



# **The Burning Bush - Online article archive**

**JERUSALEM IN THE NEWS - NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**

**By Rev Ivan Foster.**

***The first part of this message was preached in Bangor Free Presbyterian Church, Lord's Day, 23rd November, in the evening meeting.***

**The Christian is blessed with a wonderful knowledge of the future, both that which is related to this earth and its affairs and that which is related to eternity.**

**We are required by the Author of this knowledge - the Lord Jesus Christ - to share it. That is why we preach the gospel and engage in many forms of missionary enterprises. In like fashion we should also engage in the propagation of prophetic truth.**

## **Confusion**

The devil desires to confound, corrupt and distort both aspects of God's truth. He is the author of the many "alternative gospels" offered to men today. He is also the author of the confusion that surrounds prophecy.

Such is the confusion he has sown that many believers, including ministers, believe that it is a futile and foolish thing to study what the Bible has to say about prophecy.

What folly!!

## **'Wiser than mine enemies'**

How can it possibly be a waste of time to study God's Word? Heed the Psalmist's words in Psalm 119. "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," verses 98-105.

Certainly, the psalmist did not consider the study of any portion of God's Word to be a foolish, futile exercise.

How deep and perplexing are the various topics within Scriptural Theology and yet we do not shun from studying them in order to seek out their truth and also to teach them to our children.

Why then this unreasonable view of prophecy?

## **The answer**

I believe the answer to this is that the devil would seek to hide the dreadful doom that he and all who heed his lies will inevitably suffer, in consequence of their rebellion against God. Something of that fact is seen in Revelation 12:12. "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

The devil knows what awaits him, since it is recorded in the Bible. He does not accept what he reads but, in his unbelieving, rebellious mind, hopes yet to defeat God and usurp His throne. Nevertheless, he hates to read what is written about his future and hates that others should become aware of it also. Hence his rage, as recorded here in Revelation 12:12. He sees prophecy being fulfilled and knows (perceives with his eyes) that the time of his overthrow, as depicted in Scripture, is drawing near. The net is closing around him inexorably and he rages against that fact!



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For this reason, he does not want you to read and study what God says about his ignominious end and his schemes and devices, whereby he seeks to entangle men in his doomed attempts at dethroning God. Were you to become informed of these schemes then you would recognise the devil's machinations in the world today and, as a Christian, adopt the correct attitude and action against his wicked deceits.

That the devil wishes to avoid at all costs!

I wish to engage in a little prophetic study this evening.

Jerusalem holds a special place within Scripture. Here is God's definition of the city. "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King," Psalm 48:2.

The Saviour endorses this exalted view of Jerusalem in His sermon on the mount. "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King," Matthew 5:34-35.

The Saviour would have us today regard Jerusalem as it is described. The Psalmist's portrait of Jerusalem is not merely an Old Testament perception which has passed away as a result of the rift between God and his ancient people Israel, and the judgment which befell the city in AD 70 and which, in truth, rests upon it to this day. No, the affection felt for Jerusalem in the Old Testament continues today.

### Tears

That affection and love was displayed by the Saviour when He beheld the city from the heights of the Mount of Olives as it is recorded in Luke 13:34-35. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

The love of Christ for the city is painted vividly for us in His tears. But please note that despite the dreadful sin which Jerusalem is about to commit, the rejection and crucifixion of her Messiah, God's links with the city and the people will not be severed forever! Their house may be left 'desolate' for a time but there is a future restoration mentioned. "Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

The Lord would have His people to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee," Psalm 122:6. Yes, though estranged from God because of sin and rebellion, yet the city and the people still are beloved of God. Is not the chastening which has long befallen that city a token of God's continuing love? "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Hebrews 12:5-7.

This Jerusalem is very much in the news today but it will be even more so in the not too distant future.

I wish to look at what is revealed to us regarding some aspects of the future of Jerusalem in this age.

### **I. THE PRESENT HATRED OF JERUSALEM WILL CULMINATE IN A FURIOUS ATTACK UPON IT BY THE ANTICHRIST**

Zechariah 12 and 14 speak of that savage attack. "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall



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be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it," Zechariah 12:2-3.

"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city," Zechariah 14:2.

**1. This attack will come very close to the end of this age.** Note the words that we read in Zechariah 14:1. "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee." Here is God's time stamp upon this event. It is part of the run-up to the "Day of the Lord"!

Furthermore, the time of these events is further indicated in Zechariah 14:3-4. "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east . . ." Can there be any doubt about what is referred to here in these words? Surely it is the fulfilment of the promise given to the apostles as they stood on the Mount of Olives and gazed up into heaven at the departing, ascending Saviour. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey," Acts 1:9-12.

