

Lesson 14

Jesus verses Satan, a Comparison

Where To Go From Here

Now that we have learned how to study the Bible, by continuously asking questions of God in prayer and then looking for the answers as he gives us direction, lets continue with coming to an understanding of who Satan is, who and what his anti-Christ is, and then who and what his False Prophet is. In so doing, we will see the contrast between the two gospels.

Two Gospels

Remember: Satan is attempting to replace the Church of Christ which is founded upon God's Holy Gospel with Satan's false church, which is founded upon Satan's false gospel. For you to be able to tell one from the other you need to understand who Jesus is.

Remember Too: knowing the identity of the anti-Christ will not lead you to salvation, but knowing who God-Jesus is and acting on this knowledge will show you the way to Redemption and Salvation.

Prophets of the End of Days

God provides us the answers as to who Satan and his anti-Christ and the False Prophet is through his Prophets. The primary Prophets that relate to the identity of the anti-Christ are Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the apostle John.

God provided prophets, to give warning to the nation and people of Israel, as well as give future predictions of events to happen hundreds and in some cases thousands of years into the future. This he did as a

way to prove to all who read the prophecies that he God exists, he God is real, and he God is aware of and involved in the affairs of Man, and giving counter measures to the lies and deceptions of Satan. God gives us prophecies because God is saying, **“I am God, and I can proof it.”**

Satan's Personality Revealed

Before we get into the actual prophecies, I want to give you a comparison of who Satan is as opposed to the Christ Jesus (God). One of the tools needed to find out who someone is, is to take a look at their personality and moral character.

The Fallen Foe

*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **Isaiah 14:12***

You could think of these verses as a prophecy of things to come. This above verse is referring to Satan as already having been cut down to the ground. True, Satan has been forced out of Heaven, and down to the Earth, but in Satan's warped mind he is now the ruler of the Earth and all that is upon it belong to him.

An “I” Problem

*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: **Isaiah 14:13***

Did you notice the personality of Satan, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:” Satan is telling us that he will be greater than God, when he says he will be above God. He seems to be afflicted with an “I” problem. To Satan, everything is about him, I, I, I, Me, Me, Me.

An Inferiority Complex

*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. **Isaiah 14:14***

Satan is using God and God's abilities as a measuring stick to give value to his own abilities. Satan is unable to say, "This is what I will do," and build from there, instead he has to say, "I am better than God, I will do better than God." He is using that which he intends to replace as a measuring stick to what he brags he can do. I have always considered people like that to be weak, self-centered, in short, losers. In my experience, it is rare when anyone with this kind of personality ever achieves anything of worth. This is a personality common among a few people I have met. They have to compare their abilities to the very person they are telling everyone that they are better than, which tells me, on top of having an "I" problem, they have an inferiority complex.

Brought Down

*Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. **Isaiah 14:15***

Here is the prophecy of a future event, God is telling Satan and those who read the Bible, that Satan has already lost the struggle, that his destiny is the pit of Hells Fire.

A Man of Scorn

*They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, "Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;" **Isaiah 14:16***

To narrowly look upon someone is to look at them with skepticism and loathing, as someone who is untrustworthy.

A Destroyer of Worlds

*That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? **Isaiah 14:17***

Again God gives us prediction of the destruction Satan has and will bring upon the Earth and in the hearts of angels and Man alike. In this verse, God is revealing Satan as having already destroyed the cities of the world, which is prophesied in the Book of Revelation to occur during the Great War in the End of Days.

*All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, everyone in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. **Isaiah 14:18-19***

Consider these two verses as God showing his derision for the individual Lucifer, and all that he has established in the station as Satan.

Remember: The word Satan does not just speak of Lucifer, but also all who follow his gospel, angels and men who fall from the Grace of God are Satan. Either you love God or you hate God, there is no middle road.

Lucifer's Intent

Getting back to the above verses, what this all means is as follows:

1. Lucifer says "I will ascend into Heaven," which means, he intends to take the place of God. He was one of only two angles that stood on either side of the throne of God, but that position was not good enough for him. **He endeavors to Go Up.**
2. Lucifer says, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." He covets the Throne of God. **He endeavors to Go Up.**
3. Lucifer says, "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation." He desires others to worship him. **He endeavors to Go Up.**
4. Lucifer says, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds." He intends Dominance and ruler ship over others. **He endeavors to Go Up.**
5. Lucifer says, "I will be like the most High." He intends to supplant, or impersonate God, and assume his place. **He endeavors to Go Up.**

6. Why does Lucifer do this, he wants to “Glorify” himself over all others. Lucifer has an “I” problem, or as I have often times said, a “ME” problem. Everything is about “ME, Me, me,” even at the expense of those who rally around and support him. **He endeavors to Go Up.**

Satan is the Prince of Deception and lies. Keep this next verse in mind, when asking others for answers when you should be looking them up yourself in the Bible and in prayer to God.

Let No Man Deceive YOU

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 God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ▮

Thessalonians 2:3-4

What this means is that Satan will have deceived the whole world, and that they will think he is God, or as I have attempted to point out, Satan will deceive the whole world by substituting his false church and false gospel for all that is of God. Only by understanding the true meaning of the words in the Bible, will you be able to see Satan for himself and God for who he is, the true God. What God is telling us here, is that Satan will have succeeded so well in deceiving mankind, that he will enter in and sit on the throne of God, as if he were God, and mankind will not only believe he is God, but will worship him.

Not a Man

Do not look at this as a Man physically entering into the Temple of God. God uses symbolisms, so think of this as a world religion, with hundreds and thousands of churches, proclaiming to be the Church of Christ. The deception will be so successful, that millions will attend these churches and give worship, but their worship will be in vain, for this religion and its churches preach Satan’s false gospel.

Essence of Deception

Are you one of those being deceived? Do you worship in the Church of Satan, even though you think that you are worshipping in the Church of Christ? How could you possibly know? The essence of deception is that those being deceived have no idea that they are deceived.

Remember too: that the best told lies are those that have 90% truth in them. God requires that you worship him exactly as he commands; therefore he requires 100% truth. With Satan giving you 90% truth with 10% lies mixed in you fall short, and your worship is in vain.

