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# 1,335 KINGDOM (THE LAST REICH)

When asking people about their thoughts concerning the Bible, the vast majority of individuals view the Bible as a religious book: a book that outlines the dos and don'ts that an Omnipotent G-d requires from humanity. But what if there is something more to the Bible than this? What if the Bible contained an underlying mystery which was hidden among its many pages; a mystery that was about to unfold before your eyes? A mystery, that unless you discovered it, there would be an eternal consequence of disastrous proportions; not only for you, but all of humanity would feel the repercussions. The book which you are about to read was written to assist you in learning about this mystery and responding to it, in a manner that will not lead to personal devastation, but to eternal blessing.

## Chapter 1: The Genesis Principle

The ancient sages of Judaism taught that all which G-d wanted to reveal to man was contained in the opening chapters of the book of Genesis. Genesis reveals a surprising aspect of creation. One would think that a perfect G-d would create a perfect world; however, this was not the case. In the beginning, the world was **empty and lacked order**. The actual phrase that appears in the Hebrew language means "chaos". The intent of this phrase is to inform the reader that there was no evidence for one to believe that the purpose for creation would be realized. The book of Genesis asserts that not only did G-d create this world, but you as well. The question that you need to ask yourself is based upon what a person learns from these opening verses; namely, **is your life empty and lacking order?** An additional way to understand this question is simply to ask yourself, "Does my life have a meaningful purpose?" Perhaps you do not feel your life is in a state of chaos, but do you truly have evidence that you're fulfilling the purpose for which you were created? Many people are living and doing things that were never a part of G-d's plan—their lives are moving in a direction far from where He wants them to be. Did you know that most people who are aware that their life is very close to its end, feel an overwhelming sense of regret and remorse? Most of the time these feelings did not surface until they were close to their death. Others embrace death, hoping that life after death will be far better than this world. Will those expectations be met? This book can play a role in giving you a blessed eternity and help you on your journey to living a meaningful life.

One does not have to read too far into in the book of Genesis before finding that humanity was in serious trouble. Although G-d brought order to His creation and filled His garden with everything humanity needed, because of disobedience, humanity was cast out of the Garden of G-d and into a fallen world affected and infected by sin. What is the consequence of all of this? **Humanity needs to return to the Garden of G-d.**

## The Noah Experiment

It is no coincidence that a man in an early account from the book of Genesis is named Noah. This name means “rest”. The word rest does not simply mean laying on the couch and relaxing, but finding the proper location where a person will receive G-d’s satisfying and eternal blessing. It was during Noah’s life that G-d brought the flood and destruction upon the world, and only Noah and his family escaped. G-d intended to repopulate the world with Noah, who was the most godly of all people. Despite the fact that he was the best of humanity, the world soon became corrupt again. Of course, none of this surprised G-d. The purpose of this experiment was to reveal to the reader that even when selecting the best humanity has to offer, in the end the world was still in a dire state. In other words, humanity cannot solve the problem of evil on its own and create a Garden of Eden-like experience. The conclusion that the “Noah Experiment” reveals is that humanity must return to the Garden of G-d, if true happiness and contentment is going to be experienced. The question is how? The mystery of the Garden of G-d is found in an ancient Hebrew word, covenant.

## Covenant or Confusion

It has been said that G-d gave to humanity a great power. What is this power? G-d gave to humanity the power to choose. With this power, comes great responsibility. If one utilizes the privilege of choice in an inappropriate manner, the consequences are catastrophic. In fact, it was the misuse of this power that caused Adam and Chava (Eve) to be cast out of the Garden. This same misuse of power also brought about the destruction of the world in the days of Noah. Noah and his family failed to produce a people that would wisely choose to submit to G-d, placing humanity in a state of utter confusion and hopelessness. Let’s examine this confusion.

After the flood, all humanity spoke the same language. This fact, according to scholars, represented great potential. The problem with humanity was that they wanted to use this potential to exalt themselves, rather than G-d. It is very significant that humanity was unified and committed to building a great tower which would reach into the heavens. Once again, this is interpreted by the sages to imply that humanity wanted to reach a divine status. As a result, G-d brought confusion among humanity, so that they were unable to work together and achieve their goals. This confusion came through two means: first, communication through a common language was altered and people could not relate to one another. Secondly, the people were scattered over the face of the earth.

In regard to people pursuing their own will, the Prophet Isaiah revealed the ways and thoughts of humanity are **not** the ways and thoughts of G-d. In other words, people need to stop trying to obtain their dreams and instead seek G-d’s direction and His will for their lives. **Where does such a journey begin?** The answer is in a covenantal relationship

with G-d. It is no coincidence in the same chapter of Genesis, in which G-d brought confusion upon humanity, that a special man is introduced—Abram, who would later become Abraham. The question which must be asked is why the change in his name?

According to Jewish tradition, a new name signifies a new reality for a person. Hence Abram, which means “exalted father”, would now become Abraham, “the father of many peoples”. Abraham’s new reality involved not just his physical descendants, but additional peoples as well. Who would these peoples be? The answer is ultimately, the ones who will return to the Garden of G-d.

Abraham was not so much seeking G-d as G-d was revealed to him. The first thing that Abraham was told was to leave everything behind and go to the **Land** that G-d would show him. G-d called this Land Moriyah. The word Moriyah is derived from three Hebrew words; teacher, my and L-rd—**The L-rd is my teacher**. What was G-d going to teach Abraham? The answer is faith. Faith was required for Abraham to find Moriyah and fulfill G-d’s purpose which He revealed to him. The concept of faith is familiar to people, but few individuals understand faith properly. When you hear the word faith, what enters into your mind? The response of most people is belief. Such a response is only half the correct answer. Belief in what? Faith is not believing in what makes sense to you; rather **real faith is believing in the Truth of G-d**. It is only after Abraham proclaimed faith in G-d, that the concept of covenant is discussed.

A covenant is usually understood as a type of agreement. Once again, this is only a small part of what a Biblical covenant implies. First, there are outcomes from the covenant being maintained. It can be said that these outcomes reflect the motivation and the purposes for the covenant being established. Within the Bible, these outcomes are usually referred to as promises or blessings. Abraham left his family, culture, and country because these promises/blessings moved him to do so. Abraham’s response could also be described as an exercise in faith. The second aspect of a Biblical covenant is that it brings about a specific change in the one who enters into it with G-d. The Hebrew word covenant is ברית brit, and it’s a noun. All Hebrew nouns are formed from Hebrew verbs. The verb from which covenant originates is “to make pure”. So, one can see how a Biblical covenant has a purifying affect on a person or makes this one acceptable to G-d.

Covenantal purity leads to holiness and holiness is the main characteristic of the Garden of G-d. The Prophet Isaiah reveals that one of the primary purposes of G-d is to fill the world with His holiness. Isaiah prophesied *Holy, Holy, Holy is the L-rd of armies, fill all the earth (with) His glory*. This sentence teaches that G-d will turn all the earth into His Garden. Although this will be wonderful, the Bible reveals that there will be great opposition to this.

## **Sons of Light, Sons of Darkness**

For over 2,000 years, there has been a type of literature that deals with the end times. All such literature has a few common elements. The primary element is that the world as we know it will end with a great war. This war will be between two groups of people, the **Sons of Light** and the **Sons of Darkness**. There are also supernatural aspects related to this war. In essence, this war is a battle between good and evil. The leader of the Sons of Darkness is Satan and he wants to keep the Garden of G-d from being re-established in this world. This war will come about in stages, and the first stage is known as “the birth pains”.

## Chapter 2: The Birth Pains

Nearly all world religions teach that this world will pass away and become (or be transformed into) a utopia. It has already been stated that according to the Biblical account and other end times writings, that a great war will be the catalyst for the Garden of G-d being established. When examining numerous texts on this issue, one learns that there are several significant events that will lead up to this great war. This initial period and the events that will take place within it, are known as “**birth pains**”. What is the reason for such terminology? In the same way that during the birth of a child the mother suffers tremendous pains, but in the end these pains give way to great joy when she holds her child for the first time; so too will the sufferings that precede the establishment of the Garden of G-d be remembered no more by those who will enter into this Garden.

