

ANTICHRIST, PRINCE OF THE COVENANT, KING OF THE NORTH AND THE BEAST : PART 1

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Daniel's Prince Of The Covenant, King Of The North, A Jewish False Messiah: Moshiach ben David, Leader Of An Alliance Or League, Political Maneuvers And Deception, Ill-Fated Treaty, Vile Smooth-Talking Manipulator Who Shares The Spoils Of War, King Of The South Defeated, King Of The North Retreats, Holy Covenant Is Abrogated And Jewish Temple Defiled, Conspiracy Against Holy Covenant, Jesus Warns Of Coming Destruction Of Jerusalem, Jewish False Messiah Is Destroyed By Brightness Of Lord's Coming, New Temple Anticipated For Mount Moriah, King Solomon's Temple, Nebuchadnezzar Destroys Solomon's Temple, Seventy Years Of Captivity, Liberated By Persian King Cyrus, Jews Rebuild The Temple Under Zerubbabel's Leadership, King Herod Rebuilds And Expands Temple, Which Is A Third Temple?, Jerusalem And The Temple Compound Destroyed In 70 AD, First Jewish-Roman War, Jews Were Not Ignorant Of Impending Divine Wrath, Jesus Predicts Temple Destruction, Jewish Religionists Plot Against Jesus, One Million Jews Slaughtered Crucified and Burned Alive By The Romans, Eusebius Pamphilus' Comments

In some of my articles which discuss topics surrounding the Endtime -- such as "The Kings of the North and the South" -- I suggest that the mysterious "prince of the covenant", who is broken by a foreign invader who the Prophet Daniel refers to as the "king of the north", may possibly be the Jewish false messiah; that is, Moshiach ben David. Please consider the following verse that is found in the eleventh chapter of the Book of Daniel, where this "prince of the covenant" is mentioned:

"And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant."

Daniel 11:22, KJV

I find it interesting that this is the only verse in the entire KJV Bible where the phrase "prince of the covenant" is used. In fact, as I believe I mention in "The Kings of the North and the South", I have been intrigued, mystified and perplexed by the actual identity of this Biblical figure for over forty years now, and I still remain stumped. Much of Daniel chapter eleven remains a significant mystery to me, no matter how many times I have endeavored to fully and properly understand it over the years.

Utilizing Strong's numbers in conjunction with the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, I discovered that the phrase "prince of the covenant" finds its origin in two Hebrew words. These are "nagiyd b@riyth". "Nagiyd" -- which is pronounced naw-gheed' -- refers to a leader, ruler, captain, prince or governor. About half the

time, it is translated as "ruler" in the King James Bible. "B@riyth" -- which is pronounced ber-eeth' -- refers to a covenant, alliance, pledge, treaty, league or confederacy. So the "prince of the covenant" seems to be the leader or primary architect of some kind of an alliance, confederacy or league. Perhaps it even means that he is the leader of a particular political bloc. This idea of a league or alliance is carried over into the very next verse where we read the following:

"And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people."
Daniel 11:23, KJV

In this case, the word "league" is derived from the Hebrew word "chabar". Pronounced khaw-bar', it refers to joining or uniting together, or to make an ally of another party. So again, we see that these events involve some kind of treaty or alliance between one of the kings -- or leaders -- of the north, and the "prince of the covenant". This group of verses in Daniel chapter eleven indicates that this particular "king of the north" is a very deceptive person. He chooses to join the alliance, not because he really supports it, but simply to gain time, so that he can marshall his forces; that is, to raise up his army. Furthermore, unlike other leaders who keep the spoils of war, we are told that he wins the heart of the people by sharing the spoils of war with them.

We are also informed that the king or leader of the northern country is a very vile person. Derived from the Hebrew word "bazah", it means that he is despised, held in contempt, and viewed as being despicable and worthless. At the same time, he is a very smooth talker, and seems to talk his way into power. In short, even though royalty doesn't seem to care for him, this person raises an army with a small group of people, wins the heart of the common people by sharing the spoils of war with them, and then talks his way into power. At the same time, he acts very deceptively with the mysterious "prince of the covenant", who may possibly be the "king of the south". Consider the following verses:

"And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant. And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time."
Daniel 11:21-24, KJV

In the verses that follow, we discover how the "king of the south" is defeated by this "king of the north", due in part to treachery and deception by both parties:

"And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the

king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him. Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain."
Daniel 11:25-26, KJV

In addition to describing other military encounters between these two kings, or leaders, we also discover that something about this covenant -- or alliance, treaty -- makes it holy. As I explain in "The Kings of the North and the South", what seems to make it holy is the fact that it is somehow related to the daily sacrifice -- or oblation -- which is performed by the Jews at the Temple in Jerusalem. Due to his military plans being foiled, the "king of the north" angrily returns to his own country, more intent than ever to find a way to work against the covenant, or treaty; so much so that we are told that he has "intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant". Consider these verses:

"And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land. At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

Daniel 11:27-32, KJV

If you are familiar with the Lord's sermon that is found in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew -- which is commonly referred to as the Olivet Discourse -- as well as in Mark chapter thirteen and Luke chapter twenty-one -- which together are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels -- then you will know that Jesus referred to the events which are described in the previous verses from the Book of Daniel. Consider the following:

"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: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no

flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Matthew 24:15-22, KJV

"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Mark 13:14-20, KJV

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 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 21:20-24, KJV

Being as I discuss the previous verses from the Synoptic Gospels in detail in other articles, I won't be examining them here.

The previous paragraphs are a small recap of some of the events which I discuss in "The Kings of the North and the South". Since writing that article in 1998, I have had some second thoughts concerning the possibility that the "prince of the covenant" and the Jewish false messiah -- Moshiach ben David -- may be one and the same person. One thing which casts doubt upon Moshiach ben David being the "prince of the covenant", is the fact that in Paul's second Epistle to the brethren at Thessalonica, he informs us that the Jewish false messiah is destroyed by the brightness of the Lord's Coming. Consider the following verses which describe how the "man of sin" -- a.k.a. "son of perdition" -- exalts himself, claims to be "God", sits "in the temple of God" and deceives the Jews, and is then destroyed when Christ returns:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 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 worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"
2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 8, KJV

As I point out in articles such as "Who is Hindering the Antichrist", it is commonly believed by many Christians of our current time, that the Orthodox Jews may soon build a final Temple on the summit of Mount Moriah in the Old City of East Jerusalem. I have likewise embraced this futurist interpretation of Paul's writings for quite a few years now. However, more recently, I have begun to wonder if this is an accurate interpretation of Paul's words. I will discuss the reasons for my new hesitation at some point in the future, after I have solidified my position.

