

THE TWO SACKCLOTH WITNESSES OF REVELATION 11 : PART 1

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God's CrossWord Puzzle, Prophetic Pairs, Divine Inspiration Of God's Word, Zerubbabel's Mission, Christ's Seed Preserved Presence Of God's Anointing, Levitical Priesthood, King Saul The Spirit Removed, Moses, Elijah, John The Baptist, Jesus, Our Candlestick, Burn Up The Wicked, Joy Of The Holy Ghost

As I point out in a number of articles, such as 'Famous Forties: One Of God's Special Numbers?', God's Word is like a great CrossWord Puzzle. When we first accept the Lord, and begin to study His Word, our puzzle is almost blank. We may have the word 'Salvation' filled in, but not much more than that. While we may possess all of the 'Word Clues' which are needed in order to fill in the rest of the answers, that is, to fill in the remaining blank spaces in our understanding, it isn't until we begin to study and work with those clues, or verses, by the power and anointing of God's Holy Spirit, that we can begin to make progress towards completing the puzzle. It is for this very reason that the Apostle Paul admonishes us to:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

As is it commonly known to many students of the Bible, many of the events which have already occurred, or which will yet transpire, during the New Testament era, are hidden in the writings of the Old Testament Prophets. I like to refer to these Scriptural Links as Prophetic Pairs. The ones which I find particularly exciting, are those which bear a strong resemblance in their Scriptural references. Sometimes, these similarities are quite obvious, while at other times, a bit of mathematics is necessary in order to reveal their common denominators. I share a small list of such Biblical jewels, which I have discovered during the course of my studies, in 'Famous Forties: One Of God's Special Numbers?'. As I point out there, the very fact that these prophecies were written literally hundreds and hundreds of years apart, by authors who never knew each other, is an amazing confirmation of how one and the selfsame Spirit inspired their words. Consider the following verses:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16)

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21)

"...My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the

pen of a ready writer." (Psalms 45:1b)

One of the Prophetic Pairs which I mention in the previously named article, is found in the prophecies of the book of the Prophet Zechariah. In the fourth chapter, the Prophet tells us of the following Angelic Encounter which occurred to him around the end of the Seventy Years of Captivity in Babylon:

"And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." (Zechariah 4:2-6)

In the previous verses, Zechariah is being given a special message to deliver to Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel, whose name means 'sown in Babylon' because he was born during the Jews' Seventy Years of Captivity, was the son of Shealtiel, and the grandson of King Jehoiachin. As you may know from some of my other articles, King Jehoiachin surrendered to King Nebuchadnezzar after the Babylonian king's siege against Jerusalem. He was a prisoner in Babylon for thirty-seven years, until the time of his release by King Evilmerodach.

"And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the first year of his reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison," (Jeremiah 52:31)

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 like 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)

"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)

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

Thus we see how important Zerubbabel was to the Lord's Plan of Salvation for the world. In the previous verses from the Book of Zechariah, through the graphic example of the seven lamps and the two olive trees, the Lord wanted Zerubbabel to know that he must not depend upon his own human strength and wisdom in order to complete his task, but rather he must depend solely upon the spiritual anointing and power of the Lord. This symbolic presence of the Lord's Spirit and Power with the children of Israel, was first given to Moses by the Lord in the Book of Leviticus:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations. He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually." (Leviticus 24:1-4)

Thus we see that the olive oil and the lamps which the Lord commanded to be burned continually, represent the presence of the Lord's Spirit, Power, and Anointing. It is for this reason that when the Levitical Priesthood was instituted, not only was the tabernacle and everything therein anointed with oil, but beginning with Moses' brother, Aaron, the Lord instructed Moses to anoint him, and his sons, with olive oil as well. Consider the following verses found in the Book of Exodus:

"And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water. And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod: And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre. Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him. And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them. And

thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons." (Exodus 29:4-9)

"And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water. And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats: And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations."
(Exodus 40:12-15)

As I mention in 'The Children Of God And Politics', later, even though the stubborn Israelites rejected the Lord's direct rule over their lives as their only true Eternal King, when they began to have Earthly kings to rule over them, the Lord instructed His Prophets to anoint them with olive oil as well. Consider the following verses found in the first Book of Samuel:

"Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people... Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?"
(1 Samuel 9:15-17, 10:1)

The purpose then of physically being anointed with oil by one of the Lord's Prophets, was to show that the Lord's Spirit rested upon a certain person; thus providing them with spiritual insight, strength and wisdom to do the job the Lord had given them to do. Just as a person can receive the anointing of the Oil of the Spirit, the Lord can remove it as well when a person displeases Him. Such was the case with Saul. In fact, due to his own sins, even King David feared that the Lord might remove His spiritual anointing from him. Consider these verses:

"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him." (1 Samuel 16:14)

"And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul." (1 Samuel 18:12)

"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me." (Psalms 51:11)

So you see, it is indeed possible to lose the anointing of the Holy Ghost if we are not careful. As I mention in other articles such as 'Elijah: Where Are The True Prophets Of God?', and 'Are You A Burning Ember For The Lord?', when the

Lord pours the Oil of His Holy Spirit upon a person, unlike stubborn King Saul, when such a person yields himself to the Lord, he can be wonderfully transformed into a powerful beacon of Light and Truth, which will not only blind the adversaries, but like a laser beam, will also burn up their evil works of darkness.