The birth pains will begin with numerous events that will bring about an **instability** in the world. First, there will be a significant change in the morality of people. Most of the world will become more tolerant toward behaviors that were once considered inappropriate. However, there will be a substantial minority that will become very intolerant and exceedingly violent to perceived violations of **their** moral and religious views. These differences will be a basis for conflict that will bring about several negative consequences. There will be sharp divisions between people.

Those who embrace these strict moral positions will do so based upon religious convictions. These differences will also give rise to **political and social instability**. Such instability will not only be based on religious views, but varying political philosophies. There are two basic political philosophies that can be manifested into a multiplicity of different political movements. The first philosophy places the power and rule within a small number of government leaders and supporters. These leaders have vast power, which is eventually used to oppress the masses. Individual rights will become less valued and prevalent.

The second political philosophy is vastly different. Governmental leaders are seen as merely representatives of the people. The power does not rest within the government, but with the people. The power to replace the governmental leaders is exercised frequently and there are numerous checks and balances to ensure that the people’s power is not usurped by leaders. Human rights and freedoms are foundational to this political philosophy and must be cherished by its citizens. Rights such as the freedom of speech, protest, assembly, religion, and to possess weapons are essential to the survival of this political philosophy. Two other ingredients are the press and a judicial system. The press must be allowed to investigate and publish or transmit journalistic presentations freely to the public. The judicial system must preserve the equality of all citizens, regardless of personal factors such as race, religion, ethnicity, etc.

As this world moves to the beginning of the birth pains, there will be a shift among those nations which practice the second type of political philosophy to the first type. In other

words, when a person sees the aforementioned rights and freedoms being stripped away in the countries that have enjoyed such liberty previously, then this one should give consideration that the birth pains are near. There will not only be social and political instability, but **economic instability** will likely be the greatest reason for moving the world forward to the end times. There will be several sources for a significant economic down turn. First, there will be an increase in costly national disasters such as earthquakes. These disasters, mixed with a gross fiscal mismanagement of civil authorities (governments), will have a tremendous negative effect on the economies of the world. The major economies of the world will not be rich, but rather greatly in debt. As more and more of these nations struggle with debt, they will not have the means to stop one country after another from suffering economic collapse.

The United States of America is not the wealthy nation that people think; rather, America is the greatest debtor nation. It is not simply a matter of how much debt does a nation have, but the debt, in ratio to the country's revenue, is also a major indicator of a country's economic condition. In the United States, this ratio is growing at an ever increasing rate. Despite much rhetoric from government leaders, U.S. debt continues to mount and is projected to become significantly worse. America's weakening economy has been a major factor in the lessening of the United States' ability to influence other nations. Today, more than ever, it is clear that the United States of America is not the world leader it once was.

Terrorist groups and rogue nations have taken notice of America's crumbling economy. For them, a weak America and **global financial instability** serve as an invitation to press forward with their objectives. These objectives make the world a much more dangerous place, denying an ever increasing number of people throughout the world basic human rights and freedoms. In actuality, fear and creating financial problems are the primary goals of terrorist groups. The purpose of most terrorist activity is not to cause the greatest number of casualties, but rather to inflict the largest financial costs as possible. Simply the threat of a terrorist act in major urban areas like New York City can cause the government to expend great sums of money. In November of 2015, Brussels was literally shut down due to the threat of a terrorist act. The financial loss to the city was staggering and although no one was injured, the terrorists scored a major blow to the city's economy which was felt throughout Belgium.

## **The Ram.....The First Beast**

Prophecy is a major component of the Bible. One of the most significant prophecies in regard to world instability is found in the eighth chapter of Daniel. There, the Prophet Daniel receives a vision of a **Ram**. Prophecy is a type of literature which has defined characteristics and rules for interpreting it properly. In this type of literature, an animal (often the word "beast" is used) relates to a government or empire. It is clear in this eighth chapter of Daniel that this Ram is actually an **empire**. The reader is told that this Ram

has two horns and will emerge from the east, toward the west, north and south. The word used to describe this movement is likened to a charging bull, which serves to convey fear. The prophecy states that no one will be able to stand against this empire nor save one from it. This empire will grow and do whatever it wants to do.

To what empire does the Ram (beast) refer? The answer is the **Islamic Caliphate**. The Caliphate is the seat for an Islamic government that rules over not just Muslims, but according to Islamic doctrine, over the entire world. This term has entered into the vernacular today because of the “**Islamic State**” (ISIS or Daesh). This empire of Daniel chapter eight will spread its influence and control to the west, north and south. It will not be a peaceful empire, but one that is characterized by fear and bring a sense of hopelessness to much of the world’s inhabitants. The point which must be understood is that this empire wants to establish an Islamic Caliphate and they will achieve this. This Caliphate will rule over a significant portion of the world’s population.

According to a recent **Pew study** (a leading American research organization), the fastest growing religion in the world is Islam. This is due to several factors, such as **number of children Muslims have**, the fact that Muslims have a much **higher concentration of younger people** (child-bearing age), and **Islam is predominate in Africa and the Middle East**. These locations are projected to have the largest population growth in the future. Muslims will grow in percentage of the world’s population faster than that of other religious groups. These facts, along with Islam becoming progressively more militant, will set Islam on a **collision course** with the rest of the world.

## Is Islam a Religion?

When examining Islam from its formation, an interesting characteristic is discovered. Islam was assembled from other popular religions (Judaism and Christianity) and from common pagan practices, more than from an assertion of divine revelation. The reason behind Muhammad utilizing these known traditions was to attract their followers to his new “**movement**”. I prefer to use the term movement rather than religion for a few reasons. The first is that Islam aspires to conquer lands and rule over people much more than any moral or ethical behavior that it teaches. In fact, the concept of **redemption** is more applied to regaining lands and assets which were once controlled by Islam; rather than in reference to the spiritual condition of an individual. Let’s look at the Islamic State (ISIS) as an example.

In those locations under the control of ISIS, is there any evidence that Islam is improving the quality of life for the people over which it rules? According to the New Testament, true and real religion visits orphans and widows in their time of need. The intent of this statement is to demonstrate that any legitimate religion in G-d’s eyes must act to assist those whom society in general, commonly exploits and oppresses. **Islam, in fact, tends to be a highly oppressive movement**. Liberty would certainly not be a term that could be used

when describing Islam. Women and children are highly and regularly exploited sexually, socially, and physically. There is also a lowering of the economic opportunity and conditions. The leaders of Islam tend to be wealthy, while the masses suffer in every aspect of life. In short, Islam is an oppressive political philosophy that utilizes religious practices in order to conceal its primary objective.

Islam's objective, and how it devalues human life, is why **terroristic behavior** comes naturally to this movement. Those who assert that a small minority of extremists has hijacked a great world religion are sadly ignorant of the historical records. ISIS is not an abnormality to Islam, but rather the best modern example of the Koran's teachings. Some individuals have interpreted the first part of Daniel chapter eight as referring to ISIS. This is **not** accurate. Daniel is emphatic that the Ram is actually Iran (the ancient empire of the Medes and the Persians that **will reemerge in the last days**). However, there is an interesting occurrence taking place. One of the most significant outcomes of ISIS's activity is the strengthening of the Iranian nation. Iran has greatly increased its influence in such places as Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon. From the statements of Iranian leaders, it is quite clear that continued influence and power is their primary goal. Several nations in the Middle East are extremely concerned about Iran's growth and its rhetoric. Iran sees itself as the leading Islamic nation and its expansion as related to Islamic prophecy. Iran has been quite candid about its desire to destroy Israel. The fact that Iran has been actively trying to acquire a nuclear program for military purposes, adds to the threat it will be able to mount attacks in the near future. It would seem that the international agreement with Iran (January 2016) guarantees that Iran will be allowed to become a nuclear State in a period between ten to fifteen years.

