cross before the sunset.

The Roman authorities gave their consent to execute Jesus to decrease the unrest among Jews in Jerusalem. They could not contain the popularity of Jesus, especially when He entered Jerusalem on the Passover day on the donkey and this was the main reason. In such conditions stealing the body was worse than killing Him. So, the soldiers guarded the tomb honestly.

Nest to Romans, the Jewish religious leaders were also in the same position. So, for the Jews keeping the dead body of Jesus means they were directly in trouble for killing Him. Another reason was, they did not believe Him, when He said, He was the Messiah and also the Son of God. In addition to that He said, if He was killed, He would conquer death and rise on the third day from the grave. These statements stunned the disciples also and behaved like strangers in faith.

The disciples planned to spread the work of God, especially the miracle experience of resurrection. As a result of His resurrection His popularity in the public reached its pinnacle. Regarding teaching, preaching, healing the sick and doing some miracles, the Jews could not tolerate. According to Jewish

calendar the Sabbath Day would begin on Friday sunset and end on Saturday sunset. Coming to the story, after Jesus had died a rich man by name Joseph of Arimathea approached Pontius Pilate and took permission for the dead body of Jesus. He took away His body and buried it with all the dignity and other formalities in a nearby grave.

The custom of the Jews was to anoint the dead body with spices before it was buried. Then on the third day they expected the body of Jesus in the tomb. It is expressed in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of the gospel of Mark, whether there was any one removed the stone door of the tomb. The door was about five and half to six feet high and it would require strong men to roll the door. So, when the women came to the spot the stone door was already removed. In this context the four gospels differ from one another in giving the details.

In the gospel of Matthew it is said, there was an earth quake and an angel descended from heaven and rolled away the stone door. It was not only simply theological idea but also a reality for which there were eye witness. People witnessed the power of the omnipotent God, and the person of God in the resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. After this miracle happened nothing in this world could stop the believers from their faith and spreading of this happy news.

The believers could understand now only when Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life”. The Roman rulers did not know much about the miracle or miracles especially regarding the miracle of resurrection. It was only a band of ill – educated fishermen of Galilee, and tax collectors that stood unitedly against all authorities of the earth with the resurrection of Jesus. The earthly Roman Empire was ultimately changed the truth is that it was the women who came first to the tomb, saw the door was opened and then informed the disciples. In the patriarchal culture at that time it would make no sense, in making this kind of news in the account unless it had happened really as described in the first instance.

Peter and some other disciples did not believe the words of women first. It was like an idle talk for them and thought about Jesus only as a dead person. We have to remember one thing that is resurrection from the dead is impossible at that time and even today, but those who believed about the angel who appeared to them about all that happened at that time in that culture.

The Roman soldiers were terribly afraid of the situation trembled and fled from that place. The guards after seeing the earth quake descending of the angel in white garments, and opening of the door thought that some supernatural was working. The guards as well as the women never had this kind of experience. The guards ran to Jerusalem to inform the chief priests what they had seen. After the door was opened, they were surprised to see the tomb was empty. According to the fact the elders gave enough money to the guards, to the guarantee that they should remain mum about what they had seen. They were advised to say here after that the disciples had stolen the dead body of Christ.

It is a universal truth regarding the resurrection from the dead is impossible even today. But those who believed it and spoke about it boldly said they witnessed an outrageous miracle. So, they had the courage to talk about it incessantly though they were threatened with the consequences of death if they continued their talk about resurrection. The believers felt the reality of resurrection should not be subsided by the authorities; as it was done by the power and authority of the Omnipotent God. It is not merely theological idea but also a reality for which there were eye witnesses. The believers also understood the power of God through this wonderful miracle of resurrection and proclaimed it openly.

Now the believers need not be afraid of death, because they had seen it already. The death was triumphed by one who claimed to be the resurrection and the life. They need not have any doubt of the fact, after crucifixion and resurrection. Now, we are invited to submit ourselves to the logic of what we know regarding this most celebrated miracle of miracles actually happened.

## **Evidence for the Resurrection – Answers**

### Special Objections

#### **Theory – 1 – The eye witnesses' hallucination:**

It is unlikely if not impossible for the 500 people to have the hallucination resurrection did not expect to see Him again were surprised to see Him. Psychiatrists agree that hallucination requires expectation. A psychiatric study performed in 1975 suggests that the contents of the hallucination reflects the effects of the one experiencing the hallucination to, master anxiety to fulfill various wishes and needs.