As you may already know, the construction of the very first Temple compound was begun by the order of King Solomon -- King David's son -- four hundred and eighty years after the Israelites were freed from Egyptian bondage, as we see by this verse:

"And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD."
1 Kings 6:1, KJV

As I explain in the series "The Fruits of Disobedience", and in a number of other articles as well, several hundred years after the aforementioned events, as a result of their blatant disobedience and seriously backslidden condition, the Jews of Jerusalem and Judah experienced the Wrath of God when the military forces of Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar sieged Jerusalem on three different occasions, and then ultimately destroyed Jerusalem -- along with Solomon's Temple -- in the approximate year of 587 BC.

As a result of their grave sins against the Lord, the Jews were forced to endure Seventy Years of Captivity in the land of Babylon, before many thousands of them were permitted to return to Israel and Jerusalem. The political maneuvers to liberate the Jews began with an edict which was declared by Persian king Cyrus -- or Koresh -- as we see by the following verses:

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem."

Ezra 1:1-3, KJV

I discuss the details regarding the Jews' return to Israel -- and the construction of the Second Temple in such articles as "The Two Sackcloth Witnesses of Revelation 11". Following is an excerpt from that article:

----- Begin Quote -----

As the following verses reveal, Zerubbabel was the leader of the first group of exiles who returned from Babylon. He was eventually appointed Governor over Judah. Along with men such as Ezra, Nehemiah, Joshua and the Prophets Haggai and Zechariah, he was responsible for overseeing and inspiring the construction of the Second Temple. Not only that, but he was a direct ancestor of Jesus Christ. While rebellious King Zedekiah and his sons were slain by the Babylonian forces, in His Divine Wisdom and Foresight, the Lord had Jehoiachin taken to prison, where the seed of Judah, and thus the line of Jesus Christ, would be preserved until the captivity had ended:

"Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God . . . Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD."
Ezra 3:2, 8, KJV

"And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God . . . Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts . . . In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts."
Haggai 1:14, 2:4, 23, KJV

"And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;"
Matthew 1:12, KJV

----- End Quote -----

According to what I have read, the Second Temple wasn't quite as lavish as the original Temple which had been built by King Solomon. Furthermore, about five hundred years after these events, the Temple which had been rebuilt under Zerubbabel's leadership was completely replaced when King Herod the Great

undertook a project to rebuild and greatly expand the Temple compound. According to a statement which was made by the unbelieving Jews in the Gospel of John -- right after Jesus kicked the moneychangers out of the Temple with a whip -- it took forty-six years to build Herod's Temple, as we see by the following verses:

"Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body."
John 2:18-21, KJV

Published in 1832, Adam Clarke's "Commentary on the Bible" notes the following concerning Herod the Great's work on the Temple compound. As you can see, Clarke draws upon the work of Jewish historian Flavius Josephus and his "Antiquity of the Jews":

----- Begin Quote -----

The temple of which the Jews spake was begun to be rebuilt by Herod the Great, in the 18th year of his reign: Jos. Ant. b. xv. c. 11, s. 1; and xx. c. 9, s. 5, 7. But though he finished the main work in nine years and a half, yet some additional buildings or repairs were constantly carried on for many years afterwards. Herod began the work sixteen years before the birth of our Lord: the transactions which are here related took place in the thirtieth year of our Lord, which make the term exactly forty-six years. Rosenmuller. Josephus, Ant. b. xx. c. 8, s. 5, 7, has told us that the whole of the buildings belonging to the temple were not finished till Nero's reign, when Albinus, the governor of Judea, was succeeded by Gessius Florus, which was eighty years after the eighteenth year of Herod's reign. See Bp. Pearce.

----- End Quote -----

Technically-speaking, it may be correct to say that Herod's Temple was actually a Third Temple. The reason why I suggest this is because according to the writings of Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, when Herod the Great undertook the project to rebuild and expand the Temple during the First Century BC, he went so far as to replace the actual foundation stones. Furthermore, he smoothed off the surface of the Temple Mount. In essence then, he really did build a brand new Temple. He didn't just expand upon what was already there.

Thus, King Solomon built the First Temple; which was followed by Zerubbabel's Second Temple; which was then followed by King Herod the Great's Third Temple. As you may imagine, this idea poses a stiff challenge to modern theologians and Bible students; some of whom are inclined to embrace a futurist interpretation of the Scriptures, and who thus insist that the Third Temple has not been constructed yet. In fact, much of the futurist point of view centers around a satanic leader -- who many Christians refer to as the Antichrist -- declaring himself "God", and sitting in a newly-constructed Temple. But what if this Third Temple already came and went

two thousand years ago? Where would that leave us insofar as Bible prophecy is concerned, and our understanding of it?

I am referring to the fact that just as had occurred with Solomon's Temple, due to their continuous and stiff rebellion against the Lord -- which was epitomized by their Crucifixion of their very own Savior around 30 AD -- the Jews once again experienced the Wrath of God in 70 AD. As we've already seen, these events had been prophesied by both Daniel and Jesus. As you may know, after years of tolerating the Jews' rebellion, Rome had enough. As I more amply explain in other articles, during what is called the First Jewish-Roman War of 66-73 AD, Roman General Titus -- who was the son of Emperor Vespasian, who later became an emperor himself -- invaded the city of Jerusalem.

Together with his father, Vespasian, they had initiated their campaign against Jerusalem in the northern regions of Israel. When Vespasian was called back to Rome in order to attend to matters there, it was left to his son Titus to complete the campaign in Israel. After subduing the rest of the country, his forces finally engulfed Jerusalem in a great siege wall. Thousands of Jews were crucified on the wall when they tried to escape from Jerusalem during the course of the siege. Eventually, Jerusalem and the Temple were utterly destroyed, and close to one million Jews were slaughtered according to some sources.