God's Personality Revealed

The Bible is the elixir to Deception. An "Elixir" is a medicine that brings about a cure. Only in studying the Bible, "**Study, don't just read,**" and understanding what God is telling you, will you be able to recognize Satan for who he is, and God for who he is.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 2:5**

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God? **Philippians 2:6**

What this all means is as follows and was revealed to me by the teachings of David Asscherick, of whose writings God introduced me to, though David and I have never actually met.

God Humbles Himself

God leaves his throne in Heaven to become a man, and not a king or great and powerful man, but a lowly carpenter. This you can say is God giving up his majesty to that of one of no reputation. **God Goes Down.**

But made himself of no reputation, and too upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **Philippians 2:7**

Becomes Subject to Death

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **Philippians 2:8***

Though Jesus is born a free man, he is only one step up from a Bond Servant. God is the creator of the universe, an omnipresent being, yet he takes on the body of a Man, made from the dust of the earth. **God Goes Down.**

Jesus Experiences Death

When he is nailed to the cross, Jesus experiences the pain of death. God is he who is everlasting to everlasting, allows that he should experience death, so that he can say, I have walked in your shoes, and I know your pain. **God Goes Down.**

Not only does he experience death, but allows himself the death of a common criminal. A death invented in the bowls of hell to extract the maximum of pain and suffering, from the one nailed to the cross. **God Goes Down.**

Jesus is Exalted and Glorified

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

Philippians 2:9

*That at the name of “Jesus” every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth; **Philippians 2:10***

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:11

For the Love of his children

Why does God do this? He lowers himself from the Lord of the Universe in order to reclaim his children who have strayed from his truth. He submits himself to this out of love of his children. **God Goes Down.**

From these two descriptions of opposing personalities can you as of yet see the difference in who God is as opposed to who Satan is?

Understanding Prophecy

This following is an excerpt from another of the writings of David Asscherick. There is however, another aspect of the Counterfeiting of God, which Satan resorts to in order to achieve Satan's heart's desire of Going Up.

Purpose of Prophecy

To set the God of the Bible apart from other gods, as the true God.

*Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me. **Isaiah 46:9***

The "**Things of Old,**" refers to the Seven Days of Creation. What God is saying is that he is the Creator, and but for him, there is no other God.

To accurately reveal the future and thus create faith in the heart of the hearer.

*Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: **Isaiah 46:10***

In the Prophecies, God tells us of future events, so that we who now live after these events have occurred can see that they have in fact come to pass. This gives proof that God is real, for whom else but the God of Creation can foretell the future with 100% accuracy?

By God's Pleasure

Take note of the last part of the above verse, “and I will do all my pleasure.” What God is telling us here is that he is God, the creator of all that is, and it is by his pleasure that he created us, and it is by his pleasure, not ours, how he commands that we worship him. If God causes to be written in the Bible, worship me as I tell you to worship me, then you must worship him in that exact way, any addition or subtraction to his pleasure, causes him to see you as attempting to worship him by your pleasure, which is to not worshipping him at all, and that worship will be in vain.

Keep the Commandments of God

*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. **Deuteronomy 4:2***

To reveal to the hearer the thoughts and priorities of the hearers own heart.

God knows your hearts desires better than you do. Though you may not realize it right now, you long for God's love. By coming to understand the prophecies, God will help guide you to becoming intimate with God. Only through intimacy can you truly know love, be it with another human being or with God.

1. To introduce the hearer to the Christ Jesus and his heart's need of him.
2. Bible prophecy serves a moral purpose, to effect conversion and transformation in the heart of the hearer.

Prophecies Point to Two Things

First: the First Advent of the Christ.

Second: The Second Advent of Christ.

Prophecy has three functions

First: to warn the nation and people of Israel that if they continued to neglect the keeping of his Ten Commandments, and their slide into paganism, they risked losing their covenant established between God and Abraham, and then continued with Jacob and then with Moses.

Second: to give accurate foretelling of future human and natural events; thus proving that he God is real, for who else could foretell the future with 100% accuracy?

Third: to foretell the first and second coming of the Christ Jesus and the salvation from sin which his coming offers.

To Assist in the Rebirth of the Soul

The Bible also has the purpose to put those, who study and come to understand the prophecies, through a rebirth of their personalities and character, (of their soul), from one of sin to someone who abhors sin, and worshipers of God as God commands that he be worshiped.

Though you may be a non-believer, or think you worship God, but are in fact worshiping the False God, once you understand the Prophecies, you will be converted to the true faith in the true God, because the lies of Satan will be manifest to you for the lies that they are.

Satan Endeavors to Hide the Truth

Little wonder then why Satan has done his best to keep the truth from us by telling us, “**The Ten Commandments no longer are an aspect of Christians worship, because Christians are above the law, and are saved by the grace of Jesus.**”

History Told Before it Happens

In order to understand who and what the anti-Christ is, you need to be taken through a history course of the role Satan has played in effecting the affairs of Man. I will not take you all the way back to the Garden of Eden, but to around the year 630 BC, and the prophecies of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Then we will go to the Book of Revelation, which are the predictions of events yet to happen and thus most immediate to our need for understanding.

It is not my intent to go over every verse in the books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, but to point out those prophecies that God gave to them which give support and understanding to the End Time prophecies of the Books of Daniel and Revelation.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel

In God's redresses given against the Nation of Israel in the Books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, you can see the comparison between what God stands for and therefore commands of his children, and what Satan stands for in his opposition to the Ways of God.

As I studied the Book of Jeremiah I could not help but to see that history is repeating itself. In Jeremiah, God is venting his anger and frustration with the people of the Nation of Israel, but I see these warnings as being pertinent today as they were all those centuries ago. Those that call themselves Christian, are as the Jews were back then, so certain of their good standing with God, that they do not see their error or their sins. As with the destruction of the Nation of Israel, this world that we live in today will soon be destroyed. So as you read do not look at this as a history lesson of people of long ago, but compare it to you and your church, and your personal transgressions against God.

Book of Jeremiah

At around 629 BC, Jeremiah, still but a boy began to have visions from God. The first recorded prophecy he is given is revealed in the following verses.

A Prophecy of the End of a nation

*Then the Lord said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land. **Jeremiah 1:14***

From out of the North

*For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set everyone his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah. **Jeremiah 1:15***

Vengeance Upon a Nation

*And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands. **Jeremiah 1:16***

Because of their sins, in falling away from the Ten Commandments, and worshiping other gods, and graven images made with their own hands, God intends to send an army against the cities of Israel, including the city of Jerusalem.