#### **Theory – 2 – Jesus did not die on the cross:**

If Jesus did not die, the Roman soldiers would have failed in their duties. Jesus had to survive massive bloodloss; torture and a stab wound, the next important point is rolling of the stone door. (Which normally requires a good number of people for that purpose) eye witness said that when Jesus was stabbed in the side water marked with blood poured out. It indicated medically that Jesus died already.

According to studies of first century tombs the tomb of Jesus must have been closed with about 2000 pounds rolling stone. It is naturally impossible for a sole individual to move, and open the door of the tomb.

#### **Theory – 3 – The body of Jesus was stolen:**

The enemies of Jesus took various steps to prevent the disciples from stealing the body, such as sealing the stone and providing the guards of soldiers to watch the tomb. The soldiers of the tomb did not sleep for fear of death. The coward disciples abandoned

Jesus at the time of crucifixion. The disciples did not understand the importance of crucifixion and the resurrection. They did not have courage to pass by the guards to the tomb and move the Stone door and rob the tomb undetected.

**Theory – 4 – Everyone went to the wrong tomb:**

The women observed where the body of Jesus was laid. After hearing from women, Peter and John ran to the tomb, without taking proper directions from the women. It is unlikely that Peter and John committed the same mistake as the women.

If the body of Jesus was in the correct tomb his enemies would have produced the body immediately. Can we take it for granted that everybody went to the wrong tomb? Joseph of Arimathea a rich man happened to take the dead of Jesus with the permission from pontious Pilate and buried the body of Jesus and would have corrected the people that went to His tomb.



## *The wonderful word of God*

If we study the family history of Prophet Moses, the Jew. We can understand that he was not much educated. But due to strange circumstances he was brought up in the house of pharaoh a heathen king of Egypt. The king of Egypt actually did not know who he was. Though, he was a Jew he did not know that, but he learned all the wisdom of Egyptians and became mighty and powerful in words and deeds (Acts 7:22). Since Moses was familiar with Egyptian thoughts, we can take it for granted that he had been trained in Egypt. It is quite natural that he would uphold the Egyptian beliefs.

It was most amazing that the Egyptian belief was how the universe began and how the earth came from an egg. And Moses in his first book the “Genesis” in the Old Testament said that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Genesis 1:1). But the astronomy of the Egyptians claimed the earth could give birth to the Sun; Moses wrote, “And made two lights and greater lights to rule the day and lesser lights to rule the night with twinkling stars. Then God sent them in the firmament of the heaven to give light on the earth. According to Egyptian anthropology, humanity was derived from warms along the river Nile, whereas Moses wrote, “And the Lord God formed man out of dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life and as a result man became a living soul. The fact is what Moses knew, the Egyptians did not know; because their world view was based on the incomplete and inaccurate reasoning of humanity and the world view of Moses was based on the revelation of God.

Creation Myth and Reality – The belief of the Hindus was the earth rested upon the turtle, and the turtle rested upon the back of the Elephant. The Greeks believed, the earth rested on the shoulders of the giant “Atlas”. For the Egyptians, the earth rested upon five great pillars. In an amazing and

naked contrast the earliest Bible writers declared “He” hangeth the earth upon nothing (Job 26:7).

Job knew what it would take humanity thousands of years to discover because God told him. Prophet Isaiah was very ahead of his time in understanding of Geography. He wrote of the one that sitteth upon the circle of the earth. He wrote this 2000 years before Columbus discovered the world was round.

Isaiah was sure of those facts because God had told him. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews, knew 1900 years ago what the scientists have been able to prove within the past century. The physical tangible and visible universe in which we live is composed of material invisible to the eye. We can say in an understandable manner that through faith. We can understand the worlds were framed by the word of God. So, the things we see were not made of things, which do appear, (Hebrews 11:3).

This is fundamental in understanding the molecular atomic nature of the universe. But how could a theologian understand this truth centuries ago? The answer is very simple, the God had told him.

Apostle Peter was a popular preacher of his time. By the divine power he looked down the corridors of time to view the end of human history. He clearly saw the destruction of the earth through the nuclear explosion.

He explained this in the following lines:-

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in the which the heavens shall pass away with great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat the earth also and the works that are there in shell burned up”. (2 Peter 3:10)

Scientists confirmed this as an accurate description of a nuclear explosion. As Moses clearly explained the origin of the earth and heavens, Peter foretold their demise Peter knows this because God had told him.

What is revelation? : -

Revelation is nothing but disclosing of truth to humanity. It is for those who could not know apart from divine enablement. Moses, Job, Isaiah, Peter the writer of the Hebrews and other Biblical writers shared this so called truth

made known to them directly from God. On the other hand they got the inspiration and the superintending of the word of God. This is through men who were totally under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit. It is said, part of the Bible came from the direct revelation and the remaining part came through the inspiration of God.