Tragically, as I amply explain in such articles as "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture", there are quite a few verses in the New Testament where we are informed that God's Wrath was going to be poured out upon the people of Jerusalem, due to their rebellion and sin of unbelief. In other words, the Jews were not ignorant of these facts. They knew exactly what was coming; and yet in their stubbornness, they refused to desist in their rebellion against the Lord. For example, perhaps you may recall that during Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate, the Jews not only demanded that Jesus be crucified, but they also said the following. Please notice carefully that it was not just the Jewish Elders who demanded Jesus' blood; it was "all the people":

"Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."
Matthew 27:25, KJV

As I mentioned a moment ago, close to one million Jews were slaughtered during the First Jewish-Roman War. Even by our modern standards of war, that is a major slaughter. Whether or not that death toll is inflated, I honestly do not know. According to what I have read, just prior to the destruction of Herod's Temple, many of the Jews actually ran inside of it, because they erroneously thought that God would protect them from their Roman persecutors, thus revealing the level of their deception. As I said, the Jews were not ignorant of these soon-coming events. Even Jesus Himself clearly warned them of the Divine Wrath which would be poured out upon them in about forty years time. Let me remind you again of what Jesus said concerning God's Wrath in the Olivet Discourse:

"But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the

land, and wrath upon this people."
Luke 21:23, KJV

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
Matthew 23:37-24:2, KJV

"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."
Luke 13:34-35, KJV

The high priest and the Sanhedrin -- the Jewish religious council -- were fully aware of the growing threat from Rome. They foresaw an eventual confrontation with Rome, if Jesus' rising popularity was not kept in check. Thus, to maintain the status quo, and to keep intact their cozy relationship with Rome, and with King Herod who was Rome's puppet king, they plotted to kill their very own Messiah. This is made apparent by the following verses:

"Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death."
John 11:47-53, KJV

"Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people."
John 18:14, KJV

So even though they knew what awaited them, many of those foolish Jews still chose to trust in their false religious system. Forty years later when the situation with Rome came to a head, and Titus and his legions laid siege to the city of Jerusalem, in the final days and hours, many of the Jews -- particularly the Zealots and the Sicarii -- sought refuge in the Temple compound, where they were burned alive. Many

more of them died by the Roman sword or suffered an agonizing death by crucifixion.

As I have mentioned before, according to information I have read, the heat from the inferno was so intense, that all of the golden items in the Temple melted down between the blocks of which the Temple was constructed. It was precisely for this reason that, in precise fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy, the Romans tore apart the Temple remains stone by stone, in order to retrieve the melted gold.

In his Fourth Century work entitled "Historia Ecclesiae" in Greek -- or "Church History" in English -- which chronicles the development of the early Christian Church from the time of Jesus Christ and the First Apostles in the First Century, up until his own time, "church father" Eusebius Pamphilius states that the utter destruction of Jerusalem by Titus was God's judgment against the Jews, due to their direct hand in murdering Jesus. Eusebius writes as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

". . . that from that time seditions and wars and mischievous plots followed each other in quick succession, and never ceased in the city and in all Judea until finally the siege of Vespasian overwhelmed them. Thus the divine vengeance overtook the Jews for the crimes which they dared to commit against Christ."

----- End Quote -----

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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ANTICHRIST, PRINCE OF THE COVENANT, KING OF THE NORTH
AND THE BEAST : PART 2

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Prince Of The Covenant Can't Equate To Jewish False Messiah,
Prince Of The Covenant Is An Architect Of The Holy Covenant
And May Be Jewish By Birth, King Of The North May Equate To
Beast Rising From Sea, Waters Represent People And Nations,
God Uses Beasts Horns And Toes To Signify Empires, Nations,
And Leaders, Ten Toes, Ten Horns, Wind Symbolizes Spiritual
Forces, God Alone Raises Up And Puts Down Political Leaders,
Comparison Between Revelation 13's Beast And The King Of The
North, Prophecies Concerning The Destruction Of Jerusalem And
The Temple, Beast And King Of The North Blaspheme Against
God, Beast And King Of The North Persecute Jews For Three And
A Half Jewish Years, First Jewish-Roman War, Temple Destroyed

In The Midst Of The Week, Daniel And John Seem To Write About Same Individual, "Beast" And "Antichrist" Are Not Synonymous, Jewish False Messiah, Moshiach ben David Is Real Antichrist, Jews Would Never Accept A Gentile As Messiah, Beast False Prophet And Ten Horns May Be Muslim, Challenges Of Properly Interpreting Bible Prophecy, I Am Really Clueless Regarding The Identities Of Prophetic Characters, My Endeavors To Link Prophecy To Real-World Events, Political Leaders Now And Then

Having now briefly discussed the history of the previous two -- or three -- Temples, depending on your personal point of view, let us return to our original discussion regarding the Jewish false messiah -- that is, Moshiach ben David -- the "prince of the covenant" and the "king of the north" -- that is, the Beast -- who are mentioned to varying degrees by the Prophet Daniel, by Jesus, by John the Apostle, and by the Apostle Paul.

Obviously, if according to the Apostle Paul, this "Wicked" who sits in the temple claiming to be "God" is Moshiach ben David -- the Jewish false messiah -- and if he is destroyed at the Lord's Coming as Paul informs us, then it is rather difficult to equate him with the "prince of the covenant" who is broken by the "king of the north" in the Book of Daniel. If Moshiach ben David is not the "prince of the covenant", as now appears to be the case, in my view, then I suspect that Daniel's "prince" may be another architect who is behind the creation of -- and possibly even the signing of -- the "holy covenant". Regardless of who he is, it seems to me that just the fact that the "holy covenant" involves the Jewish Temple, strongly suggests that the "prince of the covenant" may be Jewish by birth. Of course, this is not written in stone.

In "The Kings of the North and the South", I also offer the possibility that the "king of the north" may be synonymous with the first Beast who is described by the Apostle John in the thirteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation as rising "up out of the sea". In the seventeenth chapter of the same book, we are informed that seas and waters represent peoples and nations. Consider the following verses:

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy." Revelation 13:1, KJV

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."
Revelation 17:15, KJV

As I also explain in "The Kings of the North and the South", and in other articles which delve into prophetic events, in the Scriptures, God employs different kinds of beasts, horns and toes to represent empires, nations, and the leaders and governments of the nations. For example, we find the Ten Toes in the prophecies of Daniel, which may be synonymous with the Ten Horns which are described by John in the Book of Revelation. Consider the following example verses:

"Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king . . . And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Daniel 2:31-36, 41-44, KJV

"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns . . . And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows . . . 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."

Daniel 7:7, 20, 24, KJV

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads."

Revelation 12:3, KJV

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."

Revelation 13:1, KJV

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns . . . And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns . . . 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 . . . And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

Revelation 17:3, 7, 12, 16, KJV

"I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn: Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."

Psalms 75:4-7, KJV

In addition to using beasts -- or animals -- toes and other body parts, and horns to represent different empires, nations, governments and their leaders in the Bible, God also uses the wind to symbolize spiritual forces -- both good and evil -- which affect the peoples and nations of the world. Consider the following verses. Notice in particular that just as God's Spirit "moved upon the face of the waters" like a wind, so too, in the Book of Daniel, we are told that "the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2, KJV

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."