Currently, the Middle East is in a state of mass confusion, with ISIS's activity and other terrorist organizations. Such confusion is also found in a growing number of places, as Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, the Taliban, etc., continue to spread Islam through their terroristic activity. This has spread into Africa, Asia, and Europe. Great numbers of Muslims have immigrated legally or have come as refugees to many countries and make up a growing percentage of the population. As their percentages grow, they become much more demanding that their "religious" norms and practices become the law under which their communities are to be administered.

## Sharia Law

One must recognize that there are significant differences between those who profess to be Muslims, but **do not embrace Sharia Law**, and those Muslims who do in fact recognize the authority of Sharia Law. Any expression of Islam that does not submit to Sharia Law is based only on a cultural identification with the "religion"; rather than doctrinal. Many of these Muslims have adopted a more spiritual and religious understanding of certain texts from the Koran and additional writings; rather than accepting the actual rendering of the texts. Some have referred to this as "**moderate Islam**". The fact is that this expression

of Islam is rooted in a modern understanding and one that desires to become a part of the larger religious community. It actually denies and/or ignores much of what the Koran teaches. Moderate Islamic leaders participate in ecumenical endeavors and are slowly beginning to express criticism for the Muslims that believe in a literal interpretation of the Koran and the other authoritative texts of Islam. Once again, it is the acceptance or rejection of Sharia Law that identifies to which camp a Muslim belongs.

Although moderate Muslims are perceived to out number what the world calls “extremist” or “radical Islam”, the number of Muslims who embrace Sharia Law are nevertheless highly significant. In addition to this, the number of Sharia Law adherents is growing rapidly and this growth is coming largely from those who were once part of moderate Islam. Slowly, more and more people are coming to the conclusion that there is a problem with Islam. However, many world leaders, such as President Barack Hussein Obama, refuse to acknowledge such a problem.

The first step in dealing with the threat of Islam is to understand that **true Islam** is the Islam that embraces Sharia Law and interprets the Koran in a literal or straightforward manner. It is a grave error to see Islamic terror organizations or Muslim States, which carry out gross human rights violations as well as support these terror organizations, as the abnormality and label them as extreme or radical. These nations and organizations are indeed the normative expression of Islam. President Obama has commented numerous times that those who participate in ISIS, Al-Qaida, and other Islamic terror organizations are not really Muslims and they do not reflect Islam. Such statements fail to accurately portray what the Koran teaches and the violent objectives of Sharia Law. It is actually **moderate Islam that is not truly Islam**. In light of these things, there are **two crucial points** that the world must understand about Islam.

1. It is **Islam** that commits terrorist acts and oppresses millions of people.
2. **Islam** needs to be understood and responded to as a **militant political movement** and **not** a religion.

As long as these two points concerning Islam are ignored, there will not be any significant steps taken to combat the serious threat that Islam poses today. Unfortunately, there is currently strong resistance against this viewpoint. Therefore, what we can expect in the short term is for Islam to continue to spread and grow in its influence throughout much of the world. The country that will benefit most from this expansion will be Iran. Eventually, the world will come to recognize that Iran, and Islam in general, pose more than a regional threat, and will endanger the very existence of the free world.

## Chapter 3: The Second Beast

For over a century, the United States of America has been the most powerful nation and a force for peace throughout the world, but things are rapidly changing. Today, many of the foundational characteristics of the United States are being questioned or abandoned altogether. American influence and power is lessening and a significant percentage of the U.S. population sees this as desirable. There is a growing belief that America should retreat from its position as the world's only super-power and join the international community under a diversity of leadership. Biblical prophecy foresees a new world power emerging from Europe. It will be this new world governmental entity that will take the leadership position in fighting the Ram, i.e. the Islamic empire. Because the Ram represents an evil and oppressive empire, the fact that another, stronger empire, will rise up and defeat it, should be a reason for celebration. The problem is that this second empire will become the global government from which the antichrist will emerge. This empire will become the worst and most oppressive empire of all time.

In Daniel chapter eight, the prophet was attempting to understand the significance of this first beast, i.e. the Ram; when behold, a **second beast** came out from the west. Whereas Daniel used the term Ram to describe and identify the first beast, he also clearly states that the Ram is **Iran** (a coalition of Islamic States led by Iran). In regard to the second beast, Daniel uses the term "Greece" in order to identify this empire. One should **not** understand the term "Greece" as a specific country; but rather that Greece in Daniel's time was synonymous with Europe in general. Hence, the Goat is an **European Empire**. What Daniel is clearly revealing is that there will be a major war between a confederation of Islamic States and Muslims in general, under the leadership of Iran, and an international coalition of nations led by Europe. In describing this European Empire, Daniel uses a phrase that may seem odd to most people. Daniel states that this second beast moves across the face of the earth without touching the ground. This expression informs readers that the empire has a supernatural component. Obviously, in Daniel's time, traveling above the earth was not possible. In an early chapter of Daniel's prophecy, he describes four beasts. When he comes to the fourth beast (Empire), he speaks in terms that describe this empire as unique and different from those that preceded it. Before a more detailed discussion of this empire is presented, it is necessary to reconcile a few prophetic passages.

In the book of Revelation, John discusses eight empires. They are:

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Medes and Persians
5. Greece
6. Rome

7. Unknown

8. Also unknown, but is from the seventh. This means the seventh and eighth are the same.

What is most significant is that John states that there will actually be an **eighth empire** and this one will be **from or of the seventh**. John makes it clear that in one sense, all of the empires are connected together (John speaks of them as seven heads of one beast); but the final two (seventh and eighth), are in essence the same empire that simply will be re-established at a later period. However, when one studies all of these eight empires, and the prophetic discourses concerning them, it will become evident that **Greece, Rome, the seventh and the eighth, are all European**. Daniel and John referred to both Greece and Rome when prophesying about a unique **evil empire** that will be manifested in the last days prior to the Kingdom being established. For example, Daniel speaks of Greece, one of the leaders of the fifth empire, as a typology of the antichrist. He also speaks of Rome as a reference for discerning some of the features of the final empire.

The **Ram** which was mentioned in chapter 2 is **NOT** one of these eight empires referred to in the book of Revelation and by Daniel. Although the fourth empire shares a common name (Persia) and also relates to some of the same geographical regions, the Ram is unique and different. This empire (The Ram) will bring about the instability in the world that will give rise to the final empire assuming power. Daniel emphasizes that fear and a sense of helplessness will describe how most of the world will feel as the Ram grows in power and authority. One can imagine how relieved much of the world will be when this second beast, known as the Goat, rises up to wage war against the Ram. In a miraculous manner, this Goat will defeat the Ram. The Goat will grow great in power and when his larger horn brakes, four other horns grow in its place. What is the meaning of this statement? The number four in Hebrew numerology relates to the world. Jewish sages understand that the number four expresses a global significance. In other words, this European empire will expand its rule over the world. Daniel states that this empire will expand to the south, east and the **“Beautiful Land”**, which refers to the **Land of Israel**.

## The Religion of the Goat

Today, many students of prophecy believe that the religion of this European empire in the last days will be Islam. **This is not true**. As has been previously stated, **Islam will be the religion of the Ram**. The world will perceive that Muslim extremists and those who literally interpreted the Koran were the cause of all the suffering brought on by the Ram. Whereas Islam hates the Jewish people, and desires to destroy the Nation of Israel, the Goat will initially have **seemingly** good intentions for Israel.

