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Theories Concerning The 144,000, Coming War, The Diaspora, Narrow Is The Way, Spirit Of Exclusivity, The Fiery Furnace, A Little Help, Joseph's Dream, Joseph And Mary Flee, Dragons In The Sea, Israel Of Faith, The Arab Seed, The Right Hand Of God, Woman In The Wilderness, Mount Up With Eagle's Wings

As you may know, within Christian circles, there is quite a controversy brewing regarding the correct identity of the 144,000 sealed servants of the Lord mentioned in the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation. The key verses from this chapter which discuss this topic are the following:

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."
(Revelation 7:2-4)

As I mention in my series 'The Great Tribulation And The Rapture', it is my personal belief that these people will be Christianized Jews who will be wise enough to escape out of Jerusalem just prior to its soon-coming invasion by Muslim forces. At this current time, it is almost as if the entire world is watching with abated breath as the final diplomatic dominoes fall; which will ultimately result in the start of this terrible war. On both the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the fence, since a long time ago, final positions have been taken regarding the fate of Jerusalem. Even if progress is made which will resolve the current bottleneck revolving around the full implementation of the Wye Memorandum, an all-out war still appears to be inevitable, based upon the Scriptures. Consider the following verses once again:

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

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." (Luke 21:20)

Another view suggests that the 144,000 are not just Jews who currently live in the state of Israel, but rather that they are comprised of the descendants of the ancient tribes of Israel who now live all around the world. As I point out in other articles, the current dispersion, or Diaspora, of the Jews, is a result of their sins against the Lord since over

two thousand five hundred years ago. Consider the following Scriptures found in the book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

"Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them." (Jeremiah 9:15-16)

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness. This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood." (Jeremiah 13:23-25)

"Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity." (Jeremiah 18:15-17)

Based upon an estimated worldwide Jewish population of fourteen million, a bit of mathematical computation reveals that 144,000 would only be about one per cent of the entire worldwide Jewish population; and that is truly an extremely small remnant indeed! If we accept this view as being true, then there may be many people in the world today who are of Jewish origin who don't even know it. They might even be professing Christians!

A final school of thought proposes that the 144,000 servants of the Lord are not comprised of physical Jews whatsoever; but rather they represent the true spiritual Israel; that is, the born-again Believers in Christ, who are spread out all over the world. While I concur that we Christians are the true spiritual Israel of faith, as I explain in the article 'Is God A Racist?', to suggest that only 144,000 Christians will be sealed by the Lord does not seem to make very much sense to me. There are literally millions of Christians in the world at this current time. While the Lord did indeed say that many are called, and few chosen; and that strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leads to Eternal Life, I have no doubt whatsoever that God's full Plan of Salvation involves more than 144,000 saved souls:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

"For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14)

Not only that, but such a thought is earmarked by the same

spirit of exclusivity I have seen in times past. I know that many years ago, an organization then known as the Children of God claimed to be the 144,000 servants of the Lord. They even had a self-righteous song in which they boasted of this very thing. While I do not agree with all of their current views, I must give them credit for the fact that, as they have matured as a movement, they have been wise enough to put aside some of their narrowminded doctrines of the past. Sadly, it appears that the Jehovah's Witnesses continue to make this very same claim of being the 144,000; and I don't doubt that there are other organizations that teach this same erroneous doctrine.

The main point to consider here is that the 144,000 will be sealed by the Lord, because they are going to go through the Great Tribulation; and not because they will be rescued from it prematurely as Pre-Tribulation Rapture theorists believe. If you accept, as I do, that these may be flesh Jews in the nation of Israel, who are going to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour in the final hour, or perhaps who have already done so, then it is possible that they will remain untouched by the wrath of the demonic Beast and his Muslim hordes; just as Daniel's three companions came out of the Babylonian furnace without even the smell of smoke on their clothes. In fact, it appears that Jesus may have been right there with them, protecting them from the flames! Consider these verses found in the Book of Daniel:

"He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."
(Daniel 3:25-27)

What I find interesting regarding this possibility, is that in the following verse, also found in the Book of Daniel, we are told that the Lord's children, possibly meaning Jews in Israel, will be 'holpen with a little help' during this time of great persecution; when a small portion of them flee from the invading forces of the Islamic Beast:

"Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries."
(Daniel 11:34)

If we add one and one together, it seems quite possible that these Jews who flee from Jerusalem, might be symbolized by the woman we see fleeing into the wilderness in Revelation chapter twelve. It is a very obvious connection in my mind. To fully understand this, let's go back thousands of years to the time of Joseph and his brethren. As you may recall, one of the dreams which Joseph had was the following:

"And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying." (Genesis 37:9-11)

In this dream, Joseph's eleven brethren are represented by eleven stars; therefore, it is obvious that Joseph must be the twelfth star. In like manner, the sun represents Jacob, Joseph's father; and the moon must represent his mother; according to Jacob's own words. In short, this is a symbolic picture of the nation of Israel. Let us move up now several thousand years into the future to the time of the Revelation of the Apostle John. In describing the mysterious Woman in the Wilderness, John wrote the following:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 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 12:1-5)

As you will quickly notice, this woman is represented by the very same three symbols as we saw in Joseph's dream; that is, the sun, the moon, and twelve stars; as such, by simply comparing Scripture with Scripture, I believe that we can safely assume that, even though their accounts were written literally thousands of years apart, the Patriarch Joseph and the Apostle John were both describing the very same thing. If we apply John's vision to the time in which it was given, we could say that the woman represents Mary, the mother of Jesus; and this would indeed be a fitting interpretation. As we all know, Joseph and Mary were in fact persecuted by evil King Herod when Jesus was about two years old. It may have been at that time, that they put the expensive gifts of the three magi to good use by fleeing into Egypt until Herod was dead:

"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son...But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his

mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life."