Apostle Peter described the process of inspiration in this manner. “Holy men of God speak as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). Then Apostle Paul described the advantages of inspiration. He said “All the scriptures are given by the inspiration of God; and it is profited to the doctrine of reproof for correction and for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect nature, thoroughly (completely) furnished unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Therefore Bible is the map and compass in the journey of our life, in this material world. It is a book, a divine volume a precious gift to humanity of infinite unsurpassable wonder.

Bible is wonderful – It is undoubtedly a wonderful book. It is essential to know the formation of the Bible. It was written over a period of 1600 years by about 46 writers of different ages (1500 B.C to 100 A.D). The human authors have been different in their life style, education and in their geographical locations with a few exceptions. The most amazing is, they never know one another, and they never read the book of one another. But the most astonishing thing is its unification within the pages. Regarding the contents of the Bible, it is the embodiment of history biography, prophecy, philosophy, poetry and science. Still the theme is singular which made the 66 books a glorious whole – a golden divine which points out to Jesus a savior thread that speaks of redemption through His shedding of blood.

We can understand, there is the wonder of the nationalism. God is the prerogative of divine sovereignty chose the descendants of Abraham Isaac and Jacob to give this unimaginable treasure to the world. If we look into the Bible carefully, we understand that Bible belongs to Jews only. From Genesis to Revelation we read of Jewish people, Jewish land, Jewish culture, and a

promised Jewish Believer. The language the authors used is also wonderful. The book is set forth with amazing directions with the origin of earth of man of sin of death and of potential redemption.

The Bible is the book of unveiling (revelation) with stark candor and graphic imagery tells how it would end. In all the books the language and style are wonderful but the book Isaiah is different. There is the thought provoking logic of Romans which broadly proclaimed that the Holy God could redeem unholy men and women without becoming stained by humanity's sin. At the same time trying to answer the strange statement of Socrates to Plato. "If deity can forgive sin" I don't know how"

We have the greatest contribution of 150 Jewish hymns in the Bible called Psalms. They were the valuable contribution of King David and others. They were so popular and give peace of mind to the people like, the discouraged, the downtrodden the fearful the confused, the lonely one and many more. All kinds of people would get consolation, comfort, and truth by singing these hymns.

The Bible has a wonderful appeal. The reader will find among its pages, comfort and guidance for happy living. The elderly people will find consolation, good understanding and confidence in dying. The rich and poor, the educated and the simple, the King and the subject all people would magnetically draw to this precious volume. Its appeal to the readers is timeless because it answers the questions like why was I born? Why am I living? And is there any life and hope beyond the grave?

There is wonder of eternity – Jesus Christ time and again said that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). This truth the psalmist also confirmed that fact. "O Lord thy word is settled in Heaven" (Psalm 119:89). Prophet Isaiah illustrated this eternity when he wrote, "The grass withered, the flower faded, but the word of God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The importance of eternity must not be over emphasized on any event. People at the time of wedding ceremony in the church, take an oath with the words "love and cherish till the death". But in

the present days the oath they will take brake and almost half of such marriages are ending with divorce.

In the same way some nations at times enter into treaties with other nations may be with some selfish motive. But in course of time due to some reason they break their treaty since we see and experience different kind of things, let us refresh ourselves and remain far away from the sinful humanity. “God is not a man that He should lie” (Numbers 23:19).

There is wonder of its Truth – It is worthless and meaningless to have a word from God that is eternal, if it is not true. Jesus said on some occasion “sanctify them through thy truth” (John 17:17). Sanctify literally means “to set apart”. Jesus is asking His father to set apart those whom He has redeemed through the truth of the word. It would be futile to have eternal word from God which is not true or a true word which is not eternal. Eternality and Truth must wed each other, if God’s word is to be profitable. Let us see how beautifully the psalmist united those principles. “Thy word is true, from the beginning and every one of thy righteous judgment endureth forever” (Psalm 119:160). The word of God is eternally true but it is more than that.

There is wonder of its living power – The author of the Evangelistic Book from the Old Testament is again most useful regarding the word of God to humanity. He wrote, “So shall my word be goith forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me, word but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall profit in the thing where to I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11). The writer of Hebrews wrote, “For the word of God is quiet and powerful, sharper than any double-edged sword”. (Hebrews 4:12). In the ancient world, there were different types of swords. The first type of sword would have sharp blades, and it was used for the purpose of piercing. The second type of sword would have also sharp edges. It was used for the purpose of cutting. The third type of sword would have sharp blades. It was very heavy and it was intended for cutting through an opponent’s weapon. It was cumbersome, and it had to be handled with two hands. The fourth type was later invented and it was light

weighted. It was sharp on both sides. This sword actually revolutionized the ancient war fare.