Because Islam was so destructive to humanity under the Ram’s leadership, the Goat will at first ensure religious liberty to all. The Goat will take strong measures against those who believe that their religious views are absolute truth and only their religion provides

the true way to G-d. Initially, the religion of this European empire that rules over the world in the last days will be a type of **religious pluralism**. People will remain free to worship how they please, as long as they acknowledge all religious expressions have equal merit. The religious character of the Goat will be most problematic for those who believe in the New Testament. For the New Testament presents **the Lamb**, Yeshua (Jesus of Nazareth), as G-d's only Son and the only Savior of humanity. In other words, the Goat and followers of the Lamb will be on a major collision course.

## The Goat's Second Opponent

Daniel has already revealed that there is a supernatural aspect to the Goat. This empire will reign during a time of great prosperity and world peace. The Goat's strength will guarantee security for all the nations of the world. Many people will believe that a type of utopia has arrived. Due to these prosperous and secure times, there will be overwhelming support for the Goat's social, economic and political policies. Again, it will only be those who have faith in the words of Scripture who will discern the real identity of the Goat and its leader. During this time of earthly peace and prosperity, the Goat will set his sight on another opponent. Daniel states that the Goat will exalt itself to the heavenly army. Most understand this phrase as a reference to the angels. Because the origin of the Goat's power is Satan, he will break through the angelic realm to the captain of the angels, Michael. This statement is to inform the reader that the war which the Goat will eventually fight is not only against flesh and blood, but against G-d Himself.

The Goat will want to exalt himself above the One True G-d and thwart the Lamb's purpose to establish a Kingdom of Righteousness. An **integral** part of G-d's plan concerns **the people and the Land of Israel**. The Goat will have a strong affinity for Jerusalem and allow the Temple to be rebuilt in its proper location. The leader who will emerge from this empire will be the antichrist. The antichrist will want the Jewish people to accept him and therefore he will do many favorable things for the Jewish people and the Nation of Israel. Temple worship will be reinstated, but there will be a plurality to the worship at the Temple. Jerusalem will be seen as a holy city to many different religions. While most of the Jewish leadership will rejoice over the Temple and the security and legitimacy that the Goat has given to Israel, another battle will be taking place. This battle will be a highly spiritual one that happens in a heavenly realm. Once again, the antichrist will strive to keep the Jewish people from returning to their G-d and submitting to their calling, in order to hinder the Lamb's Kingdom from being established.

## The Character and Work of the Goat

It has already been stated that there will be a connection between the Goat and Satan. Because of this relationship, this empire will have a blasphemous character. In the book of Revelation, there are two aspects of the Goat that will cause the vast majority of people to submit to his authority. The first has to do with a **mortal wound** that the Goat suffers, but will eventually be healed. The second is the miracles he will do to deceive the world. There is no question that this empire, which has an European quality to it, is the eighth and final empire. This will be the empire which the antichrist will utilize in his attempt to defeat the Lamb and His purposes. Because the Goat is the eighth and final empire and is from the seventh, **it is incumbent upon the reader to identify the seventh.**

There are two possibilities that must be considered concerning this empire. The first possibility is that the seventh empire has not emerged yet. Therefore, we will have to wait until it begins to reign, in order to discern its identity. If this is correct, then we are not as close to the end times as many Biblical scholars think. The second possibility is that the seventh empire has indeed risen to power. John, in the book of Revelation, states that this empire will only rule for a short period of time, relative to the six previous empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medes-Persia, Greece, and Rome). All of these previous empires oppressed and persecuted the Jewish people for a portion of its rule. Hence, the seventh empire must also be known as a persecutor of the Jewish people. This empire must also be based in Europe, since the Goat is European. I would like to suggest to the reader that **the seventh empire is Nazi Germany.** The fact that the Nazi empire murdered over six million Jewish people makes it the greatest persecutor of Jewish people of all time. It is hard to imagine that such a murderous reign, which wanted to exterminate the Jewish people from the face of the earth, would have no prophetic implications. The Nazi obsession with eliminating the Jewish race had two purposes behind it.

The first was to gather support for its political movement. One should **not** underestimate the amount of people who are anti-Semitic. History is very clear that the Nazi political platform was extremely anti-Semitic in order to bring people into the Nazi party. Today, there is an alarming trend toward a growing anti-Israel and anti-Semitic perspective in Europe and many other parts of the world. Jewish educational institutions and synagogues throughout Europe must take strong security measures in order to protect both their buildings and their Jewish residents against acts of terrorism and violence. Jewish cemeteries are frequently vandalized with writings that manifest the same anti-Jewish rhetoric that Nazis used prior to and during World War Two.

The second purpose of Nazi obsession was rooted in perhaps an aspect that was not fully understood by its followers. When it was clear that Germany and her allies were going to lose the war, Hitler and top Nazi leaders increased their efforts to murder more Jews in the Nazi death camps. What purpose did this really serve? Resources were diverted from the war's cause in order to continue to kill the greatest number of Jewish people. The reason behind this was satanic. Satan knows the important role that Jewish

people will play in the last days; hence, if there are fewer Jewish individuals, then perhaps their role will not be able to be accomplished. In other words, the Nazis were a tool which was used by Satan in his attempt to thwart the will of G-d.

It is very interesting that Adolph Hitler referred to his empire as **The Third Reich** (The Third Empire). Most historians understand the basis for this term to be found in a book written by Arthur Moeller van den Bruck in 1923. This book calls the **Holy Roman Empire 962-1806** the first Reich and the **German empire 1871-1918** the second Reich. Was Hitler connecting his Nazi empire to these former ones? A study of Hitler's demented view of himself reveals that he saw himself connected in some mystical manner to the ancient leaders of both Greece and Rome. In other words, Hitler saw his empire as a re-emerging of the former Greek and Roman empires; rather than as a resurfacing of those empires in van den Bruck's book.

It is important to remember that in the early stages of the Goat's reign, that this empire will not be anti-Semitic, but as was stated previously, the antichrist will attempt to lure the Jewish people to himself. We will learn that his final action to accomplish this goal will fail and then the Goat and the antichrist will turn violently and ruthlessly against Israel and the Jewish people throughout the world, ushering in **the worst time for the Jewish people in all their history**.

Shaul from Tarsus (the Apostle Paul) writes that there will be two distinct periods of time in the last days. The first period is what we have already discussed, **the birth pains**. This was defined as a period of world instability in which the Ram will cause much hardship and suffering. At the end of this first period, the Goat will defeat the Ram and establish a world government that will usher in a time of peace and prosperity. This is the second period. The Goat's rule will begin with a treaty that will be enacted with Israel. This treaty will allow the Temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt and to function. However, as was stated previously, there will be a pluralistic character to the city of Jerusalem and to the Temple. Jerusalem will be a type of international religious center. Because of this great time of prosperity and world security, the Goat will be beloved by most people. Only a small faction of Bible believers and Lamb followers will speak against the blasphemous character of the Goat. Those who proclaim that the Lamb is the only Savior and that the true people of G-d worship Him, will violate the pluralistic values of this empire and will be severely punished. In other words, an intense time of persecution will begin against those who hold to the authority of the Word of G-d and believe in the Lamb's testimony.

## The Mark of the Empire

The Goat will demand an absolute allegiance and require all people who want to benefit from the prosperity and security that this empire will provide, to demonstrate their loyalty to it. The empire will develop a mark (sign) which people will have to receive on their forehead or arm. Without this sign/mark, people will not be allowed to buy or sell or commit any financial transaction. One should pay close attention to the fact that the mark is placed on the forehead or arm. This corresponds to the place that G-d commanded the Jewish people to place His commandments. The message is clear, either one is going to demonstrate loyalty to the Goat and receive material benefits or suffer for one's faith in the commandments of G-d. In addition to the mark of the Beast (Goat), there is another requirement for those who want to receive benefits from this empire. All citizens of this empire who want to be in good standing must make an image to the Goat. Once again, making an image is forbidden and is a violation of one of the Ten Commandments. Why would modern people with intelligence make an image?