Is God at Fault?

*Thus saith the Lord, “What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?” **Jeremiah 2:5***

God is asking the question of those alive during the time of Jeremiah, “What iniquity, or what are my short fallings, that you and your fathers should stop worshiping me.” In other words, God questions if there is something wrong with him, that makes his children turn away from him.

Redress against Israel

In the next several verses, God lays out his redress with the people of Israel.

Pagan Gods given worship

*For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. **Jeremiah 2:10-11***

In these two verses, God is explaining that these other peoples, who are pagan, have not changed the way they worship their gods, which are not gods at all. For many generations these people of Chittim and Kedar, have upheld the dogma of their believe system, with respect and dedication. Yet the children of Israel have changed the way they worship the true God, the same God who brought them out of the slavery of Egypt, despite all the miracles that they witnessed with their own eyes.

Warning of God's Wrath

Jeremiah goes on to give warning after warning of God's wrath, and the impending destruction of the cities of Judah. Not only do the people of Israel not listen, they grow tired of Jeremiah's denunciations of them and his predictions of doom and gloom.

Two Evils

*Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. **Jeremiah 2:12-13***

The fountain of living waters is a reference to God the giver of life. But for God giving life to the Earth, this planet would be just another dead rock circling around an insignificant star.

Broken Cisterns, is a reference to the Pagan Idols, and the fact that they have no life, and therefore have no ability in giving life. A “**Cistern**” is another name for **a man made reservoir**.

I don't know, if I were told by one who I knew to be a prophet of God, that I should be horribly afraid because of my sins, and that I am desolate because of them, that I would believe them. I would like to think that I would take notice of the prophets words, and take a look at myself and compare my actions with those espoused by the Ten Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus, but unless put in that situation, I can't know for sure.

I look around me at all who I have had conversations with, that have heard my warnings of their error and that they are deceived by Satan, yet they reject what I say, thinking that they are already saved in Jesus and therefore have nothing else to learn. In this then, I have an understanding of God's frustration with the Jews during the time of Jeremiah.

A Mighty Nation

*Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the Lord: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say. **Jeremiah 5:15***

In this verse God is informing the people of Israel, that this nation that God will send to destroy them is not one of the many nations that they have fought with in the past, but a new nation, unknown to them, and that even the language that the people of this nation speaks will be unknown to them.

Why Does God do this?

*And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, “Wherefore doeth the Lord our God all these things unto us?” Then shalt thou answer them, “Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours.” **Jeremiah 5:19***

Jeremiah is giving prophecy of dire times that will befall the Nation of Israel, in the near future from the time that he speaks these words, given to him by God. This is a prediction of the people of Israel being reduced back into the slavery that they had before Moses. God is also giving prediction of an event that occurs between

Ezekiel and the elders of Israel, how they will inquire of God, why he is allowing the Babylonians to wreak havoc on his people. They inquire, because they are so ignorant of the fact that they are in violation of God's Word, they can't see why God would intend to punish them.

Blind as the Jews

History has a way of repeating itself, and to me this is as it is today with the Christians. The prophecies of the End of Days are directed at the Christians, but they don't see it as them, but as all other religions of the world that God is venting his anger upon. I see the Christians of my time to be as blind as the Jews of Jeremiah's time were.

Let all the world know God's Wrath

*Hear O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor thou my law, but rejected it. **Jeremiah 6:19***

Not only is God giving warning about the army (Babylonian) that is fast approaching, even though the people of Israel are not aware of its approach at the time Jeremiah makes these predictions, but he gives reason why he is so infuriated, that they have forsaken his laws, the Laws of God, which are the Ten Commandments. Jeremiah repeats God's warnings to the people and the rulers, but no one believes and no one wants to hear.

A Warning to the Christians

This should serve as a warning to you who are reading these pages, God is telling the nation of Israel, that because its people have stopped keeping his laws, the Ten Commandments, he intends to bring a time of tribulation upon them, and to destroy the Nation of Israel, and send its survivors into slavery of a foreign king. God does this to his chosen people, therefore how can you believe that he does not require Christians to keep his Ten Commandments, and as the Christians for the most part, don't keep God's Commandments, he will bring evil upon them as well?

Today, we are already in the first months of the Great War, and as I have shown in the Chapter titled, "The Great War," the holocaust warned about in Revelations, where one third of the Earth, the sea and Man will

die, is but a few weeks away, few have heard my words, and even fewer have wanted to hear my warning. Those who I have spoken to prefer to continue on in their lives as if the world will last forever.

Amend Your Ways

Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel “Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.” **Jeremiah 7:3**

If the people of Israel, will yet amend their ways, and return to the true faith of God, which is the keeping of the Ten Commandments, then he God will prevent this alien army (Babylon) from doing them any harm. This warning is valid for Christians of today as well. For the most part Christians do not keep the Ten Commandments, or only keep some but not all, which is the same as not keeping any of them. The Word of God must be obeyed in its entirety, not piece meal, it is all or nothing.

God's Promise

For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; **Jeremiah 7:5**

In this verse God is giving a specific iniquity that the Jews are guilty of. Evidently, the Law of Moses is not being served equally against all citizens, that some are given preferential treatment over others.

If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your heart: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever. **Jeremiah 7:6-7**

If the people of Israel return to the true and correct worship of God, as given in the Ten Commandments and the Commandments of Moses, then God will prevent this other nation from destroying them. As we know, the people of Israel rejected Jeremiah's warnings, and Babylon did come and destroy the Temple and the Nation of Israel.

Specific Redresses

The above complaints are once more specific redresses that God has against the Nation of Israel. These relate to the Fifth Commandment, “Honor your mother and father,” the Sixth Commandment, “Thou shalt not kill,” as well as the First, Second and Third Commandments, that relate to “Have no other gods before me,” “Thou shalt not have any graven images or idols,” and the Third Commandment, “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.”

God’s Centuries old warnings

But this thing commanded I them, saying, “Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.” **Jeremiah 7:23**

This above warning has been given to the Nation of Israel before as shown in the following.