The writer of Hebrews referred to the fourth type of sword. When he used this sword he meant, the word of God is like two edged sword. According to him, this sword had the capacity of cutting the inner most recesses and a person's eternal life will be set right. In this context we have the example of a person how he was reformed. It was John Newton. He experienced the aliveness and the intensity of the power of God. When he was a young man he happened to run away from the house and went to the sea. After experiencing some inconveniences he finally became the captain of the ship. In that position, circumstances forced him to involve himself in the slave trade. And this trade eventually led him to immoral way of life. In such critical situation, he planned to commit suicide. Then the word of God touched his heart. What he heard from his mother as a child came to his mind. There was a sudden change in his mind and Newton was gloriously saved.

This wonderful change with the power of God, which made him to become a devoted preacher in a church and also became one of the members of the public hymn writers. Among many hymns he composed, the hymn "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that save a writer like me I once was lost". This hymn brought him good name and fame. Newton experienced for the first time the eternally true word of God; which is alive and most powerful. People saw in him the transformation through the golden word of God. He was actually a condemned vile sinner. Such a horrible person became an eternal son of God.

A Tragic Truth – It is utterly tragic that humanity disdains so great a treasure as the word of the infinite God. The Bible is totally ignored, ridiculed and rejected by a great many people called un-regenerated humanity. It is like a little more than a dust collector, for a large segment of those who call themselves Christians. Such people often preach more about themselves as conservative Evangelical fundamental Christians. It is like plunging into one's own thoughts

or applications or giving an application from a Biblical text without first interpreting the text being considered.

At other occasions people totally ignore the historical, grammatical, and cultural background out of which a particular passage comes into existence. As a result, many people who called the name of Christ are deficient Biblically in spite of their many years of instructions in the Bible believing churches. It is really perplexed and wonderful how many of God's people are spiritually anemic and unstable. They follow divergent doctrines and make shipwreck of their lives. This is not an unrealistically harsh appraisal of the present hour but it is the Bible that declares an indication of the hearing of the end of the age. (2 Timothy 3:1; 7:4; 1:4)

The word of God is eternal. It is true and it is alive. It is more powerful and sharper than double edge sword what we have to do is to pull it out for the use of courageous band of believers of Jesus Christ. Then the bibles heart flashing blades will do the rest of the work. The Bible is the only weapon that can stop and cure the insane from his insanity. And we can have so many examples regarding the word of God and the truth through this wonderful article.

# *History of Emperor Constantine*

For the believers of Bible readers the study of Christian history should be seen as something more than academic pursuit. Here our attention must be drawn to look into the history of Emperor Constantine who did a lot of things for the spreading of Christian religion in his empire. Our perspective must allow us to see the movements of God's plan through time and how far it is related to current events as well as the Bible prophecy.

Coming to Roman history Emperor Constantine was one of such personalities. Many events that occurred in Constantinople, and the spreading of Christian religion throughout the Middle East during the rule of Byzantine Empire, are wonderful for Bible readers. So to say, they have significant manifestation today. That Constantinople after Constantine became "Istanbul" as its name was changed and today it was called Modern Turkey. Emperor Constantine was a courageous hero of faith and God used him for many purposes. He was a Roman hero. But out of 54 Roman emperors who ruled Israel, he was the only emperor who embraced Christianity with his mother Heleona. He lived during 272 – 337 A.D. and ruled the empire from 305 A.D.

He accepted the system of dividing the empire into four parts called four empires, and he became the emperor to the Eastern part. Then he happened to do some battles and at that time, his army was about to be drowned in the river. In such crucial situation the emperor proclaimed before the battle that he saw a cross in the sky among the clouds and heard a voice in the dream. He cried out, "in hoc signo vinces", which means "in the sign you will conquer". Then before the battle, the emperor put the soldiers in (Greek chi) as a form of the cross or as the first letter of the Christos, on their shields. And in the battle the king got a wonderful victory. Then in jubilant mood he proclaimed that he became a Christian. This extraordinary event took place in January 313 A.D.