Such was the case with many of the Old Testament Prophets and Holy Men. When Moses returned to Egypt following his forty years of humble exile, and after his encounter with the Lord on the top of Mount Horeb, also known as Sinai, at which time he received his spiritual anointing, the whole world eventually heard about the mighty wonders which had been performed by his hand before the proud pharaoh. At the time the Lord gave Moses the Ten Commandments for the second time, Moses petitioned Him that He would show Himself. The Lord's Presence was so powerful, that we are told that Moses was only permitted to see the Lord's back parts:

"And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:18-23)

It was the very next morning that Moses began his second forty-day period on top of the mount, while he received his instructions from the Lord. We are told that he performed a complete fast; and that once he returned to the congregation below, his face still radiated the awesome spiritual energy of the Lord; so much so, that he was forced to cover his face with a veil. It was only during his actual encounters with the Lord, that he removed it:

"And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face

again, until he went in to speak with him."
(Exodus 34:28-35)

Moses, of course, was followed by many other mighty Prophets of the Lord. Hundreds of years later, when the Prophet Elijah held back the rain for three and a half years, evil King Ahab and all of Israel were humbly brought to their knees:

"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word...And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth...And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain." (1 Kings 18:17:1, 18:1, 41)

"But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;" (Luke 4:25)

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." (James 5:17-18)

When Elijah later called down fire from Heaven by the Power of the Almighty, in order to devour his sacrifice to the Lord, and thus vindicate himself as a true Prophet of God, the four hundred and fifty false prophets of Baal quickly grew weak in the knees before being destroyed by the same:

"And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there." (1 Kings 18:36-40)

Later, this mighty powerhouse of the Lord performed similar miracles when evil King Ahaziah of Samaria suffered a fatal accident, and sent messengers to bring Elijah to the king. As with the false prophets of Baal, the first two groups of messengers were destroyed by fire from Heaven:

"Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top

of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight. And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king." (2 Kings 1:9-15)

Of course, as many of us know, when Elijah's ministry came to its Earthly conclusion, the Lord chose to miraculously take the Prophet to His Heavenly Abode by means of one final blaze of fiery glory:

"And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." (2 Kings 2:11)

As I explain in some of the aforementioned articles, while the New Testament does not reveal whether or not John the Baptist performed any kind of awe-inspiring fiery miracles, we are definitely told by the Lord Himself, that John had indeed been heavily anointed with the Oil of the Spirit; just like the Prophet Elijah; so that he became a burning light for the Lord. In the Gospel of John we find the following verses spoken by our Lord:

"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." (Matthew 11:11-14)

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." (Matthew 17:11-13)

"Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining

light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." (John 5:33-36)

Jesus did indeed have a greater anointing of the Oil of the Spirit than did His cousin John. In fact, as I point out in other articles, Jesus was given the Spirit without measure. While John was indeed a burning light in the world, even he admitted that he was not the Light of Lights, but was only sent to prepare the way for the True Light who lights every man who comes into the world. Not only that, but this Light would symbolically devour His enemies like a burning flame:

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."
(John 3:34)

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:6-9)

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
(John 9:5)

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." (Matthew 4:16)

"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)

Of course, the Scriptures also tell us that when we accept Christ into our lives, and are anointed by the Oil of God's Holy Spirit, we are symbolically made in His image; we become small parts of the Greater Light; and someday this will become a physical reality when we finally receive our new glorified bodies, so that we will truly be as He is at this present time. For the time being though, we must do as Jesus says, and allow God to place us upon His symbolic candlestick; so that we too can give spiritual light to all those who are in the house. We must allow our flames to burn brightly by the Power of the Oil of His Spirit:

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:15-16)

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

One thing of which I can assure you, is that when the Lord chooses to light the Oil of His Spirit in a person's life, whether it be that of His own Son, or of anyone else, the adversaries had better watch out; for as the Apostle Paul wrote:

"For our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29)

God's Light burns bright, and His Oil burns hot; and some day in the not-too-distant future, when the Lord returns, His very brightness shall destroy the forces of Antichrist, as we see in the following verse found in Paul's second Epistle to the Thessalonians:

"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 2:8)

However, not only does the Oil of Lord's Spirit provide us with Spiritual Light, Strength and Anointing in our lives, but it also fills our lives with joy unspeakable. Rather than be sad and gloomy, we should be filled with the joy of the Holy Ghost. While John the Baptist was a fiery Prophet of repentance, he was also filled with the joy of the Holy Ghost. Once he had seen the true Lamb of God, and the Light of the world, he tells us in his own words that he was filled with joy; knowing that he had fulfilled the purpose given to him by the Lord. I don't doubt that John went to his grave being a happy man. Consider the following verses:

"Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." (John 3:28-29)

"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." (Psalms 45:6-7)

"And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 13:52)

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17)

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." (Romans 15:13)

"And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:" (1 Thessalonians 1:6)

The previous verses found in the Book of Psalms are quite profound, as they are actually a prophecy regarding the joyous reign of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that the first two times the word 'God' is mentioned, it is referring to Jesus Christ; and when King David writes 'thy God', he is referring to God the Father who has exalted Jesus Christ His Son above all Creation. These thoughts are made clear by the following verses found in Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews:

"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." (Hebrews 1:5-9)

In part two of this series, we will take a closer Scriptural look at the coming Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ; and how it will affect us, as well as the children of the world. We will also return to the vision of the Prophet Zechariah, and see how it directly relates to some astounding events found in the Book of Revelation. This will include a discussion on such topics as the Two Sackcloth Witnesses, Moses and Elijah the Transfiguration, the Law and the Prophets, ravenous wolves and false shepherds, the persecution of the Lord's Prophets, and Jesus as a Prophet of God. I hope that you will join me.

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THE TWO SACKCLOTH WITNESSES OF REVELATION 11 : PART 2

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Worldly Governments Crushed, Our Joyful Millennial Reign Two Sackcloth Witnesses, Moses And Elijah, The Transfiguration, Law And The Prophets, Ravenous Wolves And False Shepherds, Persecution Of God's Prophets, Jesus Was A Prophet Of God

While the soon-coming Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ and His changed and resurrected Saints will be a difficult time for the rebellious governments of the world, as they are broken in pieces like a potter's vessel, and forced to submit themselves to the Divine Authority of the Almighty God, the Scriptures make very clear that for us, it will be a time of great joy. In this first set of verses, we witness the crushing defeat of all worldly governments who would dare to defy the Righteous Government of Jesus Christ, the one True Rock and Rightful Heir, and His crowned Saints:

"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...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 2:34, 44)

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (Psalms 2:2-9)

"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?...And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them." (Matthew 21:42, 44-45)

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

"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)

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

"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," (1 Peter 2:6-7)

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."
(Revelation 2:26-27)

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." (Revelation 12:5)

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." (Revelation 19:15)