(Matthew 2:13-15, 19-20)

It is also interesting to note that, just as we see this woman being persecuted by the Red Dragon, in His Word, the Lord does refer to worldly leaders as dragons in the rivers and seas of people. This is because they are merely puppets of the great Red Dragon himself; that is, Satan, the Prince of the Power of the Air, and the god of this world, who has blinded the eyes of them that believe not. Thus, Herod was indeed a dragon in Israel who persecuted the seed of the Lord's fledgling Church. Consider the following verses:

"Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."

(Ezekiel 29:3)

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

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:9)

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years," (Revelation 20:2)

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" (Ephesians 2:2)

"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)

While the previous interpretation is valid, in an Endtime prophetic sense, I believe that it is more in agreement with Joseph's dream to suggest that the woman in John's vision represents the spiritual nation of Israel; that is to say, the Israel of faith, which was born of the seed of Isaac. This is the Israel which brought forth the Saviour; of which Mary was indeed a member. As we have already seen, if we consider that most Endtime events focus upon the land of Israel, this seed of faith is probably best represented in Israel by the 144,000; that is, the flesh Jews who already have, or who will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour in the coming days; and thus be persecuted by the Beast. These are the true Jews of the Spirit, who I also discuss in 'Is God A Racist?' and 'Once Upon A Time: A True Story'. Remember, as the Apostle Paul stated quite clearly, not all Israel is the true Israel, but only those who are of the seed of faith; those who trust in the name of Jesus:

"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed." (Romans 9:6-8)

There is a very startling truth concealed in the previous verses which I had never noticed before. Like myself, some of you are no doubt familiar with Old Testament history; and are thus aware of the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar and Keturah. It is from the offspring of these three women, that the nation of Israel and some of the Arab nations came into being. Israel came forth from Sarah's son, Isaac; twelve of the Arab nations came forth from Ishmael who was the son of Hagar, and other Arab nations came forth from the six sons of Keturah. Consider the following verses:

"Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah." (Genesis 25:1-4)

"Now these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham: And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam, And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa, Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah: These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names, by their towns, and by their castles; twelve princes according to their nations. And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people. And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that is before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: and he died in the presence of all his brethren." (Genesis 25:12-18)

While the Arabs claim that they are the true children of God who submit themselves to the will of God, which is exactly what 'Muslim' means, the previous verses from Paul's Epistle to the Romans are a clear New Testament indication of the depth of deception into which they have fallen. What Paul states not only applies to the flesh Jews who reject Jesus Christ, but it also applies to all of Abraham's other flesh descendants through his wives Hagar and Keturah as well. In other words, the Arabs are no more the children of God, than are the flesh Jews who reject Christ, because they are all the children of the flesh, that is, of Abraham's flesh, and not the children of promise, by faith, through Isaac. This is why in his old age, Abraham sent away his concubines and all of their children. Isaac was the seed of promise; and he was the one who would be taught to place his faith in the God of his father, as well as inherit the bulk of Abraham's possessions:

"And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country." (Genesis 25:5-6)

Returning to the opening verses of the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation, it should be obvious that the man child who was born to the woman, and who 'was caught up unto God, and to His Throne', can be none other than Jesus Christ Himself, who now sits at the Right Hand of His Father. This is made perfectly clear by the following verses taken from the writings of the Apostles Peter and Paul:

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."
(Romans 8:34)

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," (Ephesians 1:20)

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."
(Colossians 3:1)

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;...But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?" (Hebrews 1:3, 13)

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;" (Hebrews 8:1)

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"
(Hebrews 10:12)

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." (1 Peter 3:22)

It is at this point that we find an interesting link between the words of the Prophet Daniel, who said that the Saints would be 'holpen with a little help', and John's description of the 144,000 sealed servants of the Lord. You will recall that I stated that it is possible that these servants will remain untouched by the wrath of the demonic Beast and his Muslim hordes; just as Daniel's three companions came out of the Babylonian furnace without even the smell of smoke on their clothes. Consider now the following verses:

"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...And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth." (Revelation 12:6, 14-16)

Notice that in describing the flight of the woman into the wilderness, John specifically states that 'she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her...'; and then a few verses later he says that she will fly 'into her place'. In His Divine Wisdom, the Lord knew that these Christianized Jews would be saved in the final hour; so in His mercy, He has prepared a special place for their protection. This may be directly related to Daniel's 'holpen with a little help'. It is interesting to note that throughout the Bible, wings are associated with God's protection. Some of my favorite verses on this topic are found in Psalm Ninety-One:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 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 91:1-12)

Notice how the Psalmist writes 'He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust'; and then we are told a few verses later that His Angels 'shall bear thee up in their hands'. What a wonderful promise of God's Divine Protection! In a modern sense, we can speculate that the 'two wings of a great eagle' might symbolize being airlifted to an undisclosed remote location, or wilderness, where the woman will be protected for three and a half years from the wrath of the Islamic Beast. I was also just reminded of the following prophetic verse which I share in the series 'The Great Tribulation And The Rapture'; which shows how some day soon, we too shall be born up as on eagle's, or Angel's, wings, in order to be delivered from the Great Slaughter of the Great Tribulation:

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not

faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

The previous verse is directly related to the following verses found in Jesus's Endtime sermon in Matthew chapter twenty-four. Collectively, these verses show us that, when all appears lost for God's children, the Lord's Elect will be miraculously rescued from this world, and thus from the persecution by the same, at the time of the coming Rapture; when the Lord, our Prince of Peace, returns in the clouds of Heaven for His faithful Bride-To-Be. We shall truly mount up with wings as eagles!:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together...And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