We have learned that the Goat represents an empire. There are two very important things that are stated about this empire. The first is that it had a **mortal wound that was healed** and the second is that it is **able to do miraculous signs**. These signs, as well as the mortal wound which was healed, will serve as **strong delusion** that will lead people astray. The mortal wound which was healed conveys two thoughts to the reader. We already know that this empire had previously been established and reigned for a comparatively short amount of time and then it will resurface in the last days. Some believe that this is the proper understanding of the mortal wound being healed; namely, that this empire was destroyed, but it will once again rise to power. When we examine the Biblical text related to the Goat's mortal wound which was healed, there is a degree of amazement that this empire returned to power. The second thought which the healed wound expresses is that of resurrection. Resurrection is related to victory. Despite the mortal wound that the Goat received, it rose to power again, conveying to the people that it cannot be defeated. Once again, when studying the passages relating to this issue, there is a sense of futility among the people in opposing this empire.

Now let's examine the miraculous signs that were performed. If one pays close attention, it was actually the leader of this empire, i.e. **the antichrist**, who performed many of the acts that amazed the people. When the antichrist is finally revealed, he will cause a significant change concerning the character of the empire. It has been stated that initially religious pluralism would characterize this empire, but with the ascension of the antichrist to power, this will all change. No longer will each person be allowed to worship as one believes; rather the antichrist will abruptly demand that all worship the Goat. It will be the supernatural signs that he performs that will serve as a basis for people agreeing to worship this empire. One of the signs that the antichrist will perform is to command fire to come down from the heavens before the people. This will demonstrate a divine aspect

(false) of both the antichrist and the empire to those over whom he rules. These manifestations of supernatural power will answer the question earlier posed to the reader: **Why would modern people with intelligence make an image?**

When humanity sees the return of this empire, which was thought to be destroyed but has now assumed absolute power, coupled with all the expressions of supernatural power and miracles, and the prosperity and peace that the world is enjoying, only those who obey the Scripture will **not** make an image to the empire. This image is said to be of the Goat, who suffered a mortal wound but now lives. Once a person makes this image, it is said that the image will come alive and speak. By means of this image, the empire will control people, knowing whether or not a person is loyal to the empire. If one refuses to make the image, then he will be put to death. During this time, religious freedom will cease and everyone must demonstrate absolute loyalty to the empire and worship its leader, the antichrist. We shall return to the issue of worship and the antichrist later in this study, but let's continue learning the objectives of the Goat.

## Chapter 4: The Middle of the Week and Beyond....

The Goat will promote throughout the world an **idolatrous character**, which will seek to exalt this empire above all things. The primary characteristic of idolatry is a focus on self. Hence, the empire will act in a manner to convince people that it is in their best interest to submit to the empire's rule. Daniel reveals that after defeating the Ram, the Goat's reign will be limited to seven years. The Goat's reign will end with the coming of the Lamb and the establishment of the Kingdom of G-d. The Bible calls these seven years a "**week**". In the first three and a half years, the Goat will extend his influence over all the world and provide prosperity and security in a manner that the world has never known before. This will assist in the empire's objective of world domination and an absolute rule over all people. Again, only those who follow the truth of Scripture will be opposing the ungodly characteristics of the Goat. These faithful people will be cruelly dealt with by being imprisoned, tortured, and killed. The empire will express a barbaric and merciless character which will cause great fear among the world's inhabitants and will bring everyone, except those who believe in the Word of G-d and in the Lamb, to submission.

The primary objective of the Goat is to thwart the will of G-d and keep the Kingdom of G-d from being established. The antichrist will allow the Temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem and provide security and freedom for the Jewish people. After forty-two months of prosperity and peace throughout the world, the antichrist will feel secure enough to reveal his true intentions. The antichrist is Satan incarnate. What he desires most is for people to worship him and not the true G-d. It has been stated that the antichrist knows the significant role that Israel must play in the establishment of G-d's Kingdom; hence, it is not surprising that the antichrist would choose the Temple to reveal himself (this false understanding of himself). What is this false understanding? The antichrist believes he is god and is worthy of all worship.

From the time that this empire was established until the middle of the seven years, the antichrist will have done away with nearly all opposition. With the perception that his empire is firmly established, the antichrist will take a certain action. With the Temple functioning in Jerusalem, the antichrist will bring an abrupt end to worship taking place. The Apostle Paul states that the antichrist will enter into the Temple and proclaim himself to be G-d and demand that the world receive him as such. Because of his seemingly benevolent deeds towards Israel, he will assume that the Jewish people will respond favorably to him. While most of the world will readily accept him, the Jewish people and followers of the Lamb will not! It is after this event that followers of the Lamb will be taken to heaven. It is important to realize that most believers in the Lamb will have already been killed or imprisoned. What the Bible calls the **Blessed Hope** will indeed be a glorious occurrence for all followers of the Lamb, both those alive and those already in heaven; however, the world will not perceive the significance of this event. With the believers taken out of this

world, and now Israel alone in opposing the antichrist, a horrible persecution of the Jewish people will begin.

The Prophet Jeremiah calls this the **Time of Trouble for Jacob** (Israel). Daniel, in speaking about this same period of time, stresses that it will represent the worst time of suffering for the Jewish people ever. In a manner similar to that of the Nazi Empire, the antichrist will attempt to annihilate every Jewish person. As this persecution begins, G-d will begin a time of judgement upon the world. This judgement will happen in a manner that will be undeniably from G-d. Although many Biblical interpreters assert that such manifestations of G-d's judgement are through the actions of man, let us examine briefly what actually will take place. The Bible reveals that:

1. Hail and fire mixed with blood will fall from the heavens and destroy a third of the trees throughout the world and its green vegetation.
2. What will appear as a large mountain burning with fire will be cast into the sea and a third of the seas will become blood. As a result of this, a third of the creatures in the seas will die. In addition to this, a third of the ships will be destroyed.
3. A great star, burning as a torch, will fall upon a third of the rivers and springs of waters. These waters will become bitter and many people will die.
4. A third of the Sun, Moon, and stars will be darkened both in the day and in the night.
5. A star (angel) will descend from the heavens to the abyss. This angel will have a key with which he will open the pit and smoke will arise, bringing a unique type of locust. These "locusts" will not harm the grass or any vegetation, but will torture those individuals who do not have the seal of G-d upon their foreheads. Only the Jewish people who have this seal will be spared from this torture.
6. Four angels, which were bound at the Euphrates River, will be set free and they will bring about a war. An exceedingly large army of unique origin (not human) will kill a third of humanity with fire, smoke and brimstone, which will go forth from their mouths and tails.

Obviously these occurrences of G-d's judgement do **not** have their origins in human activity. The purpose for these clearly supernatural manifestations is to remove all doubt from humanity whether G-d exists or not. It's shocking that despite all the death and devastation, people will not turn from their idolatrous behavior and repent before the G-d of Israel.

While these judgments are taking place, the Jewish people are continuing to be severely persecuted by the Goat. Those who are in Judea will flee into the wilderness to a place G-d will have prepared for them. Others will remain in Jerusalem and these will not be cut off from the Holy City. There will be a similar behavior between that of the Goat and how the Nazi empire behaved. Even when it became clear to the Nazi leadership that the war could not be won, instead of ending their horrid massacre against the Jewish people, they actually increased the effort to exterminate them. After the manifestation of the six judgements, it will be clear that the Goat is fighting against the forces of the Omnipotent G-d

and therefore cannot win; yet like the Nazis, this empire will ignore this to its own demise and continue to focus on destroying Israel and the Jewish people throughout the world.