Daniel 7:2-3, KJV

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

John 3:5-8, KJV

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 2:1-4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

There should be no doubt that beasts often symbolize empires, nations, governments and their leaders in the Scriptures. As further proof of this point, consider the fact that after describing the "four great beasts" which "came up from the sea", the Angelic Messenger very specifically informs the Prophet Daniel that they represent "four kings which shall arise out of the earth", as we see by these verses:

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another . . . I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth."
Daniel 7:2-3, 16-17, KJV

Thus we see that both the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle John are actually witnessing the spiritual forces which influence the peoples and nations of the world, in order to give rise to the particular rulers and their dominions -- whether an empire or a nation -- as ordained by God. As we learned earlier with the verses from Psalm 75, it is the Omnipotent God alone who "putteth down one, and setteth up another". Following are some additional verses which verify this point:

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."
Daniel 2:20-21, KJV

"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."
Daniel 4:17, KJV

"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."
Proverbs 21:1, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."
1 Samuel 15:23-26, KJV

As I mentioned a moment ago, there is a possibility that the Beast which rises "up out of the sea, having seven heads and

ten horns" in Revelation chapter thirteen, may be synonymous with the "king of the north" who is mentioned by Daniel, and who breaks the "prince of the covenant". Not only that, but he may also be the same figure as the stout horn which rises after the Ten Horns, subdues three of the horns, and speaks great things in Daniel chapter seven. Consider the facts:

1. The Beast of Revelation 13 rises up out of the sea; that is, from the people. The "king of the north" becomes "strong with a small people" by sharing the spoils of war with them.
2. Both the "king of the north" and the Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen appear to hold political office.
3. Both the "king of the north" and the Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen are military leaders as well.
4. Both the "king of the north" and the Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen invade Israel, which results in the Temple compound being defiled. Regarding this fourth point, compare the following verses which are found in the prophecies of Daniel, the Synoptic Gospels, and the Book of Revelation:

". . . and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."
Daniel 9:26b-27, KJV

"And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate."
Daniel 11:31, KJV

"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:)"
Matthew 24:15, KJV

"But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:"
Mark 13:14, KJV

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh . . . and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."
Luke 21:20, 24b, KJV

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 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. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelation 11:1-3, KJV

5. Both the "king of the north" and the Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen will blaspheme God, and magnify themselves above all. Consider the following verses which verify this point. I have added some words in brackets for the sake of clarification:

"And he [the eleventh horn who rises from the fourth beast] 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."
Daniel 7:25, KJV

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."
Daniel 11:36, KJV

"And there was given unto him [the Beast] a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."
Revelation 13:5-7, KJV

6. As some of the previous verses clearly demonstrate, both the "king of the north" and the Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen persecute the Jews, and pollute the Temple for a period of three and a half Jewish years. A Jewish year is three hundred and sixty days. This specific time period is represented in the Books of Daniel and Revelation in the following manner:

1. "forty-two months"
2. "1,260 days"
3. "time and times and the dividing of time" (3 1/2)
4. "time, times, and an half" (3 1/2)

The Prophet Daniel also mentions a 1,290 day period, as well as a 1,335 day period. This latter time span is the same as 44.4 Jewish months at thirty days each, while the 1,290 days equals exactly forty-three Jewish months. Following are some additional verses which prove this point:

"And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he [the king of the north] shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

Daniel 12:7, KJV

"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."

Daniel 12:11-12, KJV

"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."

Revelation 12:6, KJV

Please note that as we already discussed in part one, all of the previous verses appear to be describing Rome's invasion of Jerusalem during the seven-year First Jewish-Roman War, which occurred from 66 AD to 73 AD. As we have seen, this war ultimately resulted in Herod's Temple being defiled, and the entire Temple compound finally being destroyed in 70 AD. According to what I have read, the Romans continued "mop up" operations for another three and a half years following the destruction of the Temple compound. In short, God's Word was fulfilled to the letter. The date 70 AD places these events right in the middle of the seven-year period; that is, "in the midst of the week" according to the Prophet Daniel. As I explain in other articles, this period of seven years equals a week -- or "shabua" in Hebrew -- in Biblical symbology.

Considering all of these similarities between the "king of the north" who deals treacherously with the "prince of the covenant", and the first Beast of Revelation 13, in my view, it is difficult to not conclude that Daniel and John are writing about the very same nasty individual.

What perplexes me personally, is the fact that today there are quite a number of theologians, Bible teachers, online preachers, writers and regular Christians, who have become doctrinally confused, in my view. As a result, such people erroneously equate the first Beast of the Book of Revelation with the figure who is widely referred to as the Antichrist. In other words, they have convinced themselves -- with the help of a number of famous book authors and preachers who embrace a futurist point of view -- that the first Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen and the Antichrist are one and the same person.

As a matter of clarification, let me mention here that as I point out in the article "Who Is Who?: Defining Important Endtime Terms", for quite a few years now, I have considered it a misnomer to refer to the Beast of Revelation 13 as the Antichrist. While the Beast of Revelation may be antichrist in nature -- because like so many other people in the world today he denies the divinity of Jesus Christ -- in the truest sense of the word, I believe that the phrase "the Antichrist" should rightly be applied to the Jewish false messiah; that is, Moshiach ben David. My reasons for adopting this position are quite simple. Not only will Moshiach ben David deny the real Jesus Christ, he will in fact convince the deceived Jews that he is their real messiah. He will attempt to take the place of Jesus Christ. Thus, he will be "the Antichrist".

If you have been reading carefully, you will notice that each time that I have mentioned the false messiah, I have referred to him specifically as the Jewish false messiah. It is because I am convinced that he will be of Jewish lineage, that I also believe the deceived Jews will allow him to sit in the Temple -- assuming that it will eventually be built -- where he will perform amazing signs and lying wonders in order to convince the Jews that he is their messiah.

Having now explained who I believe the real Antichrist is, perhaps you can understand why I believe that it does not make sense to claim that the Antichrist and the first Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen are the same person. If you still don't quite understand, it is simply this: To believe that the Beast and the Antichrist are the same person is to basically say that he is a Gentile. The Orthodox Jews would never allow a non-Jew -- or Gentile -- to sit in the Temple and pose as their long-awaited messiah. If you understand the mentality that governs Orthodox Judaism, then you know that this simply will not happen. Moshiach ben David must meet certain very rigid requirements in order to be heralded as the Jewish messiah; and being a Gentile is certainly not one of them. He must be a direct descendant of King David.