(Matthew 24:27-28, 30-31)

Personally, I am convinced that in these verses, the Lord is referring to Himself as the Carcase which was hung on the Cross, and to ourselves, His dearly beloved children, as the rising eagles who will be gathered unto Him in the clouds of Heaven. This is because we have symbolically fed upon His Flesh, and drank His Blood, through our belief in His name; precisely as He commanded us to do in the following verses found in John chapter six and Matthew chapter twenty-six:

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." (John 6:53)

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28)

One important point which I feel I must clarify for you, is that the woman being given 'two wings of a great eagle', so that she can fly safely into the wilderness, and the Endtime Saints mounting 'up with wings as eagles' at the time of the Lord's Coming, are not one and the same event. It is very important that you understand this difference. In short, the woman will flee into the wilderness at the beginning of the three and a half years of Great Tribulation; and it is three and a half years later, at the time of the Rapture, that all of the Saints will 'mount up with wings as eagles' to meet the Lord in the air, in our new transformed bodies. This will of course include the 144,000 saved Christianized Jews who have fled to their place of refuge prepared for them by the Lord.

If this woman does represent 144,000 sealed Christian Jews who will flee from the wrath of the invading Muslim armies,

as I believe it does, then this hidden location might be a place in Israel itself, somewhere outside of Jerusalem. It might also be a reference to the United States of America, where there are currently quite a number of Christians who support the state of Israel. However, there is yet another very interesting possibility which was first suggested to me some twenty-eight years ago. In part two of this series, I will be discussing Jacob, Esau and the Edomites, Lot and the Moabites and the Ammonites, the pagansim of the Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites, the backslidden Jews, origins of the Jewish-Arab conflict, forsaking the God of their fathers and the false religion of Islam, the three horns, the question about Libya, Jordan's King Hussein and the Middle East War, the mystery of Petra, and the prophetic destruction at noonday. I trust that you will join me.

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THE WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS AND THE 144,000 : PART 2

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Esau And The Edomites, Lot And The Moabites And Ammonites, Pagan Worship Of The Edomites, Moabites And Ammonites, The Backslidden Jews, Israelites And Arabs - Enemies From The Start, Forsook God Of Their Fathers, False Religion Of Islam Three Broken Horns, Libya Question, Jordan's King Hussein And The Coming War, Mystery Of Petra, Destruction At Noonday

I concluded part one of this series by stating that while the woman's place of refuge might be somewhere in Israel, outside of Jerusalem, or perhaps even in the United States of America, there is a third possibility which is worthy of our consideration. Before explaining it to you, I am going to provide you with some interesting background material regarding the ancient history of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

According to both the Biblical and the historical record, thousands of years ago, the nation of Jordan was populated by three main groups; the Edomites, the Moabites and the Ammonites. The Edomites, or Idumeans, were the descendants of Esau, the jealous twin brother of Jacob, who went to live at Mount Seir with his heathen wives. We are told that he had to oust the Horims, or 'cave dwellers', in order to take over what would eventually be called Edom. It is interesting to note that, just as southern Jordan is characterized by red and pink sandstone mountains, the word 'Edom' also means 'red'; and of course, Esau was red, or ruddy, and hairy at birth. Consider the following verses which confirm these various points:

"And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau." (Genesis 25:25)

"And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom."
(Genesis 32:3)

"So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir."
(Genesis 33:16)

"And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite:" (Genesis 26:34)

"Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife." (Genesis 28:9)

"Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom. Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan; Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; And Bashemath Ishmael's

daughter, sister of Nebajoth. And Adah bare to Esau Eliphaz; and Bashemath bare Reuel; And Aholibamah bare Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah: these are the sons of Esau, which were born unto him in the land of Canaan. And Esau took his wives, and his sons, and his daughters, and all the persons of his house, and his cattle, and all his beasts, and all his substance, which he had got in the land of Canaan; and went into the country from the face of his brother Jacob. For their riches were more than that they might dwell together; and the land wherein they were strangers could not bear them because of their cattle. Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom. And these are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in mount Seir:"
(Genesis 36:1-9)

"And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession...The Horims also dwelt in Seir beforetime; but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their stead; as Israel did unto the land of his possession, which the LORD gave unto them...As he did to the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, when he destroyed the Horims from before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead even unto this day:" (Deuteronomy 2:4-5, 12, 22)

While the Edomites were the descendants of Esau, the Bible informs us that the Moabites, as well as the Ammonites, were the descendants of Abraham's nephew, Lot. This came about when Lot's two daughters decided to have sexual intercourse with their drunken father in order to preserve their seed, following the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. We find the story in the nineteenth chapter of the Book of Genesis:

"And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day."
(Genesis 19:30-38)

Just as the Lord had helped the Edomites to destroy the cave dwellers known as the Horim, so that they might inherit Edom and Mount Seir, He also helped the Moabites to destroy the giants, which they called the Emims, and the Ammonites to also destroy the giants known as the Zamzummims, in order that they too might possess the lands of Moab and Ammon. We find the story in the Book of Deuteronomy:

"And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Eziongaber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab. And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims." (Deuteronomy 2:8-11)

"And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession. (That also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims; A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the LORD destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead:" (Deuteronomy 2:19-21)

Because the Edomites, the Moabites and the Ammonites were not the children of promise; that is, they were not the seed of faith through Isaac, as I explained in part one, it isn't surprising that they chose to forsake the God of their fathers; that is, of Abraham, Isaac and Lot, and worshipped the pagan gods of the heathen around them. Not only that, but they eventually had a negative spiritual influence on the children of Israel, and caused them to fall into pagan worship as well. This paganism and idolatry still existed at the time of the construction of the Second Temple following the Seventy Years of Captivity in Babylon. This is evident by verses such as the following:

"For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed Ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon. Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites." (Numbers 21:28-29)

"And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel." (Numbers 25:1-3)

"For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the

Ammonites...Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon...Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father."
(1 Kings 11:5, 7, 33)

"And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile." (2 Kings 23:13)

"Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed. There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee. A voice of crying shall be from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction. Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard. For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction. Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness. For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together...And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence...Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives." (Jeremiah 48:1-7, 13, 46)

"Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass." (Ezra 9:1-2)

The Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites were so backslidden against the God of their fathers, that it wasn't before long that they became the outright enemies of the Israelites. You may recall from my other articles, that from the beginning, Jacob and Esau were enemies. Even before they were born, we are told that they struggled within their mother's womb; and at the actual time of their birth, this struggle was further symbolized when Jacob grabbed the heel of his slightly older brother, Esau. Additionally, Jacob was favored by his mother Rebekah, while Esau was favored by his father, Isaac. It was

only the wisdom of Rebekah, and a trick of the Lord, which caused Isaac to bless Jacob, instead of his older brother Esau. Consider the following verses:

"And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob." (Genesis 25:21-28)

Many years later, after Jacob had spent twenty years serving his father-in-law, Laban, up in Syria, and had obtained a family of his own, although Jacob and Esau were happy to see each other, the brotherly mistrust still existed; and that is why even though Esau invited Jacob to go with him into his own land at Mount Seir, the Lord instructed Jacob to do otherwise. Jacob knew that they would never be able to live together in peace; and it has remained that way to this very day. Notice in the following verses, that when Esau offered to accompany Jacob to Mount Seir, Jacob told him to go ahead of them; and then when Esau offered to leave some of his men with Jacob, probably to assist him and his people on their way to Mount Seir, Jacob also said that it wasn't necessary. Not only that, but once Esau began the return journey to Mount Seir, Jacob went to Succoth instead. He didn't follow his brother:

"And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost. And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept." (Genesis 33:1-4)

"And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee. And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die. Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir. And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the

sight of my lord. So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir. And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth." (Genesis 33:12-17)

The history of the animosity between the children of Israel and the children of Moab and Ammon follows a similar course; in fact, if we study the Scriptures closely, we can see that this trouble began as far back as the days when their father Lot dwelt with Abraham, then known as Abram. Perhaps you recall the following story from the Book of Genesis:

"And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left." (Genesis 13:5-9)

As I explain in my series 'Homosexuality And Lesbianism: To The Point', Lot's problems did not end there. As we know, he selfishly chose the better part of the land; which just so happened to be near the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot was in such a sinful backslidden state due to his own worldliness and selfishness, that even when God had mercy on him, the Lord's Angels still had to force him and his family to flee from Sodom before its destruction. Not only that, but even after his miraculous deliverance, Lot still had the nerve to complain to his Angelic Deliverers, by saying that it was too difficult to flee to the mountains with his wife and two daughters. As you can see by my earlier statements, even though Lot fled to Zoar, eventually, he was forced to flee to the mountains with his two daughters anyway.

The point is, the spiritual clash, and physical animosity which began between Abraham and Lot, only grew worse as Lot's descendants began to populate the land of Jordan. The account of Balak, king of Moab, and the prophet Balaam is a clear example of this. Most people recognize this as the story of Balaam's Ass, but there is much more to it than that. This story occurred during the journey to Canaan, when Moses and the Israelites were passing by the border of Moab. Balak, who was a worshipper of the false god, Baal, was so afraid of the great multitude of Isarelites, that he called for Balaam, and then asked him three times to curse his enemies the Israelites. Being a God-fearing man, each time, Balaam sought the Lord about it, and each time, the Lord told Balaam to bless the Israelites; which he did. This story contains a very interesting prophecy in Numbers chapter twenty-four, which I encourage you to read.

Let me stress again that all of these things happened because they forsook the God of their fathers; and to this very day, this continues to be the case. According to the

information I have read, ninety per cent of the population of Jordan is comprised of Palestinians; the vast majority of which are Muslims, with a small percentage of Christians as well. As I clearly point out in the controversial article 'The Holy Qur'an: Doctrine Of Devils!', Allah is not the God of Abraham; because whereas Abraham was taught to have faith in the coming Saviour, the Qur'an plainly teaches that God does not have a Son, that Jesus Christ was only one of many great teachers and Prophets, and that Muhammad is the final, true and greatest prophet of all time. What is startling about these facts, is that, just as the Palestinians have forsaken the God of their fathers, we are told the exact same thing regarding the Islamic Beast:

"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all." (Daniel 11:37)

So as you can see, all of the Arabs who practice Islam are not worshipping the true God of Heaven. It is a total lie of Satan. While they may refer to the coming war as an Islamic Jihad, or holy war, it will be the most unholy war of all; because it will be inspired by the false angel of light, the Prince of Darkness, who feigns to be the true God of Heaven. At this point, allow me to share with you these additional verses found in the book of the Prophet Daniel:

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things...And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." (Daniel 7:8, 24)

"He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps."
(Daniel 11:41-43)

As I explain in the six-part series 'The Great Tribulation And The Rapture', it is currently my belief that President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, or possibly one of his successors, may be the Beast of both Daniel and John's prophecies. Until now, I have speculated that the three horns which the Beast will subdue, might be Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. If this were the case, then Assad would fulfill his personal vision of a 'Greater Syria'; however, upon re-reading the above verses, I must conclude that perhaps my understanding has been a little darkened until now. Please notice that in the first set of verses, Daniel tells us that three horns will be broken; and then four chapters later, he tells us the exact names of three countries which will not escape the wrath of the Beast; that is, Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. That seems like an obvious Scriptural connection to me.