## The Battle for Jerusalem

Over the last several decades, there have been numerous attempts to broker a peace agreement in the Middle East. One of the most difficult aspects of reaching such an agreement, is the status of Jerusalem. Since 1948 and the declaration of the modern State of Israel, Jerusalem has been at the heart of the conflict and this will only become a greater source of antagonism in the final half of Daniel's week (the final 42 months). Today, this conflict is primarily between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It is clear that the modern Israelis are the descendants of the Patriarch Jacob. But who are the Palestinians? The Prophet Obadiah wrote, like many others, that this world would end with a great war. Obadiah was more specific than other such writers, and he revealed that this final war would be between the sons of Jacob and the sons of Esau. One needs to remember that according to the book of Genesis, Esau was **not** interested in the purposes of G-d; however, he was determined to keep Jacob from fulfilling them. A people came from Esau and they were known as Edom. When researching this people throughout the Scriptures, one learns that like Esau, Edom stands continually in opposition to the will of G-d. The Bible states the land that belongs to Edom is the same place from where the Palestinians came. This is very significant. These people simply migrated to some of the cities of ancient Israel, after many of the Jewish people fled the persecution of the Romans, the Muslims, the Crusaders, and the Muslims once more. Hence, the Palestinians are Edom!

In Obadiah's prophecy, G-d warns the world not to join with Edom in warring against the sons of Jacob. Sadly this warning will be ignored. In the end, a large coalition of nations will join with the Palestinians in attacking Israel. Jerusalem will be their objective, and as the Bible reveals, a large international force will enter into Israel from the north. There are three key locations where Israel will attempt to hold off this massive army. The first is Hazor and the second is Beit Shean. These two locations were historically strongholds for maintaining control of the Land. Israel will suffer great losses at these two locations and be virtually defeated. A symbolic "last stand" will be mounted at the third location, known as Megiddo.

Megiddo is also known by its Biblical name, **Armageddon**. Prior to this war, G-d will have poured out on the world seven additional judgments, which are stronger than the six previous judgments; for these seven plagues contain the **wrath of G-d**. Once again, these seven plagues will clearly be supernatural and will leave no doubt in the people's minds that they are from G-d. What are these seven plagues?

1. Painful sores will appear on those individuals who have the mark of the beast (empire) and who worship the image.
2. The seas become blood and every living sea creature will die.

3. All the rivers and springs of water become blood.
4. The Sun begins to scorch people with fire.
5. The Earth becomes full of darkness, people gnash their tongues in great pain and they blaspheme G-d.
6. The waters of the Euphrates River will dry up and three unclean spirits will bring the kings of the earth and the whole world to Israel for war.
7. There will be sounds, thunders, lightnings and a great earthquake.

During the sixth plague, the waters of the Euphrates River will dry up and a way will be prepared for a federation of armies to attack Israel. These armies will be united and easily have victories at Hazor and Beit Shean. However, when Israel mounts its “last stand” the Bible reveals that Israel will not be alone. It will be at Megiddo (Armageddon) that the Lamb will appear and defeat this vast army. The battle of Armageddon is also known as the war of Gog and Magog.

Although a great battle will take place at Megiddo, the reader needs to know that a siege was happening against Jerusalem for some time. The battle of Armageddon represents an effort to bring an end to a conflict which has been occurring for 1,260 days, or forty-two months, or three and a half years. Israel and the Jewish people have been under harsh, barbaric suffering since their rejection of the antichrist at the middle of the week. The Goat will have been attacking Jerusalem during this period, but because of the significance of the Holy City, the empire will not want to destroy Jerusalem, but to capture it. The Palestinians, with support from every nation, will be leading the attack on Jerusalem. The Prophet Zechariah reveals that eventually Jerusalem will be taken, Jewish homes will be destroyed and Jewish women will be raped. The residents will be taken into captivity, but a small number of the Jewish residents will remain in the city.

The defeat of the international coalition at Megiddo will happen so quickly that those in Jerusalem will not even know what has happened, when the Messiah arrives at the Mount of Olives, just east of the Holy City. The Lamb’s coming to Jerusalem will bring victory for the Jewish people. Although most of those who were waging war with Israel will be destroyed, the Scripture does reveal that a remnant of the Gentiles will survive and turn to G-d through faith in the Lamb. It is important today that people understand how to view the current conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

## **The Palestinian Problem**

Before dealing with the Palestinians as a people, let us affirm a Biblical truth; namely, that G-d loves **all** people. In other words, G-d does **not** have a favorite people! The question that should arise is not whether G-d loves me, but whether I am going to be a recipient of His love. It is only through a **covenantal relationship with G-d** that one can receive His great and abiding love. What caused Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be the Patriarchs of

the people of G-d? The answer is their pursuit of the promises of G-d, which were contained in the covenant that G-d first revealed to Abraham. These covenantal promises were extended by G-d to the Patriarchs as a manifestation of His love. Hence, those who want to receive the love of G-d will pursue this love by behaving in a manner that is in agreement with the covenantal promises. This is what separated Jacob from Esau. How do these things relate to the Palestinian people today?

One needs to remember the connection between Esau and his hatred for G-d's covenant, and the Palestinian (Edomite) objective today. The Palestinians are united in creating their own State, in the very place in which the Bible commands the Jewish people to live. In fact, the prophets reveal that unless the Jewish people inhabit this land, G-d will **not** establish His Kingdom. Satan knows this and therefore is using the creation of a Palestinian State in his attempt to thwart the plans of G-d. Neither the Palestinians nor the rest of the world are basing their actions and positions on the truth of Scripture. Therefore, it is not a coincidence that the world supports a Middle East peace plan that consists of two States for two peoples. Although there is not agreement today concerning the borders of a Palestinian State, nor most of the other major problematic issues which must be solved; nevertheless, an increasing number of nations are recognizing a Palestinian State.

When one closely examines the positions of the Israelis and the Palestinians on these major issues, it becomes most evident that there is not a basis for an agreement to be made. It is the common perspective by most nations and the world's political leaders that if the Palestinians are granted a State with the borders and elements they demand, then peace will be achieved. In actuality, nothing could be further from the truth. There is no disagreement in the view that a future Palestinian State would be Islamic. Islamic law requires a caliphate. This caliphate is required to rule over all lands that were ever Islamic and Islamic eschatology demands that this caliphate rule over all the world. In other words, **a Jewish State in the Middle East cannot be tolerated by Islam**. There is no disagreement in this perspective by Muslims (Sharia Law adherents). The disagreement among Muslims is over the best way to destroy the Nation of Israel. Palestinians want a State and believe that having their own nation will place them in a better position to lead the Muslim world in destroying Israel. Other Muslims refuse to make any agreement with Israel, even if temporary. They, like Iran, want to wage a war with Israel and bring an end to the Jewish State.

### **Expectations For Our Days...**

In the short term, whether or not there will be a Palestinian State will not change what the Bible reveals. The prophets teach that the enemies of Israel will be on her borders. Today, this is a reality. In the future, Israel will be attacked, but this is **not** the battle that will end at Megiddo and will bring about the return of the Lamb. Although Israel will be persecuted greatly during this period, the worst time for Israel is reserved for the end times. This **preliminary conflict**, and the tremendous amount of Israeli suffering, will provide the

antichrist with the rationale to rebuild the Temple and enlarge Israel's borders. This is comparable to how the atrocities of the Holocaust led to the support for the establishment of the modern State of Israel.

Let's review what one can expect to happen according to the prophets.