If you have read my series "The Seven Heads" then you will know that for quite a number of years now, I have theorized that the Beast, the False Prophet and the Ten Horns may be Muslims. If this theory is correct, then it makes it even less likely that the Beast of Revelation chapter thirteen and the Antichrist -- or Jewish false messiah -- can be the same person. Does anyone honestly believe that the Jews will accept a Muslim as their messiah? To clarify this issue in your minds, while some Christians believe that "Beast" and "Antichrist" are interchangeable terms, I do not accept this as being accurate. I am convinced that the Beast represents a Gentile military leader who invades Israel -- as per the writings of the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle John -- while the real Antichrist is the Jewish false messiah -- Moshiach ben David -- as indicated in Paul's second Epistle to the Thessalonians.

Please think this through for a moment. If the Beast and the Antichrist are the same individual as certain Christians seem to believe, then from my perspective of the Antichrist being the Jewish false messiah, they are saying that a Jew invades his own country, blasphemes God, and persecutes his own people. It just does not make any sense whatsoever.

As I explain in "The Kings of the North and the South", one of the challenges we face when delving into eschatology -- that is, the study of Endtime events, the ultimate destiny of humanity and related topics -- is to try to separate what has already happened from those prophecies which are yet to be fulfilled. Without a thorough knowledge of history, or at least a good source of historical resources, this can be a very difficult task. As I mentioned at the beginning of this series, it is certainly something which I personally have not yet mastered, and doubt that I ever will. Add to this the complexities of the Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages, and the challenge we face to properly understand God's Word -- particularly the prophecies -- becomes even greater.

What makes Biblical exegesis -- that is, interpretation -- even more difficult is the fact that some theologians and Bible teachers believe that there are some prophecies which may have intermediate or partial fulfillments, as well as ultimate fulfillments at some later point in history. I have considered this possibility for many years now. Add to this the fact that there also exist preterists, historicists and futurists, and properly understanding Biblical prophecy can become even more of a daunting task. Everyone has their own opinion, and there are as many different interpretations as there are theologians, pastors, preachers and Bible teachers.

Having stated the above, let me mention that insofar as the actual identities of these different prophetic characters are concerned -- that is, the Beast, the False Prophet, the Ten Horns, the Jewish false messiah -- or Antichrist -- the kings of the north and the south and the prince of the covenant -- currently, I can honestly say that I really don't have a clue who they are -- or were -- depending on your particular point of view as a preterist or a futurist.

For four decades now, I have watched certain Middle Eastern leaders -- such as Hafez al-Assad, Saddam Hussein, Yasser Arafat, Hosni Mubarak, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Muammar Gaddafi, Bashar al-Assad, Mohammad Khatami, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Mahmoud Abbas, etc. -- and wondered if any of them may possibly play a significant role in the Endtime scenario. One by one I have watched them die, or else fall from power. Of course, I have also kept my eyes on some European leaders, Israeli leaders, Russian leaders, the Pope, and a few American political leaders as well, in the hope of discerning exactly where we stand in the Endtime scenario. As I said, I am about as clueless now as I was forty years ago.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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ANTICHRIST, PRINCE OF THE COVENANT, KING OF THE NORTH
AND THE BEAST : PART 3

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Wrath: Temple Complex Burns To The Ground, Worship In Spirit
And Truth, Jesus The Rejected Cornerstone, Vengeance Is Mine,
God's Slow Grinding Judgments, We Are True Spiritual Temple

As some of you will already realize, there are many websites,
Facebook pages, message forums, etc., where certain people do
claim to know who the Beast is -- or Antichrist if you prefer
-- or else they claim to be revealing other information for
the very first time. Over the years, I have come across quite
a number of these sites. When I do, I take them -- and their
authors -- with a grain of salt. I urge you to do the same.
Some of these characters can be extremely boastful, and full
of their own pride and self-imposed delusion. They have a
serious problem with self-aggrandizement and are self-styled
prophets and apostles. In some cases, their complete lack of
understanding of the Scriptures is readily apparent, and it
really makes me shake my head, and wonder how they possibly
arrived at such strange conclusions. Maybe some people do
have the right answers to these prophetic enigmas, but I most
certainly don't. At least not yet.

As I point out in "Humility in Our Understanding of God's
Word", as teachers of God's Word, we all need to remain very
vigilant. We need to keep ourselves in check. We need to be
careful that we don't become lifted up in our own pride as a
result of the Wisdom and Understanding which the Lord grants
us regarding His Word. The Bible contains many verses which
admonish us of this very thing. Consider the following
examples:

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to
be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be
wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.
For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own
craftiness . . . Therefore let no man glory in men"
1 Corinthians 3:18-19, 21a, KJV

"And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred
to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn
in us not to think of men above that which is written, that
no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who
maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that
thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why
dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"
1 Corinthians 4:6-7, KJV

". . . we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth
up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he
knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to
know."
1 Corinthians 8:1b-2, KJV

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing . . . Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

1 Corinthians 13:2, 8, KJV

"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"

Colossians 2:18, KJV

"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

1 Timothy 1:6-7, KJV

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:12-14, KJV

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:18, KJV

"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Luke 14:11, KJV

"Submit yourselves therefore to God . . . Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

James 4:7a, 10, KJV

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

1 Peter 5:6, KJV

Continuing our previous discussion from part two, I stated that I could not accept that the Beast and the Antichrist are the same person -- as is erroneously supposed by many Christians at this current time -- because, in my view, the term "the Antichrist" should rightfully be applied to the Jewish false messiah who is known as Moshiach ben David. By necessity, this man must be a Jew, because the Jews would never ever accept a Gentile as their long-awaited messiah. It is totally out of the question according to what I have come to understand concerning the Jews' expectations in regards to their messiah.

If you are familiar with the Scriptures, then you will know that Gentiles were not allowed inside the Temple itself, because it was considered so holy to the Jews. They viewed Gentiles as being abominable and unclean. Even the Apostles

embraced this same attitude towards the Gentiles until Jesus taught them otherwise by His Spirit. For example, you may recall how in a vision, the Lord revealed to the Apostle Peter that it was time to begin ministering the Message of Salvation to the Gentiles in Acts chapter ten. Following are some of the key verses from the story. Please consider reading Acts chapters ten and eleven for the full account. I have added some words in brackets here for the sake of clarification:

"On the morrow, as they [the men sent by Cornelius the Roman centurion] went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven . . . And he [Peter] said unto them [Cornelius and his kin], Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean . . . Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him . . . And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God . . . Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?"

Acts 10:9-16, 28, 34-35, 11:1, 17, KJV

In another example which reveals the Jew's self-righteous attitude towards Gentiles, we find the Apostle Paul running into trouble when he goes to purify himself in the Temple in Jerusalem. Consider these key verses from the story:

"Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them. And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.) And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut. And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar."