I will admit, that at this current time, I don't understand why Libya will suffer the wrath of the Beast, being as she is very much against the state of Israel. I honestly do not see Colonel Moammar Kadhaffi changing his views towards the Jews, now or ever. It may be that, as I've suggested before, Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia and other North African nations may suddenly begin to feel uncomfortable with President Assad's desire for expansion, and thus break their ties with him. The only other possibility, is that the Libya of the Bible did not occupy the same land area as the modern Libya. This is a common occurrence when trying to connect ancient names with their modern counterparts. There is some debate within scholarly circles regarding some of these issues; such as the proper location of the ancient Cush and Tarshish.

However, what I really wish to call to your attention in the previous verses, is that interesting phrase 'but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon'. As we already know, that can only be referring to Jordan. Exactly why Jordan escapes the wrath of the Beast is somewhat of a mystery to me. Perhaps King Hussein will choose to go along with the invasion of Israel, in order to relieve his own problem of having such a large population of Palestinians in Jordan; while Egypt, on the other hand, will continue to compromise with Israel due to the American dollars flowing into the Egyptian economy. I don't doubt that it is only American dollars, as well as massive military aid, which is currently keeping President Hosni Mubarak in power. Lately, he's been losing popularity with Muslim radicals within his country.

What complicates this matter, is that in 1994, King Hussein signed a peace accord with the Israelis; and thus, at this current time, he has a very volatile peace arrangement with them. However, what if, because he realizes that all-out war is inevitable with Israel, while he will side with his Arab neighbors, he will either secretly, or openly, offer a way to escape destruction for those Jews who wish to take it? In other words, what if he tells the government of Netanyahu, 'Look, if you don't give the Palestinians East Jerusalem for their capital, then we will just be forced to take it from you; however, there is no guarantee that the war will stop there. My friends want to wipe Israel off the map. We have been friends; so here is what I am willing to do for you'.

Having now explained these things to you, let us return now to our main issue of the Woman in the Wilderness, and her flight into her prepared place of refuge during the coming Great Tribulation. In the Old Testament Scriptures, we find the following obscure and rather mysterious verses in the beginning of the sixteenth chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

"Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon. Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be

thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land." (Isaiah 16:1-4)

In these verses, the name 'Sela' is believed to be referring to ancient Petra. This is the only place in the Scriptures where this name is even mentioned. That alone really adds to this mystery. Exactly where was Petra located? In none other than the ancient land of Moab in southern Jordan! What we see thus far, is that for some reason, which is obviously known and planned by God Himself, Jordan is going to escape the coming wrath of the Islamic Beast; and Petra just so happens to be located in Jordan. Allow me to share some additional information with you regarding Petra, or 'Sela' as it is called in the Bible.

Sela, or Petra, derives its name from a Greek word which actually means 'rock'. The city's ruins are spread across a great rift valley which is located east of Wadi Araba, about eighty kilometers south of the Dead Sea. The name 'Petra' is quite appropriate, because this valley is characterized by red and salmon sandstone mountain peaks, overhanging cliffs, precipitous mountain trails, and sheer rock walls which can drop for hundreds of feet or more. This natural fortress eventually became the capital of the Nabataean Arabs, who dominated the area around the Sixth Century B.C.; after they had apparently driven out the original occupiers of the land whom I discussed earlier. The entrance to Petra was a trail at the bottom of the canyon known in Arabic as 'El Siq'; which is translated into English as 'The Alley'. Following the flow of the Wadi Musa, the city-center was laid out on either sides of what is referred to by archeologists as the 'Colonnaded Street'. The city itself is carved right out of the rock walls themselves.

While the Seleucid Wars were being fought between the Ptolemies of Egypt, and the Seleucid kings of Syria several hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, a point which I mention in my Endtime article 'The Kings Of The North And The South', it is said that the Nabataean Arabs took full advantage of this situation by taking control of the spice trade route, which stretched from Arabia in the south, to Damascus in the north. It was because of their strategic location, that the Nabataeans were able to prosper from the the toll, and the taxes, which were collected from those traders who travelled along this well-used caravan route.

In 64-63 B.C. the Nabataeans were conquered by Roman general Pompey, who allowed them to retain their autonomy; although they were forced to pay Roman taxes, and served as a buffer zone against the desert tribes. Nabataean freedom may have been further curtailed with the defeat of Roman General Marc Antony, and Egyptian Queen Cleopatra in about the year 31 B.C. This defeat resulted from the reunified Imperial Roman Empire under Octavian; who is also known as Caesar Augustus in the New Testament. It wasn't until about the year 106 A.D., that Petra was totally dominated by the Romans under Emperor Trajan. At that time, Petra and Nabataea became part of the Roman province known as Arabia Petraea. In 131 A.D., Emperor Hadrian visited Petra, and renamed it after himself; that is, Hadriane Petra. During the Roman domination, many

structures were built; including a triumphal arch which spanned 'The Alley'. Many of these structures were carved out of the rock walls, or were built free-standing.

As I explain in other articles, in 330 A.D., Emperor Constantine established the Eastern Roman Empire with his capital at Constantinople. Although an earthquake destroyed half of Petra in 363 A.D., it continued to prosper, and even became the seat of a Byzantine bishopric. With the signing of the Edict of Milan, Christianity became a legal religion, and its effects were soon felt in the architecture at Petra. Many standing structures and rock-cut monuments were reused during the Byzantine Period, and new buildings were built as well. Among the rock-cut monuments they reused is the great tomb, or the Deir, also known as 'The Monastery', which was modified into a church.

