

Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation: Part 1

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Published On : December 2, 2023

Last Updated : December 2, 2023

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Before I get into the actual meat of this current series, let me say beforehand, that I recognize that some of my Christian brethren are going to find it challenging, and perhaps even very difficult, to accept some of the things I'll be sharing here. Trust me; I understand this, because there have been certain beliefs which I have embraced for many years of my life before the Lord has helped me to see the Scriptural light, no longer clouded by the many false doctrines of men which are now so prevalent at this present time.

There were in fact some doctrines which I was introduced to in my Christian youth over fifty years ago, which I held on to for literally decades, because I was absolutely convinced that they were right. Not only was I convinced that they were right, but I shared those same doctrines with others as well. However, it is not that those ideas were right, rather it was how certain Bible verses which had been shared with me seemed to make said doctrines right. There is a difference which I hope you understand. However, let me also inform you that in

order for me to embrace those misguided doctrines, I had to ignore certain Bible verses which contradicted my beliefs, and which said something to the contrary.

Having said the above, I imagine -- and in fact know -- that there will be some of you who read this series, who will be in a very similar position. You have been so indoctrinated with certain beliefs, utterly convinced that they are right, that you will resist what I am about to share with you. My prayer is that before proceeding to read the rest of this series, you will stop and pray for a moment, and ask the Lord to give you an open mind and heart, and that you will seriously consider what I have to share here, regardless of how difficult it may be for you to do. If after reading this series you have not been persuaded to believe otherwise, then so be it. As the Apostle Paul writes:

". . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."
Romans 14:5, KJV

So let us begin now. In other articles, such as "Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!", "Greater Israel Doctrine: Exposed!", "Modern Deception: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?" and "The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion", I expose some of the lies, deceptions, machinations and evil plans of the Zionist Jews and the International Bankers, many of whom are in fact Jewish. In this current series, I will be exposing yet another deception and lie which has been perpetrated and widely promoted by the Zionists, with help from quite a few misguided American Christians who have been deceived by the Zionist Jews.

As I point out in my seven-part series entitled "The Fruits of Disobedience", the Israelites -- including the modern-day Jews -- have a very long history of constant rebellion and backsliding from the Lord. Each time they have done so, God has found it necessary to seriously deal with them through a variety of ways, including, but not limited to, persecution, invasion, enslavement in foreign countries, famine, drought, crop failure, disease, etc. In other words, all the things which Moses and Joshua repeatedly warned them would happen, if they were to backslide from the Lord, did in fact happen. Allow me to share a few Scriptural examples of these warnings with you:

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God,

which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."

Deuteronomy 11:26-28, KJV

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me."

Deuteronomy 28:15-20, KJV

To fully understand the precise nature of the chastisements which the Lord pronounced against the Israelites, please go to the aforementioned two chapters and read the surrounding verses. It is not a pretty picture. The point is, they knew exactly what would befall them if they turned away from the Lord and worshipped other gods. Being as this topic is amply discussed in the aforementioned series, as well as in other Bill's Bible Basics articles, I will refrain from spending a lot of time delving into what I have already previously discussed.

For this particular series, I would like to concentrate our attention on a set of four verses which are found in the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. This group of verses concerns God's promise to allow the Jews to return to Israel, following a period of exile and enslavement in Babylon. Consider what the Prophet Jeremiah tells us:

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And these are the words

that the LORD spake concerning Israel and Judah."
Jeremiah 30:1-4, KJV

As I briefly explained earlier, the reason why this occurred is because as they had done on previous occasions, the Jews were totally backslidden from the Lord. They were worshipping the "queen of heaven", which was most likely the Babylonian's goddess, Ishtar. They were hewing down trees in the forest and making false gods plated with gold and silver. They had groves in the hills surrounding Jerusalem where they likewise worshipped these false gods and goddesses. Worst of all, they were sacrificing their very own children in the fires of the false god Molech, just outside the walls of Jerusalem in the Valley of Hinnom.