Zechariah informs us of the Saviour's return to the Mount of Olives and it is in response to the cruel attack upon Jerusalem by their ancient enemies under the Antichrist.

**2. The attack upon Jerusalem is the Antichrist's final fling.** It resembles what we read of in Mark 9:25-27. "When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose." Here is a very clear picture of the petulant wrath of the devil when he is frustrated in his purpose. That will be manifested terribly in this attack upon Jerusalem.

**3. This is the time of 'Jacob's Trouble'.** We are told especially that Jerusalem will be trodden under foot by the Gentiles for a specific but short period at the end of this age.

Ever since the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, it has been the lot of the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem to be subjugated by her enemies. "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled," Luke 21:24.

### Another siege

There will be yet another occasion when "ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies," Luke 21:20.

That event is referred to by the Saviour in Matthew 24. "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains," verses 15-16.

This is not to be confused with the events of AD 70 when the Romans overthrew Jerusalem and which the Saviour refers to in Luke 21:24, quoted above. AD 70 was followed by Jerusalem being trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. That 'time' has extended for over 1900 years!

### 'Immediately'

However, the events depicted by the Saviour in Matthew 24: 15-16 are not followed by 1900 years of Gentile



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subjugation but the Saviour explicitly says: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be," Matthew 24:21. Here is tribulation greater than that of AD 70, great indeed as that was! Greater than the unspeakable wickedness of Hitler's slaughter of 6 million Jews in World War II!

Furthermore, the time of this attack upon Jerusalem and the tribulation which it prompts is clearly identified by the Saviour in His words which follow. "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. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other," Matthew 24:29-31.

Nothing can be clearer than this. There is to be a future attack upon Jerusalem involving the Antichrist and his ten-kingdom confederacy, mentioned in Revelation 17:12-14. "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." The period of tribulation ushered in by the attack will be immediately followed by the visible, glorious return of the Lord Jesus.

This entirely agrees with what Zechariah says in the passages before us.

### How long?

Just how long will this period of tribulation last? It is that time referred to by Jeremiah: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it," Jeremiah 30:7.

That time of trouble for Israel is mentioned in a number of places. Here is what Daniel says of that time. "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him," Daniel 7:24-27.

The phrase, "they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time" refers to 1 year, 2 years, plus half a year which, of course, equals three and a half years.

### No room for doubt

That we may have no doubts about the length of this period, the Lord employs two other measurements. "And there was given unto him (the beast, the Antichrist) a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months," Revelation 13:5.

Again, this measurement appears in Revelation 11:2. "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months"

The other measurement used by God regarding this period of tribulation is seen in Revelation 11:3. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." This measurement is also used in Revelation 12:6, when it refers to the preser-



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vation of the godly remnant in Jerusalem during that tribulation. "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

So, the Lord, in order to emphasise the length of the period of the tribulation, states it using three different numerical expressions. We employ the same method of emphasis when we wish to underscore a length of time. One might well say to a friend, "I hope to be home again on the 21st of the month, in three weeks' time. I am going to be away for twenty-one days."

By this method of employing three different terms of duration, the Lord leaves no room for doubt as to the length of the great tribulation.

### Purpose of the trouble

What must be stated here is the purpose that God is working out in this period of tribulation. Zechariah 13:8-9 tells us clearly. "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."

The leaders of the Jews, in response to Pilate's action at the trial of the Saviour, uttered a terrible statement. "Pilate . . . took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children," Matthew 27:24-25. The consequences of the rejection of Christ and His subsequent death have resulted in the 2000 years of suffering by the Jewish people and it is not finished yet. They have yet to pass through that tribulation out of which the Lord will save a third of them. There is a glorious hope for the remnant of the Jews God has purposed to save. "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. "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness," Zechariah 13:1.

The salvation of a remnant of one third of the people of Israel under Antichrist's oppression is God's purpose and "that day" of salvation is, of course, the day of the Lord's return when He will deliver Jerusalem and end the Antichrist's reign.

## II. DURING THE 42 MONTHS OF ANTICHRIST'S TRAMPLING DOWN OF JERUSALEM, THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION WILL STAND IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD

**1. The Jews will build again the temple.** Ask any Muslim for he has no doubts! There are believers who will scoff at the idea of the Jews building a new temple in Jerusalem. Their scoffing is of the same spirit as was manifested in those who scoffed at the idea of the Jews returning to their own land and being once again constituted as a nation! That scoffing was very much to the fore, in times prior to 1948, whenever such a claim was made on the basis of what Ezekiel 36:24 states: "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."