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

In contrast to the above picture of harsh dictatorial rule under the Theocratic Reign of Jesus Christ, notice now how our reign with the Lord during the coming Millenium will be filled with joy unspeakable; and not only for us, but for all those who submit themselves to His Will. We shall truly be filled with the Oil of Gladness, as what we believe now by faith, will actually become a physical reality then:

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein. Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth." (1 Chronicles 16:31-33)

"O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah." (Psalms 67:4)

"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful,

and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof." (Psalms 96:11-97:1)

"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (1 Peter 4:13)

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." (Revelation 19:7)

Of course, before the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ and His Saints can begin, a number of world-shaking prophetic events must occur first. This brings us back to the vision of the Prophet Zechariah and our discussion concerning the issue of Prophetic Pairs. When Zechariah was unable to answer his Angelic Visitor regarding the significance of the two olive trees in his vision, their Heavenly Dialogue continued as follows:

"Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."
(Zechariah 4:11-14)

Exactly who are these 'two anointed ones that stand by the Lord'; and what is their purpose? Obviously, they must represent two people. If we move up just over six hundred years in prophetic history to the end of the First Century, we find an amazing answer to who these 'anointed ones' might be. One of the many mysteries which forms a part of John's apocalyptic work, the Book of Revelation, revolves around the identity of two Endtime figures commonly referred to as the Two Sackcloth Witnesses. We are introduced to these two Prophets of the Lord in the following verses found in the eleventh chapter of John's book. Please take note of the Scriptural references here, as again we find a very striking similarity. In this case, we have Zechariah 4:11-14, and Revelation 11:3-4; in which the three is hidden in the verses from Zechariah:

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."
(Revelation 11:3-4)

How amazing! Some six hundred years later, the Lord tells John very plainly that the olive trees and the candlesticks seen by Zechariah, are two Endtime witnesses who will burn brightly with the Power of the Oil of God's Spirit! Please notice that these Two Sackcloth Witnesses will prophesy in

Israel during the full length of the period known as the Great Tribulation, or Jacob's Trouble; that is, the final three and half years of the Last Seven Years. Exactly what will happen to those who fight against them and reject the words of their prophecies, is revealed in the following verses from the same chapter:

"And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."
(Revelation 11:5-6)

Because of the very striking similarities between these verses and events described in the Old Testament, there is a widespread belief within Christian circles, that these two Endtime witnesses may in fact be Moses and Elijah. As we saw in part one of this series, the Prophet Elijah was indeed given the Power to call fire down from Heaven in order to consume his enemies. At the same time, we are all familiar with the fact that Moses, by the Power of the Lord, turned the rivers of Egypt into blood when proud Pharaoh refused to release the Hebrew slaves; and he brought other plagues upon the Egyptians as well:

"Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river. And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt."
(Exodus 7:17-21)

Thus we see that there is indeed strong Scriptural evidence in the Old Testament which suggests that the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of the Endtime are associated with the Prophets Moses and Elijah in some way. In the New Testament, there is additional evidence which adds weight to this view. The most noteworthy is the story of our Lord's Transfiguration found in Matthew chapter seventeen:

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking

with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only." (Matthew 17:1-8)

In his second Epistle, shortly before his own martyrdom, in order to encourage the brethren to remember the things he had taught them, Peter referred back to the above incident when he wrote the following:

"Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." (2 Peter 1:13-18)

Many people have tried to explain how the Transfiguration actually came to pass. If you are interested in reading some of my own personal theories, allow me to suggest that you read such series as 'Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?', 'What Really Happens To Us When We Die?', and 'Under The Cloud: UFO's And The Bible'. I am sure that some of my ideas will challenge some of your current beliefs as a Christian. However, for now, the most important point that I wish to make, is the fact that this incident involved Moses and Elijah. The question then is, why them? Why not someone else? I offer an answer to this question in my article 'The Royal Law: Thou Shalt Love'. In short, collectively-speaking Moses and Elijah represent 'the Law and the Prophets'. This term holds a lot of importance within Judaism, as well as within our Christian heritage. We find it used throughout the New Testament. Consider the following verses:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."
Matthew 5:17)

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two

commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
(Matthew 22:36-40)

"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16)

"And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."
(Luke 24:44)

"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:45)

"And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on." (Acts 13:15)

"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you."
(Acts 13:38-41)

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;"
(Romans 3:21)

You see, while Moses was the giver of the Law, we can view the Lord's true Prophets as the preservers of the Law; that is, they were the Lord's watchdogs who guarded the true Spirit and intent of the Law, and kept it from corruption. This became necessary, because many of the Jewish kings, as well as the politically-correct priests and false prophets who catered to them at that time, did not do it. This is why the Lord found it necessary to raise up His true Prophets, such as the Prophet Jeremiah, through whom He spoke, saying such things as the following:

"For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land." (Jeremiah 1:18)

"The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit." (Jeremiah 2:8)

"As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets, Saying to a stock, Thou

art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth:
for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face:
but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and
save us." (Jeremiah 2:26-27)

"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land;
The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by
their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will
ye do in the end thereof?" (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

"Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying,
Thus saith the LORD; Harken not to the words of your
prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels
of the LORD'S house shall now shortly be brought again from
Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you."
(Jeremiah 27:16)

To help you to further understand this idea, consider the
primary purpose of a sheepdog. Not only is his job to help
the shepherd to herd the sheep, and to keep them in line,
but it is also to protect them from predators, such as the
ravenous wolves. These ravenous wolves were the false Jewish
shepherds of both the Old and the New Testament periods. We
find them described in such verses as the following:

"...Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel,
prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto
the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do
feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?
Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill
them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased
have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which
was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken,
neither have ye brought again that which was driven away,
neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force
and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were
scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became
meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were
scattered...As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my
flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast
of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my
shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed
themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds,
hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold,
I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at
their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock;
neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I
will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be
meat for them." (Ezekiel 34:1b-5, 8-10)

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's
clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."
(Matthew 7:15)

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves:
be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."
(Matthew 10:16)

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among
wolves." (Luke 10:3)

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

(Acts 20:29)