As with all temporal things, Petra eventually fell into a state of decline. With a change in trade routes, commerce was reduced. This was followed by a devastating earthquake in 551 A.D. which severely impacted the city. Another major factor was the rise of Islam in the 600's. Petra faded so far from the world stage, that it was totally unknown to the Western world until the year 1812; when local Bedouins shared its existence with a certain Swiss explorer by the name of Johann Ludwig Burckhardt.

Despite the fact that it has now been under excavation for almost one hundred years, I have read that only about one per cent of the city has been investigated. Since 1993, in cooperation with the Jordanian government, the sandstone ruins of Petra have been excavated by American archeologists from Brown University in the state of Rhode Island, U.S.A. There is also the Petra-Jerash Project, which has been undertaken by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the University of Jordan, the University of Utah, and Swiss archaeologists.

Undoubtedly, one of the most famous structures found at Petra, is 'Al Khazneh'; which is known in English as 'The Treasury'. The pink sandstone facade of this carved ancient wonder has been featured in a number of Hollywood movies, such as the Indiana Jones series. This structure measures forty meters high by thirty by thirty meters wide. As one looks at it, it is easy to see its strong Roman influence. For this reason, it has been suggested that it may have been built around the First Century A.D. Other monuments and structures found at Petra include the Urn Tomb and the Royal Tombs, the Colonnade Street, the Temples of Dushara and Al-Uzza, and the High Place of Sacrifice.

By now, you will have realized that Petra is a very unique place in more ways than one. It is located in a remote area of southern Jordan; it is not easily accessible by normal means of transportation; it is protected by a rugged ring of sandstone mountains; and many of its structures can serve as natural fortresses, because they are carved right out of the mountains themselves. In other words, while the facades are on the outside world, the interior of many of the buildings are actually inside the mountains. Considering all of these various points, it is easy to understand why it has been

suggested that the previous verses from the Book of Isaiah, may be referring to the Jordanians hiding the Woman in the Wilderness, that is, the 144,000 Christian Jews, in Petra, during the coming invasion and destruction of Jerusalem; or Zion, as it is referred to in the verses from Isaiah. This then, may be the offer which King Hussein will make to the Jews; and it may be for this reason that God will spare him from the wrath of the Beast; that is, his neighbor Syria to the north.

If we accept that there may be some truth to this theory, then the phrases 'the lamb', 'wandering bird', 'outcasts' and 'him that wandereth', mentioned in Isaiah's mysterious prophecy concerning Sela, or Petra, may all be referring to the escaped Christian Jews who flee to this Jordanian rock fortress. In addition, the phrases 'the extortioner', 'the spoiler' and 'the oppressors' may be a reference to the military forces of the Beast; which as I point out in other articles, may originate in Syria, Iraq, Iran or possibly even Turkey. I don't think we have very long to find out.

Notice that Isaiah's prophecy contains the unusual phrase 'make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday', as well as 'be thou a covert to them'. How does one make his 'shadow as the night', that is, dark, in the middle of the afternoon? Quite simply, by surrounding, or covering, his shadow with darkness, so that it blends in. The only way to do this, is by hiding underground where there is no light of noonday! Might this be yet another indication that the persecuted Christian Jews will hide in the dark interior of the buildings at Petra with the blessings of King Hussein? Is it possible that this is how he will help the Jews to avoid total annihilation by the invading Muslim armies? To add further weight to this amazing possibility, allow me to remind you that the destruction, possibly nuclear in nature, which King David prophesied in Psalm Ninety-One, will also occur at noonday! Might David's 'arrows' be nuclear missiles?:

"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." (Psalm 91:5-8)

In the final installment of this three-part series, we will be discussing miracles in the wilderness, the length of the Beast's war against the Lord's Saints, the possible meaning of the dragon's flood, Endtime deceivers and wolves, the sealed tribes of Israel, the focus on Israel, the Lord's great slaughter, bondage of the Sabbath, the burden of the Law, Jewish orthodoxy and the Antichrist, and a life and death decision for the Christian Jews. I trust that you will join me.

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Miracles In The Wilderness, Length Of The Beast's War And Great Tribulation, Significance Of Dragon's Flood, Endtime Deceivers And Wolves, The Sealed Of The Tribes Of Israel, Endtime Prophecy Focused On Israel, The Escapees And The Great Slaughter, Sabbath Or Salvation?, The Burden Of The Law, Jewish Orthodoxy And The Antichrist, Life Or Death?

At this current time, I honestly don't know with one hundred per cent certainty, that this secret location where the Jews will be hidden, is actually Petra; or that the 'they' in the previous verses from the Book of Revelation, who take care of the woman, are actually King Hussein and the Jordanians. Considering the volatility of Middle Eastern politics, in which alliances and loyalties can change from one day to the next; I simply think it is risky business to unequivocally say that Petra is the place which has been prepared by God for the protection of the Christian Jews during the coming Great Tribulation; but such an idea does seem to have some strong Scriptural support. In fact, since many years ago, I have heard that the place has been stocked with necessary provisions for its future Christian Jewish refugees. Time will certainly tell.