Again, this same truth is proclaimed by Joel in chapter 3, verses 1-2, 20. "For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. . . . But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation,"

**2. It is in the rebuilt temple that the idol, will be raised. So states Paul.** "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is wor-



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shipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness," 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12.

The phrase, "the temple of God" has never been employed in the Bible of any building other than that structure associated with the worship of Jehovah.

**3. It is thus that the devil will seek to establish his kingdom centred in that city which God, in Psalm 46:4, has called His own.** " . . . the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High."

This is the purpose of the devil. I believe his ambitions, his arrogance and his final doom are clearly stated in Isaiah 14:12-15. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

So will end the machinations and wicked tyranny of this arch imposter and usurper. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever," Revelation 20:10.

### **III. DESPITE THE DEVIL'S DOMINANCE OF JERUSALEM, DURING THE TIME OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION, GOD WILL MAINTAIN HIS WITNESS**

At the very time of Antichrist's brief supremacy in Jerusalem, God will raise up two great witnesses. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will," Revelation 11:3-6. That these events will take place in Jerusalem is made clear in the verse 8. "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

**1. It will be a witness accompanied by great miracles.** They will be endued by the Holy Ghost and perform wonderful miracles, Revelation 11:3-6. They are men endued with the power of the Holy Ghost therefore the Holy Spirit has not been removed from the earth during the "great tribulation" as the advocates of the "secret rapture" would claim. In truth, there is no removing of the saints of God nor the Holy Ghost from the earth prior to the tribulation, as advocated by the disciples of J N Darby. It is utterly without foundation. Rather, the righteous and the wicked will dwell together on this earth as taught by the Saviour in the parable of the Wheat and Tares. "He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world (or age); and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world (or age). The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear," Matthew 13:37-43. The wicked and righteous "grow



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together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." There will be no secret separation of the wheat and the tares but both shall continue until the Lord sends His angels forth to gather the wicked from among the righteous!

**2. The two witnesses will be untouchable.** "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed," verse 5.

Such events as those set forth here will, of course, indicate to the believer that the coming of the Lord draws very near indeed. The wonderful, headline-grabbing actions of these two men are to continue for forty two months and then the Lord will return.

**3. In God's time, they will be slain by Antichrist.** "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven," Revelation 11:7-13.

Antichrist could not move against these witnesses until they had "finished their testimony." There was a hedge around them like that which protected Job. "Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land," Job 1:9-10.

God is on the throne, even in the day of the devil's ascendancy! Fear not Christian, God's cause shall prevail.

But sinner please note that even then, in the hour of the devil's apparent triumph, there will be evidence of the futility of man's rebellion. God will raise His two witnesses from the dead and strike the perpetrators with judgment. "And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven." Sinner take heed!

### IV. IT IS TO JERUSALEM THAT CHRIST WILL RETURN

This blighted city, so rent by conflict and grief today and even more so in times to come, will be the setting for the greatest and most glorious event in the history of mankind - the coming of Christ "in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory," Matthew 24:30. He will return to the very spot from which He departed, un lamented except for a few believers. "This same Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven," Acts 1:11. This departure took place on the outskirts of Jerusalem in full view of the city. In like fashion Christ shall come again. So saith the Scriptures!

**1. Do not believe that God has finished with the people of Israel.** There are those who fly in the face of God's Word and say that He has!! How wrong they are! Listen to God's Word. "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid," Romans 11:1. Again, read God's Word. "For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is



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written. There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins," Romans 11:24-27.

Just the other day in my daily reading, I read from 1 Chronicles 16:13-18. "O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations; even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; and hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant, Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance," 1 Chronicles 16:13-18. God has not forsaken His people though for a time He has withdrawn His light and blessing. He will return unto them again with great mercy. "Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer," Isaiah 54:4-8.

**2. His coming again will result in their conversion.** We have already noted this but it is worth considering again, is it not?

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 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. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; all the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart. In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness," Zechariah 12:9-13:1.

**3. Thus will be ushered in the age of blessedness with Jerusalem at its fount.** "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD," Isaiah 2:1-5.

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts," Zechariah 14:16-21.





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### Denial

These glorious days of the Saviour's Millennial Reign are mentioned in many places though foolish men seek to deny that it shall be so.

"And in the days of these kings (Antichrist and his ten kings) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever," Daniel 2:44.

"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 worshipped 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years," Revelation 20:4-6.

Amen and amen.

Ivan Foster.

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