Of course, as with all of the Old Testament true Prophets of the Lord, Jeremiah's message was not well-received by the false political and religious leaders of his day. In fact, they desired to kill him because he spoke the truth and exposed their sins. All of the Old Testament Prophets were persecuted and slain for this very same reason; as were John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and His First Century followers. The workers of darkness simply cannot stand having their sins exposed by the blinding, exposing Light of God's Word. Please note that in the following verses, it is those who claimed to be the true spiritual shepherds of Israel, who committed all of these crimes against the Lord's true children:

"Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die...Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears." (Jeremiah 26:8, 11)

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father." (John 15:22-24)

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." (John 3:19-20)

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. 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 23:29-39)

Please note that in the previous verses from the Gospel of Matthew, the Zacharias mentioned by Jesus is not the father of John the Baptist, as some wayward Bible teachers have claimed. Jesus is referring to the very same Zechariah in the Old Testament, who had the vision of the candle sticks and the two olive trees. In the New Testament, we are merely seeing the Greek transliteration of his Hebrew name. Here is unrefutable Scriptural proof that this is so:

"In the eighth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD unto Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying," (Zechariah 1:1)

For more details concerning the bloody sins of Jerusalem, allow me to refer you to the article 'Revelation's Babylon The Great Whore'. The main point I wish to stress here, is that when the children of Israel backslid time and time again from the mandates of the Law, it was the Lord's true Prophets and watchdogs who called them to repentance. In this sense, John the Baptist was the final Prophet sent by God in order to call the people to repentance, just before the Lord revealed Himself to Israel. In addition to the fact that John carried the same spiritual anointing as Elijah, perhaps this is why Jesus called him the greatest of all Prophets; at least of those living at that time:

"For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (Luke 7:28)

Exactly what may be implied by the fact that John carried the same spiritual anointing as the Prophet Elijah, is fully explained in my series 'Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?'. As you can see by the previous verses, the Law and the Prophets were, and continue to be, very instrumental in bringing the Jews to faith in Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Saviour. Not only do the writings of Moses and the Old Testament Prophets speak of the coming of Jesus Christ, but they also tell how He would fulfill everything which they had written concerning Him; and that He would also abolish our dependence upon the Law for our Salvation. The fact that Moses said the following, makes it very fitting that he should join Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration:

"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;...I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18)

Not only did Jesus say that He was indeed the Prophet which had been spoken of by Moses, but in the Book of Acts, Peter and Stephen confirmed this as well. In addition, many of the common people also believed that Jesus was a Prophet; such as the blind man, and the Samaritan woman at the well; but,

some of them may not have realized at that time, that Jesus was indeed the Prophet of which Moses had spoken. In fact, while King Herod assumed that Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead, some of the common people erroneously assumed that He was Elijah risen from the dead; apparently because of His boldness, and the fiery Spirit with which He consumed His adversaries. So again, we see a clear link between Moses, Elijah and Jesus. In addition, while Moses and Elijah were given a measure of the Spirit, as we saw in part one, Jesus was given of the very same Spirit by His Father without measure. Consider the following verses:

"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.
(Matthew 10:40-41)

"And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house." (Matthew 13:57)

"And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet." (Matthew 21:45-46)

"And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets."
(Mark 6:14-15)

"Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem." (Luke 13:33)

"And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:"
(Luke 24:19)

"The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." (John 4:19)

"They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet."
(John 9:17)

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you." (Acts 3:22)

"This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear." (Acts 7:37)

Despite all of the Scriptural evidence which clearly points

to the fact that Jesus is who He says He is, as we will see in part three, most of the Jewish Elders did not accept His claim of being the Son of God. In fact, they did everything possible to deny and conceal this very fact. In addition to these points, we will be discussing the famous forty and the similarities between Moses Elijah and Jesus, God's Celestial Ships, the murder of the Lord's Two Sackcloth Witnesses, the evilness of the Endtime, the Seventh Trumpet of God and the Resurrection, being overcomers, watching and praying, the final countdown of the Endtime, the Endtime scoffers, the theoretical return of Moses and Elijah, and the Eternal Now. I trust that you will join me.

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Jews' Rejection Of Christ And The Resurrection Coverup, The Famous Forty And Similarities Between Moses, Elijah And Jesus God's Celestial Ship, Murder Of Two Sackcloth Witnesses, The Evilness Of Endtime, Seventh Trumpet Of God And Resurrection Overcomers, Watch And Pray, The Final Countdown, The Endtime Scoffers, The Return Of Moses And Elijah?, The Eternal Now

As I stated at the end of part two, the majority of the Jewish Elders did not accept Jesus as a Prophet, and much less as the Son of God. As far as they were concerned, He was a blasphemer, a liar, a false prophet, a gluttonous man and a wine bibber, a companion of harlots and sinners, and filled with the devil. Consider the following verses:

"The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." (Matthew 11:19)

"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils." (Matthew 12:24)

"Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner." (Luke 7:39)

Exactly how did Jesus react to their accusations against Him? In addition to exposing their lack of love and mercy, their proud, self-righteous spirit, and their legalistic, rigid interpretation of the Law, which they used to oppress the common people, He pointed them right back to the Law of Moses, and to the writings of the Old Testament Prophets. The Lord basically said, 'Look; you have the written record; so why don't you believe it?':

"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:45-47)

"Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

(Luke 16:27-31)

How true indeed! Even though Jesus rose from the dead, they still did not believe. They had the written record; they had the prophecies; they knew what they said; yet they denied every single bit of it when it came to pass before their very eyes! In fact, as I point out in a number of other articles, those rebellious Jews purposely tried to conceal the Lord's wonderful Resurrection as we see at the end of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."
(Matthew 28:11-15)

In light of all of the things I have discussed thus far, it is easy to understand why God the Father would send Moses and Elijah to counsel with Jesus before these final events were to be fulfilled a short time later in Jerusalem. You may recall that this is precisely what they came to talk to Him about in the first place. In the Gospel of Luke we read:

"And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."
(Luke 9:30-31)

As I mentioned in part one of this series, and explain even more thoroughly in the article 'Famous Forties: One Of God's Special Numbers?', the Holy Scriptures contain quite a few numerical mysteries; only a few of which I have personally discovered to date. There are apparently certain numbers in the Bible which have special significance for the Lord. One of these is no doubt the number forty. This number creates an interesting association between Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Just as Moses performed a complete fast during two forty-day periods when he received the Commandments twice from the Lord on the top of Mount Horeb, or Sinai, the Prophet Elijah also fasted for a period of forty days and nights when he went to Mount Horeb as well. It was there that the Lord spoke to him in a still small voice. Not only that, but in the Gospels, we are also told that Jesus likewise fasted for a period of forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, prior to revealing Himself to Israel. Consider the following verses.