Then the emperor passed the Edict of Milan (also called the Edict of Tolerance). This law finally permitted Christians to practice their faith legally and openly along with Roman traditions of Mount Olympus along with paganism and Judaism. After he won another battle his soldiers kept the symbol which is the clear representation of Christ. With that amazing victory all the opposition leaders were surprised and Constantine stood as unconquerable and absolute ruler of Roman Empire. Then in 325 A.D. byzantine the capital city of Greeks was made capital city to New Roman Empire. But the Greeks did not show any interest in changing the name. even than it was changed into the city of Constantine and finally it became Constantinople. Later this great city caused the separation of Europe and Asia. This chief city at last became the capital city of Eastern Christian world, for about a Millennium (one thousand years) till it fell into the hands of ‘Ottoman Turk’ on May 29, 1453. The new conquerors called it Estamble, which became Istanbul.

Some commentators accused Constantine with the following three questions:

1. Some people either studied or heard it somewhere suggested whether Constantine made Christianity a legal religion, because he was in which way the political wind is blowing and he wanted to be on the winning side, with this their question was whether he was really born again.
2. They noticed that he was responsible for conveying the council of ‘Nicaea’ in 325 A.D, which had link with “Easter” also and which has connection with the Roman Solar calendar and moved it away from the Hebrews, from this lunar calendar and its Passover connection.
3. As somehow paganized the Christian religion by raising it to the status of in the house Roman empires state religion.

#### What Constantine Accomplished?

And also we have to take into account, what God accomplished through Constantine. There are about 10 salient points the emperor did for the spreading of Christianity.

1. Constantine stopped persecution which was in action for about three hundred years. That is from 64 A.D. to 312 A.D. the Romans ruled and

waged wars about 10 and prosecuted Christians. This brutal and amazing persecution took place once in 25 years in their calculation. They persecuted Christians in every generation and millions of people became victims to that. At the same time millions of prayers had gone to heaven requesting God to save them from the cruel hands of the Roman rulers. It is the opinion of some scholars that God used Constantine to liberate Christians from the cruel hands of the Roman rulers.

God used the services of Constantine to curb this evil attempt of the Romans. So, we must lift our prayers to God saying “Thank you Lord” gives God the glory, but we should not speak ill of Constantine the great. The ceasing of persecution would suffice to call him with that title.

2. Constantine made Christianity an authorized religion. He did many more things for Christians on humanitarian grounds. As he stopped killing of Christians, he also stopped future mass slaughter of innocent people by making Christianity an approved religion with the following conditions.
  - a) Christians can openly read and possess the New Testament.
  - b) Christians can hold their church ministries or meetings openly without any fear.
  - c) Christians can openly take part in the Lord’s Supper without accusation.
  - d) Church edifices must be rebuilt at least and it must be remembered.
3. He himself proclaimed as Christian and supported Christian causes. Now we see Emperor Constantine fully and publicly accepted Christianity. It is really surprising to come across such national leaders, who would stand up for their faith in Christ, and Constantine was one of such leaders. He professed his faith in Christ, openly, clearly and publicly, though he was a government leader and official. He fearlessly proclaimed himself a true Christian believer. He did not care for the consequences.
4. He sent his mother Helena to the holy land to locate ancient Christian sites and build shrines over the holy places. Helena was a Christian

scholar a pious and energetic woman. She was popularly known as “Saint Helena” among the Eastern Orthodox Roman Catholic churches, and also Anglican and Lutheran churches. She was honored with a little “Augusta Imperatrix”, which means “Revered Royal Lady”. As she was supported by the royal treasury, she made her journey to Israel to locate Biblical Holy places. The days were such that Christianity had become permitted faiths and no longer persecuted church buildings were built. Therefore, Eusebius wrote that Helen built the “church of Nativity” in Bethlehem and the “church of Ascension”, on the Mount of Olives to mark the three traditional holy sites.

Helena also identified two more sites outside the walls of Jerusalem. Those two places were Christ was crucified and buried. She believed that she was guided by God to locate the place of crucifixion outside west of Jerusalem. And it was confirmed by three pieces of ancient wood signifying three crosses, when they dug into the hill Constantine constructed the church of the Holy Sepulcher. This church was built with two large connected rounder’s the larger one over the burial tomb and the other over the rock of Calvary. Apart from all she did, she selected some more places to build churches in commemoration of Biblical events. Today many Protestants prefer the nearby “garden tomb” as the site of the crucifixion and resurrection. In other land marks, she built a chapel at Senai Mount peninsular where St. Catherine’s Monastery is still there Constantine asked Eusebius to write about his early life of Christianity. Constantine gave complete liberty and encouragement to Eusebius. So that he could give the Ecclesiastical History which was considered by many as the finest and most detailed account of about 300 years of Christian era. It was originally written in Greek. It contained the origin of each of the gospels. Eusebius was the contemporary of Constantine a Roman of Greek Lineage. He was brilliant pious and staunch founder of Christian faith. He quoted extensively from the writings which were no more to be found. He wrote the full details about the vision of Apostle John in Revelation.