Acts 21:26-31, KJV

Sadly, while most Jews will not express it openly, perhaps out of fear of some form of retribution, this same negative, self-righteous attitude towards Gentiles still persists to some degree -- particularly amongst the Orthodox Jews -- even in our current day. In fact, if I recall correctly, not too long ago, in a meeting with the U.S. Congress, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, reminded the members of Congress that the Israelis are God's "chosen people". In my view, this reflects a very proud, self-righteous attitude which boasts of some imaginary superiority over the rest of the people of the world.

The Jews who continue to embrace this proud attitude do not seem to realize that God loves the entire world, and desires to save the entire world. This is precisely why He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. As Peter declared in the previous verses, and as I also explain in "Is God A Racist?", God is not a respecter of persons. In other words, He doesn't play favorites. We are all in the same boat when it comes to sin, and the consequences of sin. Every single one of us -- both Jew and Gentile alike -- require the cleansing Blood of Jesus Christ. Allow me to share a few verses with you:

"Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts."
2 Chronicles 19:7, KJV

"For there is no respect of persons with God."
Romans 2:11, KJV

"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him."
Ephesians 6:9, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"
1 Peter 1:17, KJV

If you really want to understand why some Jews continue to embrace a negative attitude towards Gentiles, then I suggest that you invest some time in reading an English version of the Babylonian Talmud. This despicable book contains certain rabbinic teachings which will shock and offend even the most dedicated Christian supporter of Israel. This book will show you what the rabbis have been teaching Orthodox Jews for many centuries now. It will reveal to you exactly what some Jews think of us Gentiles, and it is not nice. I also invite you to visit the following page on the Endtime Prophecy Net site. It contains some excerpts from the Babylonian Talmud, as well as other quotes and material by Jews, which you will no doubt find rather enlightening. In particular, consider reading the articles there entitled "Jew Power - Quotes By And About The Zionist Jews" and "The Truth About The Talmud - by Michael A. Hoffman":

<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net/Articles-Non-EPN/index.html#Protocols>

In short, this negative attitude towards us Gentiles is in

fact really an antichrist spirit, because it is contrary to and against Jesus' teachings concerning loving each other. As difficult as it may be for some of us to do, as I explain in the article "The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love", it includes loving our enemies. To reiterate, the Jews' attitude towards us Gentiles is an antichrist spirit. It is a proud spirit. It is a self-righteous spirit. It is a boastful spirit. It is not of God. It is of Satan. As the Apostle John writes in his Epistle:

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
1 John 4:8, KJV

To continue our previous discussion, this negative attitude towards Gentiles which is embraced by the Jews is why in the Scriptures that we examined regarding the Temple compound being overrun by the Romans -- and in the final outcome, being destroyed by the same -- we are told "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles." In other words, it seems that God allowed the Roman legions -- who the Jews viewed as an abomination and unclean -- to enter and defile the court which formed a part of the Temple compound that was situated on the summit of Mount Moriah. However, concerning the actual Temple itself, it seems that God had other plans for it. To understand what those plans were, let us begin by reading from the Prophet Daniel:

"Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."
Daniel 8:13-14, KJV

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."
Daniel 12:10, KJV

In the previous two verses, allow me to call your attention to the two words "cleansed" and "purified". In the original Hebrew text, the word "cleansed" is "tsadaq", which means to be or to make just or righteous. The word "purified" finds its origin in the Hebrew word "barar". This word means to purify, purge or cleanse. Now consider what John the Baptist had to say concerning Jesus:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

Consider also that by the time of Jesus Christ, the Jewish religious system had become a corrupt abomination before the Lord; so much so that Jesus accused the religionists of His

day of being the children of the Devil; even going so far as to call them the "synagogue of Satan" and false Jews in the Book of Revelation. The Apostle John -- who wrote the Book of Revelation -- also called them antichrists in two of his Epistles. Consider the following verses:

"Ye [speaking to the Jewish leadership] are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Matthew 23:15, KJV

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."

Revelation 2:9, KJV

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

Revelation 3:9, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:3, KJV

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

2 John 1:7, KJV

Allow me to share one more set of verses with you that were written by the Apostle Paul, and then I will make my point:

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

1 Corinthians 3:13-17, KJV

Now please consider the following points:

1. The Prophet Daniel informs us that the sanctuary would be cleansed, and that the Jews would be tried, purified and made white.
2. John the Baptist warns us that Jesus would "purge his floor and "burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire".
3. Jesus tells us that the Jewish religionists were liars, murderers, false Jews, the children of the Devil, and the synagogue of Satan.
4. The Apostle John indirectly accuses his unbelieving Jewish brethren of being antichrists.
5. The Apostle Paul advises us that every man's work will be tried and purged by fire in order to determine of what sort it is. I find it rather interesting that right after stating this, Paul again reminds us that we are the true temples of God's Spirit, as opposed to the physical Temple which stood on Mount Moriah.

Upon considering all of the previous information, and its relation to actual historical events, I have arrived at the conclusion that while God allowed the Gentiles -- meaning the Roman legions -- to trod the Temple compound -- meaning the outer court -- under foot, the way that He purged and purified the actual Temple itself, was by allowing it to be completely burned to the ground, because it had become an abomination to Him. The Temple Mount was literally purged and purified by fire; and for the past almost two thousand years, it has remained absent of a Temple by God's specific design.

Why did God so utterly destroy the Temple compound through the Roman invasion and occupation? As we have already seen, one of the primary reasons is clearly revealed by what the Lord Himself said in Matthew chapter twenty-three:

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

In particular, you will notice that Jesus declares "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate". In other words, as a result of their rejection of their very own Messiah, in His fury, God also rejected them. However, I believe that the issue runs considerably deeper than that. In other words, in rejecting Christ, the unbelieving Jews likewise rejected the Spiritual House of worship which God desired to build upon the Precious Blood of His own Son. Let me remind you again of what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well in the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John. Even then He warned that the physical Temple in Jerusalem was destined for destruction:

"The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a

prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."
John 4:19-24, KJV

As I explain in a number of articles, by rejecting Christ, the Jews were also rejecting the Cornerstone, or Foundation Stone, of God's new Spiritual House. In fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, Jesus warned that His hard-hearted Jewish enemies would reject Him. Consider the following key verses which support this point:

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."
Isaiah 53:3, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"
Matthew 21:42, KJV

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."
Mark 8:31, KJV

"Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."
Luke 9:22, KJV

"But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation."
Luke 17:25, KJV

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not."
John 1:11, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."
Acts 4:11, KJV

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed [that is disapproved, rejected, repudiated] indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious . . . Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient:

whereunto also they were appointed."