"And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights." (Exodus 24:18)

"When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:...And it

came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant...And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger...Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you...And I stayed in the mount, according to the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also, and the LORD would not destroy thee."

(Deuteronomy 9:9, 11, 18, 25, 10:10)

"And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God." (1 Kings 19:5-8)

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred."

(Matthew 4:1-2)

"And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him." (Mark 1:12-13)

"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered." (Luke 4:1-2)

That last set of verses presents us with a very interesting possibility. While up until now, I have always assumed that Jesus' fast occurred while He wandered in the Jordan River Valley after having been baptised by John, that may not have necessarily been the case. Notice that Luke tells us that Jesus 'returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness'. It sounds to me as if perhaps the Lord went in a direction opposite to the Jordan River. Is it possible that He may have travelled south to Mount Horeb, that is, to Sinai? This would certainly follow the pattern of Moses and Elijah more perfectly. Of course, this is merely speculation on my part, and I cannot prove this point beyond a shadow of a doubt.

What I also find rather interesting is that, in the previous verses, we see that just as Elijah was provided with food by the Angel prior to beginning his forty-day fast, Jesus was also ministered to by Angels when His fast and temptation by Satan was over; which in itself was a fulfillment of yet another prophecy spoken by King David:

"Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." (Matthew 4:11)

"There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Psalms 91:10-12)

You will recall that this was one of the very temptations which Satan used against Jesus. He twisted the meaning of God's Word in order to try to get Jesus to tempt His very own Father:

"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." (Matthew 4:5-7)

Clearly then, there are some very close Scriptural links between Moses, Elijah and Jesus which make the occurrence on the Mount of Transfiguration quite fitting to God's overall plan. This event is very similar to the description of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses in another way as well. You may recall that before Moses and Elijah took their leave from Jesus, the three Disciples witnessed a bright cloud, and also the Voice of the Father from Heaven. The minute they experienced these things, we are told that they dove to the ground in fear. When they got back up again, the Voice was gone; the bright cloud was gone; and Moses and Elijah were gone as well. It appears that God's Celestial Ship took them back to the World Beyond. Allow me to refresh your memory:

"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only." (Matthew 17:5-8)

While some narrow-minded Christians may find that hard to believe, because they have been so conditioned by the world to view all UFO's as either being the invention of mentally unstable people, or as being physical craft controlled by evil aliens from outer space, that is what the Bible says; and that isn't the only place in the Bible where such events are described. Allow me to again refer you to the article 'Under The Cloud: UFO's And The Bible'. Another possibility, which I suggest in 'Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?', is that the cloud seen by Peter, James and John, and the cloud mentioned in the eleventh chapter of the Book of Revelation, might not be referring to an actual Celestial Craft of some sort, but rather to a spiritual cloud of some of the Heavenly Host.

In the case of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses, we are told that after they have completed their mission on Earth during the final three and a half years known as the Great Tribulation, they will be killed by the forces of the Beast; just like every true Prophet of God has been killed since the days of the Old Testament:

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."
(Revelation 11:7)

What is so amazing about this event, is that the people of the world will have become so wicked, and so corrupt by that time, that we are told that they are actually going to have a worldwide celebration when the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are killed in Jerusalem. They will be glad that they have shut up the Mouth of God through His Two Witnesses; just as the Jews have always gloated at the demise of the Lord's true messengers. Unless these verses are simply describing people of different ethnic groups who will be in Jerusalem at that time, and who will thus personally witness these events with their own eyes, it appears as if they may be broadcast on worldwide television! It might receive top news coverage! The Beast's Broadcasting Company is going to actually boast about this evil deed!:

"And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."
(Revelation 11:8-10)

That is the epitome of evil! They are not even going to bury the bodies of the Lord's Two Witnesses! They are going to be left to stink and rot in the street where they lay, as a strong testimony against these evildoers! That is how wicked the Israelites really are in their hearts; as well as the rest of the evil ungodly world who will rejoice right along with them! They will be just like their ancestors; such as the ungodly Jews who covered their ears when Stephen blasted them with the truth in Acts chapter seven; just before they silenced him through stoning:

"Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul."
(Acts 7:57-58)

Of course, the joke will be on them; because as John tells us, only three and a half days later, something wonderful, and totally unexpected is going to happen. Please notice exactly how this event occurs:

"And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." (Revelation 11:11-12)

Do you see the similarity to the account in Matthew chapter seventeen? Just like on the Mount of Transfiguration, there is a mysterious cloud, a voice from Heaven, and great fear upon the observers. This is another reason why some people believe that the Two Sackcloth Witnesses may be the Prophets Moses and Elijah. Based upon my study of the Scriptures, I believe that the resurrection of these two witnesses will coincide with the final Trump; that is, the Seventh Trumpet of God, in which all of the dead and living Saints will be resurrected, transformed, and raptured to Heaven. Remember, these events occur at the very end of the Great Tribulation; which is when the Rapture of the Saints is due to occur as well. Notice that just as the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are called up to Heaven with a voice, the Rapture of the Saints is described in the very same manner in these verses:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."
(Revelation 10:7)

As I explain in part one of 'Have You Been Slain In The Spirit?', God is going to turn the apparent defeat of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses into great victory; and the unsaved world will be left breathless! Just when the Beast and his evil followers believe they have sunk the last nail into the coffin of Christianity, God is going to show them how wrong they really are! Along with the Two Sackcloth Witnesses, we will all spring up to new life, as has been promised to us since the world began! We shall truly overcome death by the Blood of the Lamb! Consider the following inspiring verses:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

"I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." (1 John 2:13-14)

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:

because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Revelation 3:21)

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." (Revelation 12:11)

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." (Revelation 17:14)