One other thought which has occurred to me, is that if this place is prepared by God Himself, well then who knows; maybe the 'they' are actually real Angels, who will miraculously protect and feed these saved Israelites in the wilderness of Petra, or wherever their place of refuge may be. Isn't this precisely what we are told in the previous verses from Psalm Ninety-One? The Lord did the very same thing in the days of old with Angels' Food, multitudes of quail, water out of a dry rock, etc. Surely He could do it again if He so chose. Consider the following inspiring verses which demonstrate the Lord's miraculous provision for His children during their time of need:

"I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God. And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat." (Exodus 16:12-15)

"Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat

angels' food: he sent them meat to the full. He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind. He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;" (Psalms 78:23-29)

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also." (Numbers 20:7-11)

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Allow me to also point out that, as I explain in the series 'The Great Tribulation And The Rapture', the various verses regarding the Woman in the Wilderness make clear that the Great Tribulation lasts for a period of three and a half years, and not the full seven years as some Pre-Tribulation Rapture theorists erroneously claim. 'A thousand two hundred and threescore days' is precisely three hundred and sixty days, or twelve thirty-day Jewish months. The phrase 'for a time, and times, and half a time' is the same as 'for a year, and years, and half a year; in other words, three and a half years or forty-two months; the same time period designated by both Daniel and John for the period of the Beast's war against the Saints, and the occupation of the city of Jerusalem. Following are a few more verses for your consideration:

"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 swore 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 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)

So as you can see, the Bible is very consistent regarding the length of the Great Tribulation, and the persecution against the Lord's Endtime children. Concerning the flood which the dragon casts out of its mouth, it might possibly represent a physical army, or government forces; as this same word is used in the Old Testament to represent a large army of people, such as in the following verse describing the military exploits of the Beast:

"And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant." (Daniel 11:22)

As I mention in the series 'John Lennon's Imagine And Secular Humanism', words are spiritual weapons. The fact that the flood proceeds out of the mouth of the dragon, also suggests the possibility that it might symbolize a war of words. In other words, it might represent worldly propaganda against the Believers, or perhaps the lies and doubts that Satan speaks to our minds and hearts. As I point out in some of my other articles, this is why the Apostle Paul warned us to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; and to put on the Helmet of Salvation; and not to listen to the deceptive lies of Satan:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"
(2 Corinthians 10:5)

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" (Ephesians 6:17)

The fact that the Earth swallows the dragon's flood, might signify that the people of the world will swallow Satan's lies, and the slanderous propaganda of the political Beast and the religious False Prophet; while God's true children will exercise Spiritual Discernment; and thus will not be deceived by their strong delusion. As I point out in many of my articles, such as 'Who Is Hindering The Antichrist?', strong delusion will definitely be the order of the day with those who worship the Jewish false messiah known as Moshiach ben David. This is why Jesus, Paul, Peter and others warned us to beware of such deceivers; such as in these following verses:

"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)

"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)

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous
wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."
(Acts 20:29)

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as
a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
(1 Peter 5:8)

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with
all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all
deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;
because they received not the love of the truth, that they
might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them
strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"
(2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse,
deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13)

I cannot over-emphasize how important it is, that you firmly
ground yourself in God's Word. This is the only way that you
will personally escape the strong delusion of the Endtime.
Do not just accept at face value what you hear on the radio,
or on the television set, or even what you hear coming from
church pulpits; because in these last days, Satan has his
pawns everywhere! There are many wolves in sheep's clothing;
and you just might be their next meal if you don't watch
out!

In addition to all of the evidence I have now presented, one
final Scriptural link which is a strong indication that the
144,000 are indeed saved Israelies who will heed the Lord's
warning, and who will thus flee from the face of the demonic
Islamic Beast and his forces as they surround Jerusalem, is
the following. In John's description in Revelation chapter
seven, he specifically tells us that the sealed servants of
the Lord are 'of all the tribes of the children of Israel':

"And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there
were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all
the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda
were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were
sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed
twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve
thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve
thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve
thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve
thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the
tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe
of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of
Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand." (Revelation 7:4-8)

If the 144,000 are indeed flesh Jews of the physical tribes
of Israel, and more specifically, if they are Messianic Jews
who have professed faith in the Blood Atonement of Jesus
Christ, the following words of warning from the Lord found
in Matthew chapter twenty-four and Luke chapter twenty-one

make even more sense. The Lord said:

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."
(Matthew 24:15-21)

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." (Luke 21:20-24)

After issuing the above warning in Luke chapter twenty-one, the Lord went on a few verses later to add the following sobering words for His listeners, as well as for His Endtime readers:

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."
(Luke 21:34-36)

In reading the above verses, it seems that some Western Christians have adopted the practice of interpreting the Lord's 'ye' to mean them; and I am beginning to think that in some cases, this is a mistake. For some odd reason, some Western Christians have this mighty idea that they must be at the center of Endtime prophecy, but this may not be the case whatsoever. Many years ago, due to my associations at the time, I too embraced this attitude; however, over the years, as I have come to a better understanding of the Holy Scriptures, I have been slowly realizing that most of us may be merely spectators in the overall scheme of God's Endtime plan. In other words, I have been gravitating to a more Israel-central understanding of Endtime prophecy. Remember again the words of Michael to the Prophet Daniel:

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there

was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Daniel 12:1)

Most of the Endtime prophecies, such as those found in the above verses from the Gospels, are addressed to the Jews, or 'thy people' as Michael called them, who would be living during the Endtime. More specifically, they are addressed to the Christianized Jews who will be living in Israel, and in Jerusalem, at the time these events actually begin to occur. Just like every word written in the Epistles and the Book of Revelation, Jesus wasn't addressing His unbelieving Jewish enemies; He was primarily addressing the future fruit of His First Century Jewish Apostles and Disciples. While these world-shaking events will affect all Christians everywhere, and while we may even witness them on television, we will not actually experience them ourselves. We won't participate in them directly. We will not be in Jerusalem when the Beast invades Israel; but we will most definitely participate in the glorious Rapture three and a half years later!