Is it any wonder then that after forty years of warning by the Prophet Jeremiah, the Lord finally said enough is enough, and He sent Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar and his armies to lay siege to Jerusalem three times? It was during the third siege that both Jerusalem and Solomon's temple were destroyed, and the Jews were carried off by the many thousands to Babylon to begin their period of exile and punishment. Exactly how long was this Divine Chastisement to be? Jeremiah and other writers inform us that it was to endure for a period of seventy years, as we can easily determine by the following group of verses:

"Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, TO FULFIL THREESCORE AND TEN YEARS."
2 Chronicles 36:17-21, KJV

"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon SEVENTY YEARS. And it shall come to pass, when

SEVENTY YEARS are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations."

Jeremiah 25:11-12, KJV

"For thus saith the LORD, That after SEVENTY YEARS be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."

Jeremiah 29:10, KJV

"In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish SEVENTY YEARS in the desolations of Jerusalem."

Daniel 9:1-2, KJV

"Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those SEVENTY YEARS, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?"

Zechariah 7:5, KJV

Now, there is something extremely important that I want you to notice regarding all of the previous verses, including Jeremiah 30:1-4. In those verses, we are told three different things:

1. What the punishment will be.
2. How long the punishment will last.
3. When the Jews will be allowed to return to Israel.

Please notice in particular that in Jeremiah 29:10, the Lord informs the Jews via Jeremiah that once they have fulfilled their seventy years of captivity in Babylon, He will allow them to return to the land of Israel. Why is this important? Because it is in the very next chapter that this very same promise of return is repeated. Let me share those verses with you again to refresh your memory:

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the

captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and Judah."

Jeremiah 30:1-4, KJV

Jeremiah was not the only Prophet who prophesied regarding the return of the Jews from Babylon, and from all of the other places where they had been driven and carried off as slaves. The Prophet Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah. In fact, as we discover by reading the very first verse in the Book of Ezekiel, he prophesied while being a captive in Babylon, as we read here:

"Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I WAS AMONG THE CAPTIVES by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God."

Ezekiel 1:1, KJV

Similar to Jeremiah, and all of the other Jews who were held captive in Babylon -- which also included the Prophet Daniel -- Ezekiel longed for the day when he would be able to return to the land of Israel. So it should come as no surprise to us that God would likewise use Ezekiel to give a message of hope and eventual redemption to the captives in Babylon. Ezekiel's mission was not just to help his brethren to understand why they found themselves in such a predicament, and why God had allowed their enemies to invade and capture Jerusalem. It was also to give them comfort and hope, by letting them know that their captivity would not last forever, and that someday they would be allowed to return to Israel as free people again.

Consider the following verses:

"For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and

I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment."
Ezekiel 34:11-16, KJV

As you can plainly see, Ezekiel was preaching the very same message as the Prophet Jeremiah, because as I already said, they were contemporaries during the Babylonian captivity. It makes absolutely no sense that Ezekiel, who was a captive in Babylon, would be prophesying about a return to Israel 2,500 years in the far future, as some Zionist Jews and pro-Israel Christians like to insist. What kind of comfort could such a message possibly give those captives? They would obviously be long gone and dead. On the other hand, if, just like Jeremiah, Ezekiel was really speaking of a more immediate return -- in other words, within decades, and not in centuries -- such a message would certainly offer a lot more hope to the Jewish captives in Babylon.

Now, perhaps some of the older Jewish captives might not live long enough to see the return to Israel, but some of their children most definitely would. Returning to Jeremiah chapter 30 for a moment, in verses seven and eight, the Lord says the following through the Prophet Jeremiah:

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacobs trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:"
Jeremiah 30:7-8, KJV

Please notice carefully that the verses say "I will break his yoke from off thy neck". What is "his yoke" referring to? The simple, clear answer is found in verses such as the following:

"And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand . . . But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own

land, saith the LORD; and they shall till it, and dwell therein. I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live."
Jeremiah 27:8, 11-12, KJV

"For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also."
Jeremiah 28:14, KJV

There should be no doubt in your mind then, that the verses in Jeremiah chapters 29 and 30, as well as in Ezekiel 34, are speaking about the very same return, which occurred exactly seventy years after the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and Solomon's temple, tore down the walls surrounding Jerusalem, and carried the Jews by the dozens of thousands off to serve as slaves in Babylon.