While many Christians have been erroneously taught that none of us will know of the precise Day of the Lord's Return, as I point out in the article 'As A Thief In The Night? Not For Me!', personally, I am convinced that not only does the Lord want us to know when we should be expecting Him, but He has left us clues throughout His Word which will help us to know exactly when that Day is approaching. As the Apostle Paul wrote, we will not be darkness concerning the Day of the Lord's Coming as will be the children of the world; if we are alert, and paying attention to the signs of the times; exactly as he and Jesus Himself told us to do in the following verses:

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6)

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:42-44)

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 25:13)

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." (Mark 13:32-37)

At this current time, none of us can honestly say that we know the precise day of the Lord's Arrival. As Jesus said in the above verses, no one knows except His Father; however, it is my belief that the minute His Father gives the signal,

and these Endtime events are set in motion, the countdown will finally begin; and we will not be in the dark if we are prayerful and watching. That is the key; to watch and pray!

If you stop to think about it, the advent in the near future of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses will be one clear sign that the Day of the Lord is fast approaching. As we saw in part two of this series, their ministry will span a time period of exactly one thousand two hundred and sixty days. This is equivalent to forty-two Jewish months of thirty days each, for a total of three and a half years. In other words, as I point out in the in-depth series 'The Great Tribulation And The Rapture', they will prophesy during the full length of the troublesome period known as the Great Tribulation, or Jacob's Trouble; when the Beast will be persecuting God's children, as per these verses:

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."
(Daniel 7:25)

"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 sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." (Daniel 12:7)

"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 11:2-3)

"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)

"And there was given unto him 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)

If the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are going to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, and if they are going to lie dead in the streets of Jerusalem for an additional three and a half days before being summoned to Heaven during the First Resurrection, or Rapture, then this can only mean that they will reveal themselves to Israel, either exactly in the middle of the Last Seven Years, when the Beast breaks the Holy Covenant, invades Jerusalem, removes the Daily Sacrifice, and sets up the Abomination of Desolation, which of course commences the Great Tribulation, as per Jesus' own

words, or else they will appear three and a half days before these world-shaking events occur.

Just as the day the Holy Covenant is signed will mark the beginning of the Last Seven Years, the arrival of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses will be another clear marker that we have reached the middle of the same time period. Even if we somehow miss the actual signing of the Holy Covenant, maybe because it will be done in secret, or for some other reason, the minute that the Two Sackcloth Witnesses appear, we will be able to count off the remaining days, one by one, until the return of our Lord, and the First Resurrection of the Dead. So you see, while it is indeed true that we don't know now, we will begin to know then. The prophecies clearly point the way for us if we take the time to understand them; exactly as Jesus, Paul and others told us to do. It is only the children of the world who are not led by God's Spirit, and who are thus ignorant of the Holy Scriptures, who will walk in darkness; and who will in fact scoff at us, and make fun of our beliefs; right up until the very day in which they are destroyed by the Lord. Consider the following verses:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
(1 Corinthians 2:14)

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:4)

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (2 Peter 3:3-4)

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

At this point, allow me to address another issue concerning the Two Sackcloth Witnesses. When it is said that they might be Moses and Elijah, exactly what is meant by this? It is my understanding that for some people, this means that Moses and Elijah will actually return to the Earth in human form. In other words, they will be born again in the flesh as two regular human beings. Is this really possible, and is it a Scripturally-sound doctrine? One school of thought suggests that the reason that Moses and Elijah were able to appear with Jesus on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration, is because, as I explain in several articles, in the Spirit Realm where the great I AM exists, time basically does not exist. Past, present and future are all blended into one. Consider carefully the following very interesting verses:

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which

hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been;
and God requireth that which is past."

(Ecclesiastes 3:14-15)

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" (Isaiah 46:9-10)

So the thought is, that Moses and Elijah were able to appear to Jesus on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration, because their resurrection at the end of the Great Tribulation as the Two Sackcloth Witnesses had already occurred. In other words, although in the physical realm the Lord had not yet become the Firstfruits of the Resurrection following His own Death and Resurrection, in the Realm of the Spirit, it had already occurred; as had all of the other events leading up to our present time, as well as those yet to come. This might be a bit difficult for some of you to understand, but it does make sense to me. However, I do believe that this theory is flawed in certain regards; and for this reason, I cannot accept that Moses and Elijah will actually return to the Earth, and be born once again in human form.

In the final part of this series, I will explain some of the reasons for which I adopt this position. In addition, I will also be addressing the issues of what it means to be a true Jew, the Jewish rejection of God's Two Sackcloth Witnesses, spiritual meat and milk, Endtime deceivers, reincarnation, Biblical resurrections, John and Elijah, Moses and Elijah as Ministering Spirits, the reign of the Antichrist, unmasking the deception, the Heavenly Court and the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ, bearing witness and presenting the evidence, personal accountability, delivering our souls, and the final choice of the Jews. I trust that you will join me.

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True Jews, Jewish Rejection Of The Two Sackcloth Witnesses, Spiritual Meat And Milk, Endtime Deceivers, Reincarnation, Biblical Resurrections, John And Elijah, Moses And Elijah As Ministering Spirits?, The Antichrist Reigns, Unmasking The Deception, Heavenly Court And The Judgment Seat Of Christ, Bearing Witness And Presenting The Evidence, Our Personal Accountability, Delivering Our Souls, The Jews' Final Choice

As I stated in part three, upon performing a careful study of the Scriptures, I have concluded that the Prophets Moses and Elijah are not going to be born again in the flesh as some Christians erroneously believe. If the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are truly going to be Moses and Elijah born again in human form, and if they are going to declare themselves to be such, and prove it by many powerful signs, so that all of the Jews are made aware of this fact, it seems to me that all of Israel would be saved without a moment's hesitation; however, according to the Scriptures, this is definitely not what is going to happen. As I explain in 'The Woman In The Wilderness And The 144,000', all of Israel is not going to be saved, but only those destined by God to be saved; that is, the sealed 144,000 flesh Jews of the tribes of Israel. Allow me to again remind you of the words of the Apostle Paul:

"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:"
(Romans 9:6)

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." (Romans 2:28-29)

As I explain in the series 'Is God A Racist?', not everyone who claims to be a Jew is a true Jew; but only those who are Jews after the Spirit, and in Truth; that is, those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Please stop and consider this point for a moment. Moses and Elijah are probably the two most revered Prophets of the Old Testament. Orthodox Judaism is built around the Mosaic Law; as well as upon the rabbinic teachings found in the Babylonian Talmud. Despite these two facts, we are told that the Two Sackcloth Witnesses will be scoffed at, and left to lay in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days. I honestly cannot imagine the Jews doing this to two of their most revered Prophets; can you?