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine. **Exodus 19:5**

How can anyone think that as Christians you are no longer under the Laws of God, The Ten Commandments, when this proves what will happen to those that refuse to worship God as he has commanded. Even his own people will pay the price of his wrath, because they have forsaken him and his laws.

An Everlasting Unchangeable God

God is Everlasting to Everlasting, eternal; do you really believe he has changed his mind and his laws where Christians are concerned? Satan is a liar and a deceiver; do you really think you are immune from his lies?

No Uncertain Terms

God reveals this requirement that we keep his commandments, in no uncertain terms:

*And the Lord saith, "Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:" Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; "Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink." **Jeremiah 9:13-15***

The reference to **wormwood and water of gall** are symbolic of a time of dire tribulation, the slavery to another king, Babylon, as they were once slaves to Egypt.

To the Four Winds

*I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them. **Jeremiah 9:16***

In these verses God spells out the punishment he is about to place upon the nation of Israel, all because they stopped keeping his commandments. This prophesizing goes on throughout the Book of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah Prays for Mercy

Realizing that God intends to destroy Israel, Jeremiah prays to God for his mercy and forgiveness. God hears Jeremiah's prayers and tells Jeremiah, that all is not lost, that a few of the people of Israel, will be taken before the great king Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and thereby be saved from harm, and from these few will God build a new Israel.

The Remnant Reborn

*And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. **Jeremiah 24:7***

This is a constant theme in the words of the Bible, all God wants from Man is that we worship him as he commands, thus showing our love for him. In this verse, God is giving anticipation that from the few that will be saved, a new Nation will arise, and then this new nation, having learned the lessons of the forefathers will

stay true to the Laws and Word of God. In his expectations of the Jews he is constantly being disappointed, and it seems to me that the Christians are a big disappointment to God as well.

Seventy Years

*And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. **Jeremiah 25:11***

It is not just the Nation of Israel that will be conquered by the armies of Babylon, but all the nations along the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

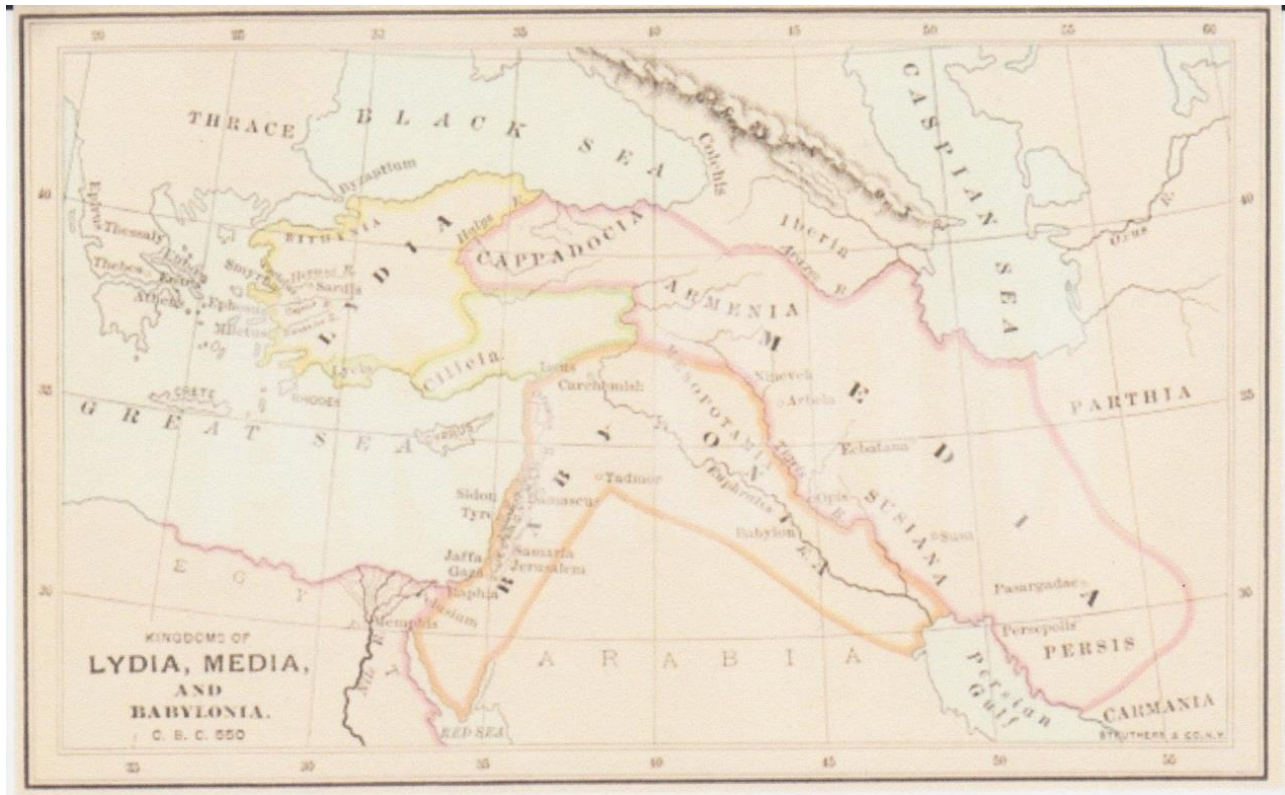
This, time prophecy of seventy years is important to remember, for it has meaning in the Book of Daniel, where the anti-Christ is first spoken of and revealed. When Daniel realizes that the Seventy Years are almost up, he gives prayer to God that he doesn't forget his promise to Jeremiah of bringing the people of Israel back to Jerusalem.

In this, promise, God intends the Seventy Years as a punishment for the nation of Israel's failure of keeping his commandments. As punishments generally go, they are not eternal, but temporary, until those who have given offence have either repented their sins or have all dies off.

The people that Moses led out of Egypt had only Forty Years to repent their sins against God as they wandered through the wilderness. Forty years are the equivalent of two generations being born. In Seventy Years there is enough time for another generation and a half of a generation.

With Moses as their leader and teacher concerning the Laws of God, the first Israelites mostly held fast to the ways of God for around two hundred years, before they began to waver in their faith. With those taken into Babylon, there was no one leader or teacher, and most of the people of Israel became polluted by the ways of the Pagans in those lands that they were scattered to. It is for this reason that they quickly fell off from the Ways of God after the Temple and the Nation of Israel were rebuilt. Which is why God sent Jesus to lead the people and the Nation of Israel back to the Way of God.