Anyone who was doubtful about the authenticity and genuineness of John's or Matthew's gospels should read Ecclesiastical detailed history, and their faith be strengthened. Constantine ordered for 50 copies of the New Testament to be written on the best parchments. It is said, it is our oldest New Testament.

We have to remember one important thing here that is there are many parchments of individual New Testament books, which were centuries older. Than one sumailtieus and secone veticanus but these two were the oldest complete Bibles. It is believed by many that these two earliest Bibles were among those 50 which were commanded by Constantine to copy from the ancient manuscripts. Eusebites said that Constantine ordered for copying. He declared that he wanted to hold a meeting of 'Nicaea' which was about 45 miles from Constantine nople. And for that marathon conference about 2000 delegates were invited. The result of that council was the 'Nicaea creed' which announced that the scriptures teach and demand the diety of Christ and a truing nature of God, according to John 1:1 + 4:10 by 10:30 Matthew 28:18-20, Revelation 1:8-20; The Nicaea creed" reads as follows. "We believe in one God, father Almighty master of heaven and earth, and of all time visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God begotten of the father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light – very God of very God, begotten not made being of one substance, with the father by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnated by the Holy spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man and was crucified also, for us under Pontius Pilate. He was crucified and buried and on the third day he rose from the dead, according to the scriptures; and ascended into heaven and sat on the right hand of the father. And he shall come again with glory and he shall judge both guilty and dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life who proceeded from the father and the son added in the 4<sup>th</sup> century in the west who with

the father and the son together are worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one Holy catholic and apostatic church; who acknowledge on Baptism for the remission of sin. And we look for the resurrection for the dead, and the life of the world to come Amen.

Constantine also asked the council of Nicaea to settle the date of the resurrection Holy day “Easter”. Many Christian today do not give respect to the Christian calendar as it was done in the past centuries. The resurrection was commonly called Easter. It was because of Germans, who settled in Rome in the fifth century called it “Osteen” which means ‘Easter’ or sunrise some others suggested “Easter” come from eistri the pagan goddess of dawn from the pagan origin. Such as goddess “Ashhari” (of ahonician) and ishera. (Babylonian). The main issue here was that Christians have been observing Good Friday across the whole empire (on the day Christ was crucified) and a resurrection on different days Constantine listened to the words of Bishops patiently and finally declared that the whole church should observe resurrection on the same day but again referred the problem to the council. The council after prayer and debate, decided not to put on the same fixed date but to make it changeable feast.

And also Christian at that time did not want to depend upon the Jewish rabbinical for the contribution of the festival. It was also called, lunar celebration which used to be adjusted every few years. So, the resurrection day was to be celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon, following the bond vernal equinox (the paschal full moon). This festival was put near the Jewish Passover in the month of Nisan, which was the first month according to Jewish calendar. After studying all that and the conditions, Constantine wrote, when the question arose, concerning the most Holy day of ‘Easter’. It was decided by common consent that this festival should be celebrated on the same day by all churches everywhere. This judgment became problematic issue, and this issue made to pray by one and all; because from the celebration of the festival we resume the hope of immortality. Emperor Constantine established Constantinople as

head quarters of Christianity for about 1000 years. As a matter of fact the western Christians did not pay any attention toward the Eastern history and their affairs. However, from 325 to 1453 Constantinople fell into the hands of “Ottoman Turk”, actually it stood as the strong capital to Constantine. This part of Roman Empire had become a base for Christian faith. After Constantine emperor Justinian ruled that part of empire from 527 – 565 A.D. He could rule this part of the empire, with his strong and powerful wife “Theodora”. By standing at his side, she proved herself to be the back ground and also the back-bone of the emperor. And also both laid a strong foundation for the East for their strong faith.