Even if the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are Moses and Elijah in some other way, if we follow the Biblical pattern, it does not appear likely that they will declare themselves to be

such. While Jesus plainly told His Disciples that John the Baptist was the Elias which was to come, as I point out in the series 'Elijah: Where Are The True Prophets Of God?', John denied this very thing. I can only conclude that John's remarks were due to either a lack of faith, or perhaps due to a true state of humility, or maybe due to his fear of the Jewish Elders. Of course, it might have also been due to the fact that he knew that they would not be able to receive the truth anyway. Remember; even Jesus said that He had some truths to share with His Disciples which He knew they were not yet ready to bear. It is for this very same reason that the Apostle Paul wrote about spiritual milk, and spiritual meat. Consider the following verses:

"And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No." (John 1:21)

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." (John 16:12)

"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 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 5:11-14)

Personally, I can easily envision the hard-hearted Israelies laughing to scorn, anyone who arrives in Jerusalem claiming to be the Prophets Moses and Elijah. I recall reading not too long ago, about a certain small group from the United States who, under the inspiration of their leaders, went to Israel, claiming that they are in fact the Two Sackcloth Witnesses; so the deception has already begun. Undoubtedly, there will be many such imposters; some of whom will indeed be empowered by Satan, so that they will perform many signs and lying wonders, in order to try to deceive God's Elect; for as Jesus Himself warned us in His Endtime Sermon found in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."
(Matthew 24:24)

Another reason why I have a difficult time accepting that the Two Sackcloth Witnesses will actually be Moses and Elijah born again in the flesh, is because of something which the Apostle Paul said in his very profound Epistle to the Hebrews. In fact, as a former Pharisee, he was merely echoing something which was obviously believed by all of the Pharisees, including Nicodemus. Consider the following verses:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" (Hebrews 9:27)

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (John 3:4)

These verses makes it very clear that we all experience only one life in the flesh, and that is it. Contrary to what is preached by some of the false Eastern religions, there is no such thing as reincarnation. When we die in the flesh, that is it. There is no coming back in another flesh body as a human, or as an animal; and we certainly don't come back as flowers, rocks, trees, or any of that other nonsense foisted upon the Biblically-ignorant masses by such deceptive gurus of Eastern thought and meditation. When we the Saints of the Lord return, it will be in our new transformed bodies; as I explain in such series as 'What Really Happens To Us When We Die?' and 'Death: Final Battle, Final Victory!', and in the article 'The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?'.

At this point in time, I am not of the belief that we will be coming back as someone else; we will be the very same people as we are now in this life; although, of course, we will possess immortal bodies then. I believe that we are probably going to retain the memory of our current lives in the flesh. What would be the purpose of learning so much in this life, which has greatly contributed to our maturation in the Spirit, only to forget everything in the next life? Realistically speaking, for the Christian, the life to come is really a continuation of the current one; albeit it will be much better in many ways, for as the Apostle Paul wrote:

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."
(1 Corinthians 2:9)

In order to add weight to their claim that sometime in the near future, Moses and Elijah are going to be born a second time in the flesh as the Two Sackcloth Witnesses, there are those people who will point to the different miracles of resurrection we see happening in the Bible; such as Elijah bringing back to life the son of the widow of Zarephath in the first Book of the Kings chapter seventeen, the various resurrections Jesus performed in the four Gospels, such as that of Lazarus in the eleventh chapter of the Book of John, as well as the young man named Eutychus, who fell from a loft, and who was apparently brought back to life by the Apostle Paul in the twentieth chapter of Acts.

I beg to differ with those who make such claims. In every single one of these cases, these people were brought back to life in their very same bodies, with the same personality, and with the same identity. They knew who they were, as did everyone else. They merely had a brief pause in their lives, in order that the Glory and Power of God might be revealed. Lazarus returned as Lazarus; Eutychus returned as Eutychus, etc. The Lord merely reunited their body and soul, as I amply explain in 'What Really Happens To Us When We Die?', and in 'Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?'.

In my view, to suggest that John the Baptist was really the

Prophet Elijah who had returned from Heaven in order to have a second Earthly ministry by being born again in the flesh, doesn't seem to fit the Biblical pattern. In discussing the various manifestations and operations of the Spirit, Paul clearly informs us that God is not the author of confusion; and I believe that this truth applies to every sphere of the Realm of the Spirit:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33)

In other words, I don't believe that God is going to send the Prophet Elijah back to Earth in a new body of flesh, and then send the Angel Gabriel to inform his father, Zacharias, that his son is to be called John, as we see happening in this verse:

"But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John." (Luke 1:13)

In light of all of these things, it is my belief that while the Two Sackcloth Witnesses may be able to perform the same types of miracles, or plagues, as Moses and Elijah, it does not mean that they will actually be them born again in the flesh; any more that John the Baptist was really the Prophet Elijah born again in the flesh. However, as I amply explain in 'Great Cloud Of Witnesses: God's Holy Ghosts?', I have found Scriptural evidence which suggests that there might be some hidden process which allows one to be anointed with the same Spirit and Power of an earlier Prophet, so that, as in the case of John, he was specifically called by that name in prophecy.

In other words, based upon my Scriptural discoveries, I will venture to say that there is a possibility, that if the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are that similar to the Prophets Moses and Elijah, as the Book of Revelation seems to indicate, it might be because they are receiving the assistance of Moses and Elijah from behind the scenes in the Spirit World. If you are able to receive it, perhaps Moses and Elijah will be prophesying and performing plagues, through the mouths and the flesh of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of the Endtime. In other words, the Two Sackcloth Witnesses will serve as their conduits, just like any other Prophet of God who receives and delivers a message from one of the Lord's Ministering Spirits. For a more complete understanding of why I say these things, please consider reading the aforementioned series.