The following is a map of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and the borders of the Babylonian Empire.



As you can see, the Babylonian Empire encompassed most of modern day Turkey, from the Western portions of modern day Iran, to the Eastern Shore of the Mediterranean Sea, and South into and including Egypt.

Punish the Land as well

*And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldenaans, and will make it perpetual desolations. **Jeremiah 25:12***

Keep these verses in mind. God has told Jeremiah, who in turn tells the people of Israel, that God will bring the people of Israel back to their land, from the four winds which they are dispersed, in **Seventy Years**. When he does this, he will at the same time punish Babylon as well as the land itself, for its iniquity.

Nebuchadnezzar's Punishment

One thing you might want to look into and consider the punishment that God tells us he intends to mete out to the king of Babylon and that nation. God will cause the king Nebuchadnezzar to live as an animal for some time, but the nation and the lands of the **Chaldeans**, he will also punish. At the time of the rise of the city of Babylon into a conquering empire, the lands of the Mesopotamia were a lush well watered land. Look at the same area today. Except right along the two great rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, the land is a desert, a place of **perpetual desolations**.

Take heed and fear God's wrath, he has said that he would turn this land into a place of desolation and he has. These are not just words; you can verify these things outside of the Bible. **God has spoken it, therefore it is true. God has intended it, therefore it will be.**

Return to Israel

*For thus saith the Lord, "That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place." **Jeremiah 29:10***

God is telling Jeremiah and you and I through his writings, that he will bring back to Israel, the children of Jacob, after seventy years in captivity under the Babylonians.

Belief is Faith

Remember: this Seventy Years prophecy, for it has bearing in Daniel which is where the End Time Prophecies begin. Once again God has spoken, and once again you can verify this in historical manuscripts. **God has spoken it, therefore it is true.** To have **"Faith"** in God is to **"Believe"** the Word of God. When God gives prediction of events to come, you know without a doubt that they will come to pass. If you the reader do not believe this to be true, then I can only hope that after learning of these ancient prophecies, and how they can be verified in history, you will then believe and be converted to the Faith. It is in this expectation of your conversion why God gives these predictions hundreds and thousands of years in advance.

The New or Third Covenant

These next verses are important, because it sets the stage, for the First Advent of the Messiah, and the establishment of a new covenant.

*Behold, **the days come**, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: **Jeremiah 31:31***

You should take note of the phrase, “**the days come**” for this is a reference to the End of Times and the End of Days. I interpret the reason that God is giving notice of the End Times, is because he knows that the children of Israel will falter in their worship of God. He is giving this warning of a future event in this verse just as he gave it to the sons of Jacob, just before they crossed over the Jordan to take possession of the Promised Land as given in **Deuteronomy 4:1**.

This is Gods initial intent, to establish a new covenant with the house of Israel. The House of Israel is not populated only by Jews, as I have shown in earlier lessons; Israel is a reference to Jacob who was given the name Israel because he overcame his sins. In this above verse, it is to all who have overcome their sins that are of the House of Israel, not the Nation of Israel.

Not According to the Old Covenant

*Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: **Jeremiah 31:32***

God is taking no responsibility for his chosen people to have turned their backs on his laws, and worship. By referring to himself as their husband, he reveals an intimate relationship that he had with the children of Jacob. He is also telling us that the new covenant will be different from the one he made with Abraham, and then reinstated with Jacob and Moses. To understand the content of these older covenants it is necessary in understanding the significance of the new covenant, which we have already discussed in previous lessons.

Written in their Hearts

*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; **After those days**, saith the Lord, I will **put my law** in their inwards parts, and **write it in their hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. **Jeremiah 31:33***

So you will understand, God is not talking about the Nation of Israel when he reestablishes it after the Seventy Years of slavery to Babylon, he is talking about the New Covenant, in an even further time, the End of Days. In the End of Days, God will write his laws, not on tables of stone, but on the hearts of those who worship him. The Ten Commandments will become a part of who you are. This will cause you to keep the Commandments of God, not like a law that must be kept, but out of love for God, and that they will be a part of who you are, your personality and your moral character, thus making you One with God, or in the **Spirit of the Lord**, as the Prophet Paul phrased it.

This is as it was supposed to be with those of remnant of the Nation of Israel, who were protected though dispersed to the four winds. When they were returned to the land of Israel, these few were supposed to embrace and keep the Laws and Commandments of God.

Are You A Part of the Third Covenant?

As history tells us however, with their rejection of Jesus as God in the flesh of a man, God gave acceptance of this New Covenant to all who would keep his commandments, regardless of their language, or national origins, those who Jesus calls the Saints of God. If you do not keep the Commandments of God, then you are not a part of this new covenant. If you do not have the Commandments of God written upon your heart causing them to be a part of who you are, your personality and your moral character, then you are not a part of the new covenant.

God Knows

I wish to make note of an important phrase in the above verse, “After those days.” This phrase or other words with similar meaning, is used by God throughout the Bible. In most cases it is a reference to the **End of Days**, as foretold in Revelation.

Remember: God can see into the future. He knows that the Nation of Israel will not come around, in Seventy Years or in a longer period given in the Book of Daniel, for the children of Jacob to return to worshiping God as he commands.

Therefore! Knowing this he is prepared to offer a new covenant, which will only apply to those who have his laws, written upon their hearts. In other words, only those whose personalities and moral character are compatible with those outlined in the Ten Commandments, and further expanded (fulfilled) by the teachings of Jesus, which of course is a reflection of who God is, will benefit from this new covenant. One of the other phrases that God uses that means the same as “After those days.” is “The Days Come.”

Eli and his Sons

In the following God is speaking to the Priest Eli, who was a man of God, and one with God. Eli however had two sons that were not of God and it is concerning their inequities that God is brought to wrath.

Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the Lord saith, “Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.” **I Samuel 3:30**

In this verse God is repeating words spoken long before to those that came out of Egypt, and that they should walk in all God’s Ways, forever. God then gives comment as to how he will be towards those who keep his ways, “I will honor” and those who do not, “shall be lightly esteemed.”

Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father’s house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. **I Samuel 3:31**

The reference to **thine arm**, is to the strength of the Nation of Israel, its military capability, God will remove this from it. God refers to **no old men**, because the Nation of Israel will waste its young men in war before they have the chance of growing old. This is revealed true in the times of the Babylonian conquest.

And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house forever. I Samuel 3:32

In this verse God is warning Eli, as well as all the people of Israel, that if they continue in their slide into paganism, they will find an enemy in God. God tells them that there will be no old men, because they will be cut off at an early age. God is giving warning to the Nation and people of Israel, that if they do not repent and reform their ways, he will destroy their nation and their people.

Continuous Wars

There is another way of looking at this however, there will be no old men, could also be a reference to the fact that the Nation of Israel will no longer be under God's protection, and will therefore be embroiled in continuous wars, which history gives evidence of.

Seventy Years of Destitution

And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age. I Samuel 3:33

Remember: God has told Jeremiah that there will be a small number of the people of Israel left, and from them God will rebuild the Nation of Israel, however, during that seventy years, the people, being slaves, will not live into old age.

A Dire Sign

And this shall be a sign unto thee that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them. I Samuel 3:34

Remember: God is speaking to the prophet Eli concerning the inequities of his two sons. In the above verse, God is saying that he will reveal the truth of his predictions of times to come, by the death of both of Eli's sons.

Remember too: Samuel lived around 1170 BC, or around 500 years before Jeremiah. This too is to reveal to those of the time of Jeremiah, that God has prophesized these dire events long ago, and not just a few years before they happen as is the case of Jeremiah.

God's Will be Done

As you may recall, it wasn't until God took the life of Pharaoh's first born son, that Pharaoh finally believed God. This then seems the only way the Jews will accept the word of God as truth, by giving prophecy that both of the two sons of Samuel will die on the same day. I hope you the reader already believe that the Word of God is Truth, and when God says, "I will do this," that you can have no doubt, it will be done. When God Says that One Third of the Earth, One Third of the Sea, and One Third of Man will die, they will die, and that time of the Great War is now upon us. As I have shown in the chapter titled "**The Great War,**" this death and destruction begins on June 25, 2015.

The Anointed One

And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed forever. I Samuel 3:35

This verse is a foretelling of a future event, the coming of the Messiah, as revealed by the words "anointed forever," which of course is a reference to the Christ Jesus. Until Jesus, God used other men to be his voice on earth, but always there was a failure in the message that they preached. This time, God will send his only begotten son to be his voice.

Love Thy Neighbor

*And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them", saith the Lord: "for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." **Jeremiah 31:34***

After the Great War and the Great Tribulation, when the only ones left upon the earth are of Gods children and have the commandments written upon their hearts, there will be no need for anyone to keep the second commandment of Jesus, "**Love thy neighbor,**" for everyone will already know God and will therefore not need to be introduced to God, they already will know him.

The thing you should take notice of here is that the concept of loving your neighbor did not originate with Jesus, as you can see, Jeremiah gave prophecy of it, 600 plus years before the birth of Christ.

Have you noticed, this "**New Covenant**" sounds a lot like the one that the End of Days faithful will have, and not the nation of Israel, which thus gives verification and support that this prophecy is of the First Advent of Christ, and not to the rebuilt nation of Israel seventy years after the time of Jeremiah.

It is Gods intent that this covenant be for the descendants of Jacob, however, as we are all aware, Israel rejects the Messiah, "Jesus," thus they forfeit their inheritance. This possibility I am sure God was aware would happen, and is illustrated in the following verse.

Israel, No More a Nation

*If those ordinances depart from me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. **Jeremiah 31:36***

This is a dire prediction that the Nation of Israel, that exists during this the first decades of the Twenty First Century, should take note of. What God is saying in this verse is that he is aware that the decedents of Jacob will reject Jesus as the Messiah, and when it does, Israel will no longer be a nation before God any longer. God will give the inheritance that should have belonged to the Nation of Israel, to a new people; those who keep the Commandments of God, and have the Testimony of Jesus Christ, written upon their hearts and not as laws chiseled in stone. The nation of Israel, that now exists, is not under the grace of God. It was established

with the assistance of the forces of the anti-Christ, not by God. You will understand this to be true when you understand who the Ten Kings are, which are given prophesy of in the Book of Revelation.

Ezekiel

In the Book of Ezekiel, God elicits Ezekiel as he did Jeremiah, to give warning to the Nation of Israel. Except with Jeremiah, it was several years before the Babylonian invasion, and with Ezekiel, it was during the actual invasion and after the remnant of the Jews were taken away to Babylon as slaves.

Warnings from God

*And he said unto me, "Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day." **Ezekiel 2:3***

Even at this late date, after having been warned through Jeremiah, the people and leaders of Israel still do not accept that they are in opposition to the Will of God, which is why I have coined the phrase, "**Blind as a Jew**."

*And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. **Ezekiel 2:7***

God reveals his awareness that the people of Israel are rebellious, even as the Babylonians are at their gates.

*But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; "Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee." **Ezekiel 2:8***

God intends to send Ezekiel out in the midst of the people of Israel, to herald his words of warning. God also reveals and tells Ezekiel that the people for the most part will not hear him, for they are rebellious against God and his laws.

The phrase, "**open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee,**" means to hear what God tells him, and understand and except God's words, and not to ignore or reject them as have the people of the Nation of Israel.

As I said, I am not going to explain every verse in Ezekiel, I leave it up to you, in your efforts of **“Diligently Seeking God,”** to read and decipher them yourself.

Ezekiel’s Penances

After a while Ezekiel realizes that God intends to destroy the nation of Israel, using the might of the Babylonian army. In an effort to gain mercy for his people, Ezekiel gives prayer to God. As a result of this prayer, God gives a penance that Ezekiel must endure to gain this mercy.

*Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. **Ezekiel 4:4***

God is telling Ezekiel that he Ezekiel will take upon himself, the iniquities of the house of Israel. In penance for those iniquities, God tells Ezekiel to lie on his left side for 390 days.

390 Years of Inequity

*For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. **Ezekiel 4:5***

Take Note: here what God is saying, for it is important that you understand this, for it has bearing upon the prophecies which follow in both Daniel and Revelation.

“I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity,” what this is saying, is that the Nation of Israel, has been engaged in rebellion and iniquity against God for years, 390 years to be exact.