1. The world will become full of instability. This instability will be economic, social, and political. There will be an increase in conflicts throughout much of the world. Wars, armed conflicts, and terrorism will undermine social well being. These factors, coupled with an increase in natural disasters, disease, and political corruption and tyranny, will make the world a most difficult place in which to reside.
2. Due to the aforementioned, and the massive amount of world debt, a global financial melt down will take place.
3. Islam will take advantage of this instability and move swiftly throughout much of the world, bringing oppression and persecution to all who resist Sharia Law.
4. The world will feel unable to combat this rise of Islam and suppress the horrible suffering that Islam inflicts upon the world.
5. An empire will emerge out of Europe that will defeat the Islamic caliphate and usher in a time of peace and prosperity that the world has never enjoyed previously.
6. This empire will provide for the rebuilding and functioning of the Temple in Jerusalem and bring security to Israel and the Jewish people in general, after the harsh persecution Jewish people and the Nation of Israel suffered under the Islamic caliphate.
7. Religious extremism will be blamed for much of the problems that the Islamic caliphate brought upon the world and a type of religious pluralism will be promoted by this new European empire.
8. A leader will emerge out of this empire and this one is the antichrist. He will begin a time of intense persecution of those who take literally the Bible and follow after the Lamb.
9. Slowly the antichrist will begin to move the empire away from a religious tolerance based in pluralism, and establish a form of idolatry; whereby all people must pledge absolute loyalty to him and this empire. Those who refuse to embrace this will not be able to commit any form of commerce and eventually be put to death.
10. This European empire will be one that existed previously and was known for its intense persecution of the Jewish people. This empire is said to have suffered a mortal wound, but this wound will be healed. It is my view that this empire which will rule in the last days is a type of resurrected "Nazi empire".
11. The antichrist will at first continue the benevolent actions toward Israel and the Jewish people, desiring that the Jewish community embrace him as all other peoples have done, **with the exception of believers in the Lamb.**
12. Israel and the Jewish community at large will reject the antichrist's claim that he is their messiah and god.
13. Immediately after this rejection, two events will take place. The first is the snatching away to heaven of the Lamb's followers who are still alive (most will have been put to death). This will bring about a great reunion of all believers throughout the last 2,000

plus years together in heaven. The second event is the worst time of persecution for the Jewish people ever. This period is called by the Prophet Jeremiah, **Jacob's Time of Trouble**.

14. The next forty-two months, while the antichrist and his empire are attempting to exterminate the Jewish people, G-d will be pouring out upon the world His judgement and then His consuming wrath. This period will end with the battle of Armageddon and the victory of the Jewish people, when the Lamb returns and delivers them from all the nations of the world who went to war against them.

## Really, Another Nazi Empire?

I have stated several times that the final empire, and the one from which the antichrist will rule, will be a resurrected Nazi empire. Most people scoff upon hearing this opinion. What do I mean by a resurrected Nazi empire? There are two primary components of this empire that relate to the Nazis. The first is **geographical**. This simply means that initially the final empire will emerge out of Europe. It is clear that soon thereafter it will expand over the world. The second is **philosophical**. In its early days, this empire will be tolerant and inclusive in nature. In other words, this empire will conceal its true intentions. However, like the Nazis, once fully in power, this empire will become most oppressive. In a Nazi-like fashion, this final empire will use violence and intimidation to impose its idolatrous policies upon the world.

The Prophet Daniel draws a correlation between the antichrist and the Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes. This ruler outlawed all cultural and religious practices that were in conflict with the ideology of his empire. Antiochus wanted absolute rule over all aspects of a person's life. Both Antiochus and Hitler utilized a type of "secret police" to gather information about those who rejected their policies. Such violators were brutally dealt with and frequently assassinated.

Hitler had a satanic obsession with exterminating the Jewish people and so too, in the end, will the antichrist. Whereas Hitler's quest for world domination killed a reported 70 million people, one can only imagine the vast amount of people who will not only die, but suffer eternal judgement because of one's association with the antichrist.

Be assured that I am **not** asserting that this final empire will have the swastika as its symbol and be based in Berlin. However, Germany is the leading country in Europe and will certainly be part of this empire. The antichrist will be a demonic, charismatic figure similar to Adolf Hitler. When this empire begins to change from a pluralist, "benevolent" rule, to that of a totalitarian, fascist, oppressive regime, there is no question that people will begin to associate this empire's methodology and practices with that of Nazism. Furthermore, this empire will utilize the fear and terror of this association to its own advantage. The antichrist will appear at first as a uniter and a defender of the oppressed. His victory over the Ram will cause most individuals to hail his ascension to leadership.

However, it will not be long after coming to power that this will begin to change and his true obsession for absolute authority and his god complex will be manifested. In conclusion, this final empire will indeed have a shocking and horrifying connection to the Nazi empire.

## Chapter 5: The Kingdom in Two Stages - 1,335

It has been stated that this world will come to an end with a great battle. What is this great battle? It is when the Lamb returns to defeat the antichrist and his empire, i.e., the Goat. The Lamb will arrive at the Mount of Olives and from there, descend toward the Eastern Gate through which He will enter the Temple. The final seven years can be broken into two halves. We have learned during the second half that Israel will be harshly persecuted for forty-two months. Not only is this period spoken of as three and a half years or forty-two months, but also 1,260 days. What is most interesting is when Daniel prophesied about this period of time, he added initially thirty days (1,290 days). Thirty days, according to Judaism, is a mourning period. The Jewish people will see the Lamb, Who sacrificed His life for His covenant people nearly 2,000 years ago, and they will realize what He did for them. How will they respond to this? As a nation, they never acknowledged His sacrificial death, so now at this time, Israel will mourn the Lamb.

It is immediately after Daniel tells about these additional thirty days, that He writes, *“Blessed is the one who waits and makes it to 1,335 days.”* According to one prophetic interpretation, Israel will formally respond to the Lamb on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). Although in most languages this most holy day is spoken of in the singular, Day of Atonement, in the Hebrew language, it is called the Day of Atonements. Why is the word atonement in the plural? Jewish tradition states, there is one atonement for this world and one for the world to come, i.e. the Kingdom.

Daniel reveals that there will be in total an additional 75 days,  $1,260 + 75 = 1,335$ . Because of Israel’s national acceptance of the Lamb on the Day of Atonement, it is believed that the counting of the 75 days should begin on the Day of Atonement. When adding 75 days to the Day of Atonement, one arrives at another special time on the Jewish calendar, the Festival of Dedication (Chanukah). There is a belief within Judaism that Israel’s Messiah will appear before the people on Chanukah. It is during Chanukah today that every synagogue in the world reads about Moses going into the Holy of Holies to dedicate the Tabernacle for use. As Moses entered into this place, the Torah states that he heard the voice of G-d speaking to him from above the mercy seat. This location is where G-d dwelt in the days of the Tabernacle and the Temple. It is also from this place that the Lamb will rule over His Kingdom.

Because the antichrist is the false messiah, he will enter this same location when he proclaims himself to be god and Israel’s messiah. Now one can understand why the antichrist chose this location to make this profession. Chanukah is the holiday that commemorates the purification of the Temple after Antiochus desecrated it. It is precisely because the antichrist will have done the same thing when he enters into this Most Holy Place, that there will have to be a cleansing and a dedication of the Temple for use in the Kingdom. Therefore it should not be surprising that it will be on the Festival of Chanukah that the Lamb will dedicate the Temple and inaugurate the Kingdom of G-d. It is for this

reason that those who wait in faithfulness and persevere **1,335 days** are truly blessed! Blessed are those who shall inherit the earth.

The Bible reveals that the Kingdom of G-d will have two distinct stages. The first will be upon the earth and it will last for 1,000 years. During this time, the Lamb will reign over a Kingdom of righteousness and peace. It is written that the Lamb will rule with a rod of iron. This is to inform the reader that it is the Lamb Who will maintain the righteousness and peace of this Kingdom. The book of Revelation states that just prior to the beginning of these 1,000 years, Satan will be bound in the abyss. Throughout the 1,000 years, he will be in the abyss; however, at the end of the 1,000 years he **must be released**. What is the reason for him being released?