1 Peter 2:4, 6-8, KJV

Without having this chief cornerstone in place, a structure simply cannot stand or even be built, because this important foundation stone actually joins the walls together. As you can imagine, through our faith, we are all spiritual stones in God's Spiritual House or Temple, who are joined together by Jesus Christ. In contrast, because the unbelieving Jewish religionists chose to reject God's chosen Cornerstone, it was inevitable that their false religion, and their false house -- which was built upon the shifting sands of the traditions of men -- would eventually come crashing to the ground. Thus, as we have seen, in His fierce Wrath and Indignation, God literally burned their primary house of worship -- the Temple -- to the ground. As the Apostle Paul writes in his Epistle to the Romans:

". . . Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Romans 12:19b, KJV

It took forty years for this to happen; but as they say, God's Judgments grind exceedingly slow, but exceedingly fine. Following are some additional verses which further explain Jesus' important position as the Chief Cornerstone of our Spiritual House -- or Temple -- in which we are all stones and pillars:

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."

John 2:19-22, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:11, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:19-22, KJV

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:5, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy

Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
2 Corinthians 5:1, KJV

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."
Revelation 3:12, KJV

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."
Revelation 21:22, KJV

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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ANTICHRIST, PRINCE OF THE COVENANT, KING OF THE NORTH
AND THE BEAST : PART 4

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70 AD: Judaism Is Altered Forever With Temple Destruction, Day Of Pentecost: God Broadcasts To The Entire Roman World, Christian Witnessing Explosion Vs Judaism's Total Implosion, Assyrian Babylonian And Roman Diasporas, Jesus Is Testator And Mediator Of The New Covenant, Jesus Founded A New Church Comprised Of New Bottles Who Can Accept New Spiritual Truths, God Burned The Bridges Leading Back To Legalistic Judaism, Pharisaical Legalism Was A Hinderance To God's Plans For His New Church, False Brethren Within The Church, Confrontation: We Ought To Obey God Rather Than Men, Jesus And The Apostles Were Intent On Preparing The Disciples For The 70 AD Events, American Christendom's Fascination With All Things Jewish,

Attributes Of God's True Church, Perfectly Joined Together And All One In Christ, Closing Remarks, Additional Resources

It is clear that this one Divine Act of Retribution in 70 AD altered the Jewish religion forever; because Mount Moriah had represented the very spiritual life and center for all Jews throughout Israel, North Africa and the Mediterranean region. As you may know, Jews from all around this great region made their annual pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem, and now it was gone. In one powerful Act of Divine Indignation, God knocked their spiritual feet right out from under them. The profound influence that this Act of God had on the Jews can be partially gauged, simply by noting the wide range of Jews who were in attendance on the Day of Pentecost in the Book of Acts. Consider the following verses:

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?"

Acts 2:5-12, KJV

As I explain in the article "Are the Gifts of the Spirit for Today?", if we translate all of the aforementioned names to their modern counterparts, we discover that God performed this miracle in order to broadcast the message of Salvation to people who were native to a region which extended from Italy, to Greece, to Turkey, to Syria, to Iraq, to Iran, all the way over to the nations of North Africa and the islands of the Mediterranean Sea. It was a huge witnessing campaign. It was a worldwide telecast of God's Spirit. While the day of Pentecost represented a powerful witnessing explosion for the young Christian Church, in stark contrast, the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple complex in 70 AD marked the total implosion of the Jewish faith. To the degree that the Day of Pentecost event had a positive effect on the Jews that day, 70 AD no doubt marked a devastating negative effect of equal proportions for the reprobate Jews, and probably greater.

The reason why I say this, is because the fiery destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple compound did not just equate to a spiritual implosion; it equated to a physical implosion as well. As you may recall from our earlier discussion, Jesus had forewarned His followers of the coming calamities with the words "they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations". Thus, just as had occurred with the Assyrian invasions over eight hundred years earlier; and just as had likewise occurred during the Babylonian invasions of the Sixth Century BC; the Jews were

once again forcefully removed from their homeland, and were dispersed throughout the regions that were controlled by the Roman Empire. In a technical sense, this was really a Third Diaspora. So God did not spare the rod this time. He broke the reprobate Jews spiritually, as well as physically.

At this point of our discussion, allow me to ask you a very important question. I will not be providing an answer to it. Please endeavor to answer it for yourself, based on all of the information which I have provided in this series. What we learn from the Scriptures, as well as from the historical record, is that over the past three thousand years or so, the Jewish nation has built two -- or three, depending on your perspective -- Temples on the summit of Mount Moriah. These have been Solomon's Temple, Zerubbabel's Temple, and Herod the Great's Temple.

We know from the Scriptures that as a result of disobedience and rebellion against the Lord on the part of the Jews, the first Temple was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar's forces in 587 BC, and the Jews were scattered abroad. The second -- or third -- Temple was destroyed by General Titus and his legions for very similar reasons more than six hundred and fifty years later in 70 AD. Again the Jews were dispersed to the lands outside of Israel. Considering then that the vast majority of the Jews who reside in Israel today continue to rebel against the Lord through their rejection of Jesus Christ, what do you honestly believe will happen if the Jews ever do build another Temple on the summit of Mount Moriah?

If your answer is the same as mine, do you think that this may be the reason why the Israeli government has prevented radical Orthodox Jewish groups such as Temple Mount Faithful from attempting to rebuild the Temple on Mount Moriah. Is it possible that some officials within the Israeli government actually fear what might happen to Israel if another Temple is allowed to be constructed again?

Allow me to share with you another reason why I believe that God dealt such a decisive blow to the Jewish religionists in 70 AD. As I more amply explain in some of my other articles, Judaism had become a cold, spiritless, oppressive religion of self-righteous works. Thus, the Lord determined that it was time to take it out of the way and begin anew. That is exactly what Jesus did as the Testator of the New Covenant. The New Testament, New Covenant or New Agreement between God and man, was signed with the Blood of Jesus Christ. In fact, it came into force through the Blood of Jesus Christ, and without Jesus' Death, it would not have even been possible. This is made plain in the Scriptures by verses such as the following:

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
Matthew 26:28, KJV

"And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."
Mark 14:24, KJV

"Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:20, KJV

"After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."
1 Corinthians 11:25, KJV

"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."
2 Corinthians 3:6, KJV

"But now hath he [Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."
Hebrews 8:6-13, KJV

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."
Hebrews 9:13-17, KJV

"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."
Hebrews 12:24, KJV

Through His own Sacrifice on the Cross, not only did He open the door to Salvation for all men by effectuating a New Deal between God and man, but Jesus likewise founded a New Church which is populated with "New Bottles" who are able to receive the New Truths of the Spirit, as we see here:

"Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

Matthew 9:17, KJV

These New Bottles who comprise the New Church worship God in Spirit and in Truth. As a result of the events that occurred in 70 AD, they no longer depended upon a physical structure with its rigid system, such as the Temple in Jerusalem. They were totally freed from the vain traditions of men. If we consider the fact that the First Century Church was composed primarily of converted Jews, who joined the Christian faith by the thousands in the Book of Acts, then it is plausible that one of God's intentions in allowing the Temple compound to be destroyed, was to literally burn their bridges behind them, so that the Disciples of the New Church couldn't return to the old, legalistic, corrupt religious system of Judaism, even if they had desired to do so.