So this brings us to our main question. What did the Lord really mean when He said 'that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass'? Well, to what things was He referring? Obviously, to the siege and invasion of Jerusalem which He described earlier in His sermon. What did Jesus mean by being 'accounted worthy to escape'? If you accept the erroneous view held by those who embrace the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, the Lord is addressing all Christians everywhere, who they claim will escape the Great Tribulation via the Rapture. If the vast majority of us are not even going to be in Israel at that time, then why will there even be a need for us to escape such things? If these events happen any time soon, you may very well be sitting comfortably in your home in the United States of America, watching the invasion and battle for Jerusalem on the evening news! Might it be as King David wrote:

"Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." (Psalms 91:8)

If you accept all of the Scriptural evidence I've presented in this series, as well as in 'The Great Tribulation And The Rapture' series, then the escape to which our Lord must be referring, can only be the miraculous flight of the saved Christianized Jews, who will be found worthy to be included in the sealed 144,000 servants of the Lord. They will be the Woman in the Wilderness who escapes the wrath of the Islamic Beast by fleeing to Petra, or to some other secret location prepared for them by the Lord. As far as I can tell, it has absolutely nothing to do with worldwide Christianity. These escapees will constitute under 2.5 per cent of Israel's current population of about six million people. The rest of the unbelieving antichrists, who have rejected the Word of the Lord, are going to get slaughtered by the Muslim sword, as part of God's stern chastisements against them. It will be a very terrible slaughter 'such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be'!

Notice also that the Lord specifically states 'pray ye that

your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day'. Here again we see a specific mention of 'flight', as in this verse which we have already looked at, which shows that the escape is not into the air via a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, but rather into the wilderness for the duration of the three and a half years of Great Tribulation:

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." (Revelation 12:14)

But why does the Lord say 'neither on the sabbath day'? This again is another clear indication that the 144,000 are flesh Jews of all the tribes of Israel, and no one else. You see, while the Messianic Jews do accept Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, they still adhere to some of the practices set forth in the Mosaic Law. This includes the observance of the Sabbath day. Unless I am mistaken, Law-observant Jews are only permitted to travel about one eighth of a mile on the Sabbath. What this means, is that when the Arab invasion is imminent, and the total destruction of Jerusalem is nigh, these people are going to be forced to make a choice. Either they are going to follow the laws of Jewish Orthodoxy, or else they are going to obey the Lord's warning, and flee as fast as they possibly can from Jerusalem! They are going to fly into the wilderness, not turning back for anything! Let me remind you again of the Lord's own words:

"Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes."
(Matthew 24:17-18)

If those Jews vacillate for even a minute, they will be just like Lot's wife! They are going to be fried; maybe by atomic fire from the sky! Remember Lot's wife! Jesus said that for a reason!

This is all related to what I state in the article 'The Sabbath: Are Christians Obligated To Keep It?'. Jesus clearly stated that the Sabbath is made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. In other words, through the implementation of the Sabbath day observance, God was giving the Israelites an opportunity to rest from their labors; which was something which they were not accustomed to doing at that time. Don't forget that they had just come out of hard Egyptian bondage. Taking a day off was apparently not a part of their mode of thinking. It is something which they had to be taught. But, what happened later, is that, as with many other Laws given by the Lord to Moses, the legalistic Jewish Elders turned the observance of the Sabbath into a burden, more grievous to be born than the whips in Egypt. In other words, the Law became the master, instead of men being the master of the Law. The Scribes and the Pharisees used it to their own self-righteous advantage as Jesus clearly exposed:

"...The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne,

and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." (Matthew 23:2-4)

"...Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers." (Luke 11:46b)

This brings us to the final point I will be sharing in this series. As I explain in my article 'The Kings Of The North And The South', with each passing year, Jewish Orthodoxy is growing stronger and stronger in Israel. There are already a number of staunch Conservative Jews in the Israeli Knesset. It is these same religious Jews who are creating serious problems for current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; who is now involved in 'land for peace' negotiations with the Palestinians. It is these very same Orthodox Jews who will be responsible for the inevitable construction of the final Jewish Temple on Mount Moriah. Not only that, but they will be the ones who will herald Moshiach ben David as the true Jewish messiah, when in fact he is the Antichrist. Part of this scenario is that observance of the Torah will become very strong. Devout Jews refer to this return to the Law of God as 'Teshuvah'.

So what does all of this mean? The picture which comes to my mind, and I admit that this is only speculation on my part, is that while the false Jewish messiah known as Moshiach ben David will be sitting in the rebuilt Temple claiming to be 'God', enforcing the Mosaic Law, and possibly even telling the Israelies that he is going to miraculously deliver them from the invading Muslim forces, the smart Jews who have converted to Christianity, will be faced with the decision of either yielding to their Jewish heritage by obeying the Law, meaning observing the Sabbath and staying in Jerusalem, or else obeying the words of the Lord when He tells them to run for their lives, if they expect to survive the coming massacre. Those who obey and flee will comprise the 144,000. I am reminded of the following words of wisdom found in the Book of Proverbs. In fact, it appears to be repeated twice, as if the author wanted to give it emphasis:

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." (Proverbs 22:3)

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." (Proverbs 27:12)

In conclusion, this is my understanding regarding the most probable identity of the Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000. In my view, scripturally-speaking, it seems to make a lot of sense. What do you think? Time will certainly tell how accurate I have been. If I am correct, and if you happen to be a Christian Jew in Israel at the time these things begin to occur, I urge you to be wise, and to flee for your life! Don't look back! In the words of King David, flee as a bird to your mountain! With these remarks, I will bring another series to a close. I pray that it has been a blessing in your life.

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