The pope had given complete liberty thereby even claimed supremacy over everything. Finally, Constantine crowned the pope as king. As a result they dispised everything they ruled the empire like kings stopped cruceeds with all powers and influence. All these things took place only because Constantine changed his office to the East with byzantine as his capital which later became Constantine nople. The Bishop was given full powers as king in the west. This action of making the Bishop as the king to the western empire was like a donation of Constantine to the Bishop of Rome and the west. But this was treated as forgery for 400 years, after the death of Constantine. This forgery contained the suppressed decree of Constantine, that after his death the authority and the ownership of the city of Rome and the western portion of the Roman Empire were bequeathed to the Bishop of Rome. This document was used again in thirteenth century to support papal claims of ownership, lands far beyond the Vatican and authority over the entire empire. When it was still debated by Lorango villa, an Italian Catholic priest in 1440. The outcome of all that was people need not misunderstand the morality of the emperor Constantine, for entirely giving the empire to the pope. Here, what we learn from the life history of Constantine as Christian. We should remember him always for the extensive work he had done for the Christianity. Apart from all that he had done to the Christians, many things. It was he who made Christianity a national

religion. It was he who made the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. It was he, who demolished all heathen temples built by King Solomon to please his heathen wives, and built churches at 'Bal-Beck'. Finally though it was mentioned already it is worth to remember again that it was he who abolished the cross punishment forever. So, to say both the Jews and Christians were very happy in his reign.

Eusebitus gave his personal opinion about his dear friend Constantine. He wanted to speak volumes about his friend but there was no enough space, for that. If we look into the history of Constantine, we can do nothing but praise him for his noble qualities, for his humanity and for his believing the true God and Christ in his life. As he did a lot for Christianity, the emperor received abundant blessings for himself in his life and for his people. We see in the writings of Eusebitus that Constantine was his personal friend. He was the finest and most pious Christian ruler who ever lived. Here is an excerpt about him.

And God himself whom Constantine worshipped has, confirmed this truth by the clearest manifestation of his well being present to him at the commencement, during the course and at the end of his reign and holding him up to the human race as an instructive example of godliness. Accordingly by the manifold blessings he has conferred on him. He distinguished him alone of all the sovereigns of whom we have ever heard as at once, a mighty humanity

This brief study on the life of Emperor Constantine would certainly throw light on the movement of Christian history and provide some valuable information that might encourage the believers to estimate their impression about the first Christian emperor from Roman rulers.

Important accomplishments of Constantine in Nut shell.

1. He stopped the persecutions
2. He made Christianity an approved religion
3. He sent his mother to the Holy land to locate Christian sites and build shrines over them.

4. He proclaimed himself Christian and followed Christian causes.
5. Eusebitus to write his early history of Christian life.
6. Ordered 50 copies of the New Testament to be written on the best parchment.
7. Convinced the council of Nicaea in 325 A.D, which settled the question of Christ's deity.
8. Asked the council to settle the date of resurrection as Holy Day.
9. Established the city of Constantinople to remain as the capital for the entire Eastern Christian world for 1000 years.
10. He moved the chief emperor's capital to the East which had great repercussion for western Christianity.

Apart from all those things, he changed the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. He built four churches namely: -

1. The church of Annuciation in Nazareth. The house of Joseph and Mary was changed into a church.
2. He built the church of Nativity in Bethlehem on the birth place of Jesus Christ.
3. He built a church in Christian colony which is called the church of the Holy Sepulchre on the way to the holy Sepulchre.
4. He built a church called the church of Helena on the Mount Olive in memory of his mother and also destroyed the heathen temples built by King Solomon, to please his heathen wives and built churches in that place called Baal Beck. So, what Emperor Constantine did for the Christianity, no other person would have done in the entire world.



# ***NAMES OF GOD***

**ADONAI** - The Lord My Great Lord

God is the Master and majestic Lord. God is our total authority.

**EL** - The Strong One

He is more powerful than any false god. God will overcome all obstacles.

We can depend on God.

**EL ELOHE YISRAEL** - God, the God of Israel

The God of Israel is distinct and separate from all false gods of the world.

**EL ELYON** - The God Most High

He is the Sovereign God in whom we can put our trust. El Elyon has supremacy over all false gods.

**ELOHIM** – The All-Powerful One Creator

God is the all-powerful creator of the universe. God knows all, creates all, and is everywhere at all times. The plural of “El”.

**EL OLAM** - The Eternal God. The Everlasting God

He is the Beginning and the End, the One who works his purposes throughout the ages. He gives strength to the weary

**EL ROI** - The God Who Sees Me

There are no circumstances in our lives that escape his fatherly awareness and care. God knows us and our troubles.

**EL SHADDAI** - The All Sufficient One, God is Mountains, God Almighty

The God is the all-sufficient source of all of our blessings. God is all-powerful. Our problems are not too big for God to handle.