There is no doubt that the religion of the Scribes and the Pharisees was a hindrance and an obstacle to what God wanted to do during the First Century. Therefore, as I have already pointed out, God had to take it out of the way by means of the Roman invasion. Concerning the actions of General Titus and the Roman legions, the Prophet Daniel writes as follows:

". . . and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood [that is, an army], and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Daniel 9:26b, KJV

It becomes apparent from reading the Book of Acts as well as various of the Epistles, that the legalistic Jews who were of the circumcision were a constant thorn in the flesh for the Apostles. Not only did they pose a challenge to the Church from without, but they also infiltrated the ranks of the Disciples and continuously schemed to cause division from within. Allow me to share one small example with you. Earlier we discussed how the Lord revealed to the Apostle Peter that the time had arrived to start bringing Gentiles into the fold. Upon hearing this news, consider how those Jews which were of the circumcision reacted to this news:

"And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them."

Acts 11:2-3, KJV

Instead of rejoicing upon hearing the news that the Roman centurion Cornelius had accepted the Lord, along with his family, at first, some of the legalistic Jews initially set themselves to arguing with Peter, found fault with him, and criticized him for eating with uncircumcised Gentiles.

Being as they came from a background of legalistic do's and don'ts, some of the Jewish Christian brethren had one foot caught in the legalism of Judaism, while the other enjoyed the spiritual freedom that is offered by Jesus Christ. At the same time, as I mentioned earlier, there were also certain Jews who intentionally feigned to be brethren for the sole

purpose of trying to stir up trouble within the ranks of the Disciples. This legalistic attitude continually cropped up within the First Century Church, and it was a relentless battle for the Apostles to keep it in check. Their concerns are expressed in verses such as the following:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."
Romans 16:17, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."
2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."
Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"
Galatians 2:4, KJV

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision."
Philippians 3:2, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"
1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."
1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound

doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"
2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."
Titus 3:9-11, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."
2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."
1 John 2:18-19, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."
2 John 1:9-11, KJV

It seems then that it was inevitable that these two opposing religious ideologies -- the legalism of the flesh versus the freedom of the Spirit -- would ultimately engage in a head-on confrontation. As we know, this confrontation began between Jesus and the Scribes and the Pharisees, and continued with the Apostles and the Disciples afterwards. As the Apostles so notably stated in Acts chapter five as they stood their ground against the Jewish religious Elders:

". . . We ought to obey God rather than men."
Acts 5:29b, KJV

While God may have used these tense situations in order to strengthen the faith and conviction of the Apostles and the Disciples, as we have already seen, eventually, He determined that the time had arrived to bring the old religious system crashing down. Thus, the Old Testament prophecies regarding the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple were fulfilled in 70 AD, as General Titus -- "the prince that shall come" -- and his legions laid siege to the city. The rest you already know.

In reading the New Testament, it becomes evident that both Jesus and the Apostles were intent on preparing the Disciples for the eventual destruction of the Temple compound, as well as the legalistic religion of the Jews. The manner in which

they did this was by repeatedly emphasizing the fact that our bodies represent the true temples of God's Spirit, as we saw earlier in this series. Jesus set the foundation during His time on Earth, and for the next several decades, the Apostles continued doing the same. Even though the destruction of the Temple compound was still some years in the future, through continually emphasizing the spiritual nature of God's True Church, they must have slowly weaned the Disciples from their dependence upon the Temple compound and its corrupt form of worship.

Having said that, in my view, there is a certain irony in how Christianity is being practiced in our modern day; at least with what appears to be a significant number of Christians in the United States of America. While I have not lived there in three decades now, through reading the news, participating on Facebook, surfing the web, and engaging in conversations with my online friends, it is very apparent that there is a huge fascination with all things Jewish. Stated another way, while with the passage of time the Early Church naturally distanced itself more and more from its Jewish roots as an increasing number of Gentiles were welcomed into the Christian fold, it seems that American Christendom today is doing the exact opposite. Whether or not this is a healthy situation I will leave for you to determine. For me personally, it is of some concern, because I am not sure where it will eventually lead.

Thanks to the wise foresight of the Apostles of the First Century, today we have a Church -- I am speaking of the True Church -- which is not dependent upon physical structures, or even on a priesthood for that matter. This Church is not limited by or constricted by denominational ties, particular doctrines, or anything else. It is united by a core belief which declares that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the only Mediator between God and man. This Church is guided only by God's Word, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is in fact a loosely-knit Body of Believers -- as was the Early Church -- that is now global in scope. This True Church remains unhampered by the physical boundaries which are drawn by mortal men. It is my belief that this is the Church which Jesus envisioned when He spoke to the woman of Samaria in John chapter four.

World empires and nations may be born and then crumble; and kings, queens, presidents, prime ministers and dictators may rise and fall; but God's glorious True Church of the Spirit marches on, unbound by the limitations of man's ideologies and trivial worldly pursuits. We are the True Church, and it is us, and we will always be here, until God says otherwise. As the Apostle Paul was inspired to write:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
1 Corinthians 1:10, KJV

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."
1 Corinthians 8:6, KJV

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28, KJV

With these inspiring verses regarding the unity of the Spirit, I will bring this series to its conclusion. It is my hope that you have found it informative, and that you have been blessed by it as well. If you have been inspired by it, I ask you to please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account on Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link which is found on this page. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of resources below which were either mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. All of these articles are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Accusations of Antisemitism: My Personal Response
Are the Gifts of the Spirit for Today?
Endless Genealogies And Endtime Deception
Hell, the Lake of Fire and Universalism
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word
Is God a Racist?
Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?
Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Trinity
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Great Tribulation and the Rapture
The Kings of the North and the South
The Seven Heads
The Two Sackcloth Witnesses of Revelation 11
Who is Hindering the Antichrist
Who Is Who?: Defining Important Endtime Terms

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