“According to the number of the days,” Ezekiel will carry the iniquity of the years in days, not years.
“Three hundred and ninety days,”

One Day for One Year

The nation and people of Israel has defied God for 390 years, and Ezekiel will bear this upon himself for 390 days. In other words, one year in the Nation of Israel's iniquity is given to Ezekiel in one day of penance, or **“One Day for One Year.”** **“So shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.”**

So God tells Ezekiel, that for every year of iniquity, or 390 years, he will bear their punishment, for 390 days. God has suffered the disobedience and rebellion of the Nation of Israel, for 390 years. This shows me his love and patience for a people, so undeserving of his special treatment, which placed this people above all other nations of Man.

Forty Days for Judah's Sins

*And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee **each day for a year.** **Ezekiel 4:6***

After Ezekiel has lain on his left side for 390 days, (that is over a year) one day for each year that Israel has broken from the laws of God, then having finished this, he then has to turn to his right side for 40 days, **each day for one year**, for the iniquity of the house of Judah.

God's Capacity to Forgive

This tells me, that the nation as a whole had for 390 years, strayed from the laws of God, however, Judah had only stray away for the last 40 years before God gives this penance to Ezekiel. Understandable then why God is angry with the Nation of Israel. If you were God, would you have such patience and love for such a people as these? It is a Good thing for those people that I am not God, for though I endeavor to be one with God, I do not seem to have in me the ability of forgiveness that God has.

Once again, God tells us, he has appointed **one day for each year.** As I said earlier, this understanding is important for they have a powerful bearing in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

*Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm, shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it. **Ezekiel 4:7***

*And, behold, I will lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege. **Ezekiel 4:8***

To insure that Ezekiel does not falter in his penance, God is going to cripple Ezekiel, so he will not be able to move.

As you can see, God has given to Ezekiel the responsibility of paying penance for the sins of his brethren and his nation. There is a reason for this however. God is not having one man pay for the sins of the nation, for he knows that those who live in the years of Ezekiel, and can hear the words of God through the prophecies of Ezekiel, will not heed these warnings. What God is looking towards, is those that survive this ordeal fast approaching as foretold by Jeremiah, Seventy years hence, to read Ezekiel's writings, and thus know what they need to do to regain their place as God's chosen people.

A Remnant Preserved

*Yet will I leave a remnant that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries. **Ezekiel 6:8***

Once more God gives assurance that he will save a few, to rebuild the Nation of Israel with, Seventy Years hence.

*And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a-whoring after their idols: and they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations. **Ezekiel 6:9***

Whorish Heart

God uses the phrase, "**whorish heart,**" to symbolize the Jews falling away from the Faith of God, to chasing after false gods, and other pagan activities. This also has bearing in the Book of Revelation, when God symbolizes the anti-Christ as **a harlot woman, who is the mother of harlots.**

God uses the phrase, "**a-whoring after idols,**" to symbolize the pagan activities that the Jews engage in, at the time of the Babylonian conquest. Think of it this way, if you go **a-whoring**, then you are looking for a whore, God uses the symbolism of the anti-Christ as being a harlot, (whore), to show that those who do not keep the Ten Commandments, and have embraced Satan's False Gospel, as having found the whore they were a-whoring after.

The Redeemed of Israel

And they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

This is God's hope anyway. God assumes that if the Nation of Israel is destroyed and the people returned to slavery of another King, then they should open their eyes and see the evil of their ways and repent their sins.

And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them. **Ezekiel 6:10**

As you can see, the reason God causes this calamity to befall the nation of Israel, is to cleanse away those who have abandoned him and his commandments, thereby setting the stage for a rebirth of those who will repent the sins of their fathers and once again obey God's laws, and worship him as he commands that he be worshiped.

Take Note: that God refers to them and their affairs with idols, and other transgressions against the laws of God, as being **whores and whorish,** this has relevance in Revelation when God tells us of the anti-Christ and how God depicts it as a **harlot sitting on the back of the scarlet couored beast,** which is Satan's False Gospel.

The Father Disciplines the Children

The above verse also shows that God does not sit and scold his wayward children with just words; he does mete out discipline as well. This is a lesson to all who are parents who should take their lead from God, do not just threaten to discipline your children, you must from time to time actually dole out the punishment that you threaten, else your children will lose respect for you. For years, God has warned the Nation of Israel, yet the people ignored those warnings, because they came to assume that God was all bark and no bite. In the wrath that God is handing out in the form of the conquest by Babylon, God is showing that he does indeed have bite and therefore should not be ignored.

The Elders Inquire of God

In the following verses, God gives his complaint with Israel, and why he is ending the old covenant and offering the children of Israel a new covenant. Not the nation of Israel, for they have forfeit their inheritance by not accepting Jesus as God in the flesh of a man, but to all those who keep the Commandments of God, who as the Apostle Paul referred to as walking in the Spirit of the Lord, it is to them that the new covenant is intended, Jew and Gentile alike.

*And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the Lord, and sat before me (Ezekiel). **Ezekiel 20:1***

At this time the Nation of Israel is under attack from the Babylonians, so they send a committee of Elders to Ezekiel, whom they know to be a Prophet of God, to inquire of God. I am not sure what the date given is as to how we tell years, but I assume it is a date using the initial invasion of the Babylonians as its starting point. It could also be the amount of time from when Ezekiel first began giving God's warnings to the Nation of Israel; or it could also be a reference to the reign of the current king of Israel.

God is Offended

Then came the word of the Lord unto me, saying, “Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Are ye come to inquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be inquired of by you.” **Ezekiel 20:2-3**

The word **“Inquired”** is defined as: **to ask a question, to try to discover the facts of a case.** I suggest that what the Elders wanted to know was why God was allowing the Babylonians to rain havoc on his people. So completely ignorant of their sins, they still did not understand the wrath they had ignited in God over their refusal to give worship to him as he God commanded. A lesson the Christians and Jews of today are oblivious to as well.

As I Live

God is showing his anger of the elders of Israel. They who have forsaken his laws, and have come to Ezekiel, who they know to be in communication with God, to inquire of God, and God responds with, **“As I live, saith the Lord God, I will *NOT* be inquired of by you.”**

God is insulted that they need to question God for his reasons, when they should already know, after several years being warned first by Jeremiah and then again by Ezekiel.

Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? Cause them to know the abominations of their fathers: **Ezekiel 20:4**

God is telling Ezekiel to condemn these elders, and show them their evil ways and those of their fathers.

Again God's gives Redress

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; “In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the Lord your God;” **Ezekiel 20:5**

*In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands: **Ezekiel 20:6***

*Then said I unto them, “Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” **Ezekiel 20:7***

The Location of the Garden of Eden

Whenever God refers to the land that is the Nation of Israel, he gives high praise of the land, such as he does here when he refers to it as that which is the glory of all lands, though it does not say as much anywhere in the Bible, I suggest God has such high esteem for this land because it is the center of the area that he describes as the land of Eden, and I think that Jerusalem, and the temple in particular sit upon the same place that Adam once abode. The area that was and is the land of Eden is specified in **Genesis 2:8 through 2:14, from the Euphrates River, to Ethiopia and including Egypt**. I am in expectation that after reading these last sentences you put down your reading of my words and go to the Bible and look up if the location of Eden is in fact revealed as I suggest.

Cast out your sinful ways

Even though God was insulted by the elders coming to inquire of him, he gives them answer to their question anyway.

*But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. **Ezekiel 20:8***

God is telling these elders that he had given warning to those who came out of Egypt even before they left Egypt and that he came close to destroying them even then because of their disobedience.

*But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt. **Ezekiel 20:9***

God rescinded his anger while the people were still in Egypt, so as to save face before the Egyptians. God had shown himself to the Egyptians as he had to the Jews, in all the plagues that he inflicted upon Egypt.

Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:10

*And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, (the Ten Commandments), which if a man do, he shall even live in them. **Ezekiel 20:11***

God's Sabbath's a Sign

*Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them. **Ezekiel 20:12***

God is explaining to these elders that he God had given to the Jews his laws and commandments, that in return for the Promised Land they were to keep his laws. What this amounts to is God giving testimony concerning the Second Covenant that he made with the Nation of Israel.

Take Note: though it states this elsewhere in the Bible, the keeping of the Seventh Day Sabbath is a sign between you and God, that you are sanctified by him and only by worshiping God as he commands can you be sanctified. This I explain so you will understand, that to observe any other day of the week as the Sabbath, such as Sunday, is to be in disobedience to God, thus setting you apart from God.

*But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my Sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them. **Ezekiel 20:13***

As far as I am concerned, this verse supports that which I just explained concerning the Sunday Sabbath. In this verse, God is once more informing the elders that he came close to destroying the Nation of Israel, even before they crossed the Jordon River, while they still were in the wilderness. Despite all the miracles and wonders that these people witnessed with their own eyes, they still rebelled against God and his commandments.

*But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out. **Ezekiel 20:14***

*Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands; **Ezekiel 20:15***

As I have pointed out before, God refers to the area of land given to Abraham and his descendants as the glory of all lands, which I am convinced he does because it is the same place where the Garden of Eden once was.

Because Israel rejects God's Law

*Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my Sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols. **Ezekiel 20:16***

*Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness. **Ezekiel 20:17***

*But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols: **Ezekiel 20:18***

*I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; **Ezekiel 20:19***

*And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God. **Ezekiel 20:20***

To keep the laws of God is a sign between you and God, that it is the God of creation, whom you worship and no other. If you do not keep the Ten Commandments, then there is no sign, so how is God to know that you worship him or some invention of your own.

He Shall Even Live in Them

*Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my Sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness. **Ezekiel 20:21***

Have you notice that God is repeating the following phrase? **“He shall even live in them.”**

God does not use words but that they have meaning and purpose. In these words God is telling us that if we keep his laws, (the Ten Commandments), that in doing so we will live in the laws. They will be a part of who we are, not laws written upon stone tables but moral traits written upon our hearts.

As you can see, God has had several complaints against the people of Israel dating all the way back when they still were in bondage in Egypt. So angered by their refusal to keep his commandments, and Sabbaths, he came close to destroying them even before they had crossed over the Jordan River to enter into the promised land.

Take Note: what God says, **“hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God,”** the keeping of the Sabbath is a sign between those who keep God’s Sabbath, the Seventh Day Sabbath as spelled out in the Fourth Commandment, and God. This sign tells God that those who keep the seventh day Sabbath do so out of love and respect for him the true God.

To **not** keep his Sabbath, is also a sign, a sign that you do not love the true God, and that you have no respect for him. To **“hallow my Sabbaths”** means to keep them holy. The Seventh Day Sabbath is a Holy Day because God made it holly. No other day of the week is holy, therefore to observe any other day of the week as the Sabbath, such as Sunday, which is not holy, so to do so is in direct opposition to the will and worship of God, making the Sunday Sabbath an Unholy observance.

God continues to list his grievances, verses 22 through 31, until the reason for the visit by the elders is revealed.

To Serve Wood and Stone

*And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, "We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone." **Ezekiel 20:32***

In their attempt to get God to stop this invasion by Babylon, and its subsequent destruction of Israel, the Elders intend to give God cause to recant, in that he will only send the remnant of the people of Israel into the Pagan Nations to serve wood and stone, which is a reference to what the idols are made of, and of the lands to which they are sent, thus removing them further away from the worship of the True God.

I Will Rule over You

*As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: **Ezekiel 20:33***

The elders of Israel have come to inquire of God, not to ask for forgiveness but to ask God to recant his intent of destroying the Nation of Israel, for his names sake, as he recanted their destruction before, for his names sake. God's response is that the elders will not use that as a way of causing God to recant destroying Israel again, and that he God will rule over them as he commands of them, by his pleasure and not by theirs. Either we worship God exactly as he commands or we do not worship God at all. If you do not see this to be true yet, then I fear you are truly lost.

*And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. **Ezekiel 20:34***

There is much more in the Book of Ezekiel, and I encourage you to read it, not because it will give you any more insight as to how to worship God as he commands, but what befell his own chosen people when they stopped worshiping him as he commanded, which is a warning of those who would call themselves Christians but refuse to worship God as he commands us to do, as it is spelled out in the Ten Commandments.

In this entire chapter, I have attempted to show the differences between God-Jesus and Satan. Who then shall you give worship to? Do you believe the Word of God as it is written or believe that which was not spoken by God?