## **IMMANUEL** - God with Us "I AM"

Jesus is God in our midst. In him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

## **JEHOVAH** - "I AM," The One Who Is The Self-Existent One

God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, he is faithful. We need to obey him.

## **JEHOVAH-JIREH** - The Lord Will Provide

Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. God will meet all our needs.

## **JEHOVAH MEKADDISHKEM** - The Lord Who Sanctifies

God sets us apart as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy unto God, a people of his own. He cleanses our sin and helps us mature.

## **JEHOVAH-NISSI** - The Lord Is My Banner

God gives us victory against the flesh, the world and the devil. Our battles are His battles of light against darkness and good against evil.

## **JEHOVAH-RAPHA** The Lord Who Heals

God has provided the final cure for spiritual, physical, and emotional sickness in Jesus Christ. God can heal us.

## **JEHOVAH-ROHI** - The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord protects, provides, directs, leads, and cares for his people. God tenderly takes care of us as a strong and patient shepherd.

## **JEHOVAH- SABAOth** The Lord of Hosts The Lord of Armies

The Lord of the hosts of heaven will always fulfill his purposes, even when the hosts of his earthly people fail.

**JEHOVAH- SHALOM** The Lord Is Peace

God defeats our enemies to bring us peace. Jesus is our Prince of Peace.

God brings inner peace and harmony.

**JEHOVAH- SHAMMAH** - The Lord Is There the Lord My  
Companion

God's presence is not limited or contained in the tabernacle or temple, but is accessible to all who love and obey him.

**JEHOVAH- TSIDKENU** - The Lord Our Righteousness

Jesus is the King who would come from David's line, and is the one who imparts his righteousness to us.

**YAH, OR JAH** "I AM," The One Who Is the Self-Existent One

God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, he is faithful. God promises his continuing presence.

**YHWH** - "I AM," The One Who Is the Self-Existent One

God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless. He is faithful

# ***JESUS and the Names of GOD***

The New Testament alludes to Jesus' divine nature by comparing Jesus to several names and attributes used for God. Here are a few examples of Jesus being compared to God.

**JESUS IS GOD** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”—John 1:1

**JESUS IS ONE WITH GOD**

Jesus said, “I and the Father are one.”—John 10:30

**JESUS IS ETERNAL** Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.” —Revelation 1:17

**JESUS IS OMNIPRESENT**

Omnipresent means “present everywhere”

“And God placed all things under his [Christ's] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”—Ephesians 1:22-23

**JESUS IS OMNISCIENT** Omniscient means “all-knowing”

Peter said, “Lord, you know all things ... “—John 21:17

**JESUS IS LIFE GIVING**

“In him [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.”

John 1:4

## **JESUS IS EL OLAM**

The Beginning and the End: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”—Revelation 22:13

## **JESUS IS YHWH-JIREH**

The Lord will Provide: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:35

**JESUS IS YHWH-ROHI** The Lord is my Shepherd: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11

## **JESUS IS YHWH-TSIDKENU**

The Lord is Righteousness: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God-2

Corinthians 5:21

## **JESUS IS YHWH-RAPHA**

The Lord Who Heals: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”-1 Peter 2:24

**JESUS IS EL SHADDAI The All** Sufficient One: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”-2 Cor 12:9

**JESUS IS IMMANUEL** God with Us: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God with us’).”—Matthew 1:23

## **JESUS IS YHWH-SHALOM**


The Lord is Peace: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

John 14:27

**Hearty Greetings to all the Readers in Jesus Name  
from Author and Family**







The Author of this 9th Book  
who is now 80 years old

Rev. Sundara Rao Tsappidi, is a renowned writer and preacher. He is the third child of five children of Mr. Philip Tsappidi and Mrs. Rojamma Philip. He had his primary education at Tarlupadu Boarding School, near Markapur, Prkasam District and completed college education at Andhra Christian College, Guntur. He obtained Masters Degree in English Language and Literature from Sagar University, Madhya Pradesh. He was honored with D. Litt. by Bethlehem University, Chennai in 2012. He was married to Grace Vijaya, a Mathematics Teacher and they had three children, David Ravi Kumar, Beaula and Samuel Kiran Kumar. After retirement he went to the USA with his wife Mrs. Grace Vijaya to live with his children. One day he had a dream. In it God extended the span of his life and asked him to go and preach the Gospel. This incident became a turning point in his life. SAfter visiting the Holy Land with his wife, when he prayed in tears for the gift of writing. God blessed him with the skill of writing. He published 9 books altogether including "The Mysteries of the Mysterious God". At the time of the publication of this books, he is eighty years old and still has the zeal to write books glorifying God.

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