On the first day of the Kingdom, each inhabitant will be a follower of the Lamb, but during these 1,000 years, numerous people will be born. They will have lived under the righteous rule of the Lamb. In this Kingdom, faith is most different than in our time. As has been stated, the Lamb will mandate righteousness, and peace will be maintained. People will have no other option than to submit to the rule of the Lamb. However, when the 1,000 years ends, Satan will be released and go out to deceive those who were born during these 1,000 years. A decision will be required from those who were born into the Kingdom. What is this decision? They will have a choice to accept the Lamb as their G-d, or believe the lie of the recently released Satan, who promises that he can defeat the Lamb. One of the most surprising occurrences in all the Scriptures is the number of people that will join with Satan—the Bible states as the sand is upon the shore. This great multitude will go out from the Holy City only to return a short while thereafter to wage war against the Lamb and His people. This battle will be most anticlimactic, as fire will descend from the heavens and Satan and his followers will be defeated.

All who do not follow the Lamb will be cast into a lake that burns forever and ever. However, those who accept the Lamb will enter into the second stage of the Kingdom of G-d, the Garden of G-d.

## **The Garden of G-d**

After this final battle, G-d will create a new heaven and a new earth, called the **New Jerusalem**. When one studies the Scripture which relates to the New Jerusalem, it becomes clear that the New Jerusalem is likened to the Garden of Eden, but with a few differences. These differences are what make the New Jerusalem the Garden of G-d. When examining the book of Revelation, one learns several significant characteristics concerning the New Jerusalem. There will not be a sea or a Temple in the New Jerusalem. Prophetically, a sea represents instability and fear. In other words, the Garden of G-d is a place of stability, where there is nothing to fear. The reason that there will not be a Temple, is the residents of this Garden will be in an eternal right relationship with G-d (no need for sacrifices). Instead of a Temple, the reader is told that the dwelling place of G-d

will be in the Garden. Whereas in the Garden of Eden G-d came and went, the presence of G-d will forever be in the New Jerusalem. The word which is used repeatedly to describe this Garden is the word “**new**”. This word expresses an absolutely new reality which a person cannot fully appreciate now. The term “the New Jerusalem” assists the reader in understanding a major aspect of the Garden of G-d. The word “new” carries the idea of original. This means that in this Garden, the original purposes of G-d will be fulfilled. The name Jerusalem is comprised of two Hebrew words, “to inherit” and “shalom”. Shalom comes from the Hebrew root which means “to fulfill”. Hence, true peace (the common definition for the word shalom) is when the will of G-d is fulfilled. Therefore, the New Jerusalem represents the eternal state whereby those who entered into a covenantal relationship with G-d will enjoy the original intent of G-d for His creation.

There is similar imagery used between the Garden of Eden and the New Jerusalem, but there are slight alterations which are very informing. In the Garden of Eden, there were four rivers; however, in the Garden of G-d only one. The number four expresses a universal or global character. This should not be surprising, as the context for the Garden of Eden was the creation of the world. The number one expresses both unity and G-d, Who is One. In other words, the New Jerusalem emphasizes unity with G-d. The water of this one river is called living water, which expresses both eternal life and satisfaction. The inhabitants are promised that they will never thirst again. This is meant to convey that all the needs and wants a person could have will be satisfied in the Garden. It is promised that G-d will wipe away every tear and there will no longer be death. Similarly, mourning, screams, and all forms of pain will not be present in the New Jerusalem. The inhabitants are called, “those who have overcome”. This term expresses victory.

Around the Garden is a great wall with twelve gates. These gates are named after the twelve tribes of Israel; once again, emphasizing the connection between Israel and the Kingdom. The gates are open both day and night, showing that there is no threat of danger in this city. The foundation for the walls of the city are the twelve names of the Lamb’s disciples. This shows that the basis for the Kingdom is the **Person** and **Work** of the Lamb. In the Garden of Eden, there were two trees, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life. In the Garden of G-d, there will only be the Tree of Life. This one tree will supernaturally be on both sides of the river of living water. This tree will provide its fruit each of the twelve months. Not only does the number twelve relate to Israel, but also to the people of G-d in general. Hence, the Tree of Life is connected to the fruitfulness of the people of G-d. There will not be any more curse in the Garden nor darkness. The light will not be from the sun or stars, but from the glory of G-d.

The account of the New Jerusalem ends with the promise that the Lamb is coming and to be ready. Who is this Lamb? What has this Lamb done? What will this Lamb do when He returns?

## The Lamb of G-d

In the Bible, a lamb is presented as a sacrificial animal. A lamb is not threatening; rather it is seen as endearing and docile. When the Prophet John (John the Baptist) saw Yeshua (Jesus of Nazareth) approaching him at the Jordan River, he responded, "*Behold, the Lamb of G-d Who takes away the sins of the world.*" John knew that Yeshua (Jesus of Nazareth) was sent from heaven to be **the** sacrifice that would bring forgiveness and eternal redemption to humanity for every and all sin. Therefore, it is not a coincidence that Yeshua gave (sacrificed) His life on Passover. The Passover sacrifice is a unique offering to G-d. The reason for this is because the Passover lamb brings about **redemption** to the people of G-d. The term redemption is a covenantal word; in fact, the Bible teaches that the **marriage covenant** is a type of redemption (the bride had to be redeemed). This provides an understanding for why those who will be in the Garden of G-d are called His bride.

Therefore, when Yeshua came the first time, He was presented as the Lamb, Who laid down His life as the sacrifice for sin. When He returns, even though He is still known as the Lamb, He is also called the **Lion of Judah**. This Lion will defeat the Goat and bring victory and salvation to all who receive Him by faith.

How does one receive Yeshua, the Lamb of G-d by faith? What is it that a person needs to do to find the grace of G-d, which is the basis for G-d forgiving one's sin? The answers to these questions are found in the Hebrew word הבשורה which is translated, the **Gospel**. This word means to proclaim news; but not just any news, only the good news of redemption. It is very significant that the word, הבשורה also is derived from the Hebrew word meaning "flesh" בשר. What is the relationship between the Gospel and flesh? The answer is very simple, the good news about redemption (the Gospel) is that G-d has come in the **flesh** to do the work of redemption.

Below you will find **seven truths** which one must accept/believe and acknowledge before G-d, in order to find the grace of G-d which brings salvation, i.e. the forgiveness of sins and the right to enter into the Garden of G-d (His Kingdom) for eternity. I invite you to respond now and receive salvation by

1. Confessing that you are a sinner and do not have a personal relationship with the Living G-d. Isaiah 59:1-2 states, "Behold, the hand of the L-rd is not so short that He cannot save, nor is His ear too heavy from hearing; rather your iniquities separate you from G-d and your sins have caused His face to be hidden from hearing."
2. Confessing before G-d that you do not want to continue sinning.
3. Confessing before G-d that you are unable to save yourself.

4. Confessing before G-d that you acknowledge that Yeshua was sent by G-d the Father to be your Passover sacrifice, when He died upon the tree (Cross).
5. Confessing that Yeshua from Nazareth is the Lamb of G-d (Messiah) and only through faith in Him is one redeemed/saved.
6. Confessing that Yeshua's blood was shed for the remission of sins.
7. Confessing that Yeshua rose from the dead on the third day as the Scriptures state.

**Pray this prayer to invite Yeshua to be your Savior and receive the gift of eternal life in the Garden of G-d...**

*I confess before You, O G-d, that I am a sinner. I confess that I am not able to save myself. Therefore, I turn to Yeshua from Nazareth, Your only Begotten Son, Who You sent into this world to save me. I believe that He died upon the tree (cross) in order to pay the price for my sins.*

*I believe that He rose from the dead, signifying the victory over sin that He offers to all who believe in Him. I believe that only through His blood that You forgive my sin, those which I have sinned or will sin in the future.*

*I want to invite You, Yeshua, to be my L-rd, send me Your Holy Spirit, that I might walk in Your ways, obeying Your Word, in the Name of Yeshua the Messiah, Amen.*

If you have prayed this prayer and affirmed these truths in your heart, then you have been forgiven. You are a child of G-d and Yeshua will work in your life and through your life by means of the Holy Spirit, to lead you in His will. Your life will have an eternal significance as you serve the purposes of His Kingdom beginning today.