Let me also add, that even if the Two Sackcloth Witnesses are receiving assistance from Moses and Elijah, it does not seem likely that they will be recognized by most people as being these two Prophets of old. Remember, even the Lord's own Disciples did not understand that John the Baptist was the Elijah which was for to come as prophesied by Malachi. One thing we have now seen, is that these Two Witnesses will be rejected by the dwellers in Jerusalem in the near future. Why will this occur? For the very same reason that God's true Messengers have always been rejected by those to whom they were sent to warn and save. As I explain in the article

'The Woman In The Wilderness And The 144,000', as well as in other articles, the false Jewish messiah known as Moshiach ben David will soon sit in the rebuilt Temple on the top of Mount Moriah in East Jerusalem. He will claim to be 'God', may enforce the Mosaic Law, and may possibly even tell the Israelies that he is going to miraculously deliver them from the invading Muslim forces. Remember the following verses from Paul's second Epistle to the church at Thessalonika:

"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." (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

While this usurper is acting out his deceptive charade, the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of the Endtime will be exposing this liar and deceiver for who he really is; that is, the Son of Perdition, the Son of Satan! Their message will be extremely unpopular; and they will eventually pay for it with their lives; but not before they have delivered their souls to Israel; and convinced as many as possible to accept Jesus Christ as their one true Saviour; and to flee from Jerusalem before its final destruction at the hands of the Islamic Beast. At the same time, if we consider the fact that the Vials of Wrath, also known as the Last Seven Plagues, will also be occurring during this very same period, it seems quite possible that these things will be performed by the Two Sackcloth Witnesses, or more appropriately, by Moses and Elijah working through them.

Aside from the fact that the Lord wants to save as many of the flesh Jews as He possibly can, warn them of the dangers to come, and punish those who reject the Divine Message by fighting against His two Olive Trees, might there be another reason for the ministry of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses? If we stop to consider the primary purpose of a witness in an Earthly court of law, it is easy to understand that there is another reason for their presence during the three and a half years of Great Tribulation. As I explain in some of my other articles, the Heavenly Realm doesn't consist of Angels lazily playing their golden harps on billowy white clouds for eternity. The Kingdom of Heaven is a very busy place. It has a real Government, with various levels and positions of authority and responsibility. The Judgment Seat of Christ is a part of this Government as is born out by the following verses:

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Matthew 12:36)

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

"Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead." (1 Peter 4:5)

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17)

In God's Celestial Courtroom, trials are held, and cases are decided. As in any case on Earth, in order for the trial to be fair, witnesses must be presented who will submit verbal evidence which will assist the Judge in making the right decision regarding the case. Only after hearing all of the evidence, can the Supreme Judge make His decision, and pass His Verdict. If you consider the events of the Bible from this perspective of a Celestial Courtroom, you will see how true this really is. The Apostle John apparently had a very clear understanding of this matter; as out of the ten times the phrase 'bear witness' is mentioned in the four Gospels, nine times it is found in the Gospel of John:

"The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."
(John 1:7-8)

"If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true...But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."
(John 5:31, 36)

"I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me." (John 8:18)

"Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me." (John 10:25)

"And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning." (John 15:27)

"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." (John 18:37)

As we saw earlier in this series, Moses and the Prophets of old were faithful witnesses of events yet to come in the far future; and in the New Testament, John bore witness of this very same Truth; followed by Jesus Himself; followed by His Apostles and Disciples; followed by all of the other of the Lord's faithful witnesses up to this current time. This is precisely what the Lord meant when He said such things as the following:

"...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15b)

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in

Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"...Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."
(Acts 23:11b)

As faithful witnesses for the Lord, to this very day, we His Endtime children, continue to present God's evidence to a lost and dying world. We bear witness of the Truth. We open up the Lord's Royal Record and present the Scriptures to them. We tell them of God's Love for them, and of His Plan of Salvation. As the Apostle John wrote, we show them the way to Eternal Life. Consider the following verses:

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11)

"(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)" (1 John 1:2)

In the final years of the governments of men, the Lord's Two Sackcloth Witnesses will be boldly witnessing the full Truth to the stubborn Jews of Israel. In His mercy, the Lord will be giving them one final chance to accept the Salvation He offers through the Sacrifice of His Son. In addition to trying to save as many people as is humanly possible, what is the other purpose of being a faithful witness? It is to make everyone accountable for the Truth, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear; and it is to deliver our souls so that their blood is not on our hands. The Lord made this perfectly clear to the Prophet Ezekiel in the following verses:

"And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious." (Ezekiel 2:5-7)

"And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear." (Ezekiel 3:11)

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." (Ezekiel 3:17-19)

While many Bible teachers have taken it upon themselves to discuss the mystery of the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of the Endtime, have you ever stopped to consider what happens to them once their mission has been completed on Earth, and they are called up to Heaven? In actuality, it may be that we have already answered this question. Let us again look at some of the verses I shared earlier in this series:

"Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."
(Zechariah 4:11-14)

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."
(Revelation 11:3-4)

If we keep in mind that in the Realm of the Spirit, time is non-existent, and that past, present and future are all rolled into one, is it possible that what Zechariah saw in his vision was not something which had already occurred in his own time, but which would occur in the far future when the Two Sackcloth Witnesses would take their place in the Courtroom of Heaven at the end of the Great Tribulation? If this is indeed true, then it seems that once the rebellious Jews of Israel have finally filled their cup of iniquity, by killing these last Two Witnesses of the Lord, who will have thoroughly rebuked them for their unbelief, these same two Prophets of the Endtime will bear witness either for, or against, every Jew who stands before the Judgment Seat of Christ! If they are indeed endowed with the same spiritual anointing as Moses and Elijah, or if Moses and Elijah are in fact working through them, then truly, as Jesus said, that which they claim to believe in most, will be the strongest testimony against them:

"Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." (Luke 16:29-31)

"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:45-47)

With these profound thoughts, I will bring another series to a close. I trust that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life.

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