Let me also point out that Zechariah 7:5 -- which I shared with you a moment ago -- is written in the PAST TENSE. Stated another way, the Prophet Zechariah is describing the seventy years of captivity in Babylon as a past event which has been fulfilled. In short, the captivity occurred, and the return likewise occurred. When? Over 2,500 years ago! Period. Those Scriptures have absolutely nothing to do whatsoever with any kind of modern-day return of the Jews to the state of Israel. This doctrine is nothing but a very crafty lie and deception which the Zionist Jews have foisted upon not only the secular world -- which is for the most part very Biblically ignorant -- but also upon many gullible Christians as well.

This prophecy regarding a return to Israel following seventy years of captivity in Babylon was in fact fulfilled to the letter when Persian king, Koresh -- a.k.a. Cyrus the Great -- rose to power following the abasement of the Babylonian Empire. As amazing as it may seem, in the Scriptures, God even said that He had specifically anointed Cyrus for this very special task, even though Cyrus did not know the God of Israel.

Furthermore, the Lord also said that He was going to do this through Cyrus, as a fulfillment of the words which He had spoken through the mouth of the Prophet Jeremiah. So again we see a direct connection between the promise of return in the Book of Jeremiah, and the fulfillment of that return seventy

years later through Cyrus. There is simply no other way to understand all of these verses. Now if you doubt that this is so, please carefully consider the following group of verses:

"Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me."

Isaiah 44:24-45:4, KJV

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

2 Chronicles 36:22-23, KJV

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of

Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem. Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered. Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods; Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah. And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem." Ezra 1:1-11, KJV

"But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God. And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in his place. Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished. Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search

made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter. Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written: In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house: And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God."

Ezra 5:13-6:5, KJV

"And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king."

Ezra 6:14-15, KJV

"And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus."

Daniel 1:21, KJV

"So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian."

Daniel 6:28, KJV

What we also know from the Scriptures is that during his time in Babylon, the Prophet Daniel himself discovered the writings of the Prophet Jeremiah, and thus learned exactly how long their punishment would be, before they would be allowed to return to Israel. So this is again yet another way in which we know EXACTLY when the prophesied return to

Israel would occur. Consider the following verses:

"In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish SEVENTY YEARS in the desolations of Jerusalem . . . Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

Daniel 9:2, 25, KJV

If you are interested in learning a lot more of the details regarding the Jews' return to Israel, the rebuilding of the wall and temple, etc., please read such Books as Ezra and Nehemiah. Trust me when I say that you'll learn quite a bit, including the struggles that they faced once they returned to Israel, the sacrifices they were willing to make in order to return to the Lord's favor, as well as the call to national repentance.

Sadly, despite how very clear all of the previous verses are regarding the promise of return to Israel, and the timing of that same return, as I briefly mentioned earlier, similar to a number of other Scriptures, the true meaning of Jeremiah 30:1-4 has been totally twisted, distorted and given a false, modern interpretation by the Zionist Jews, which has likewise then been erroneously promoted by many misguided Christians who have been foolishly deceived by the Zionist Jews' agenda. As I have explained before, the reasons why this happens to so many of our Christian brethren are various.

One primary reason why it happens is because many Christians do not possess a deep knowledge of the Scriptures, much less a clear understanding of Bible prophecy and the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. This fact alone makes them very vulnerable to deception and manipulation by the Zionist Jews. Another reason why this occurs is because in recent decades -- since the 1970s, actually -- many of these Christians have become totally infatuated with, and mesmerized by, all things Jewish and related to Israel. They bend over backwards to prove how pro-Israel they are.

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

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Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation: Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2025 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : December 2, 2023

Last Updated : December 2, 2023

The Christian Infatuation With Israel And All Things Jewish, Jewish Legalism Or Freedom Through Christ, Ye Are All One In Christ Jesus, Dead To The Law By The Body Of Christ, Blinded By The Futurist Theological Perspective, Forcing Bible Verses, Christian Zionist Puppets, How This Series Came About, Do Some Bible Prophecies Have Partial Or Multiple Fulfillments?, God's Word Is Too Profound For Our Human Understanding, God Is Not The Author Of Confusion, More Sure Word Of Prophecy, Deceived By Our Own Choice, False Doctrines Often Result From Twisting The Meaning Of God's Word, Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" Prophecy, Psalm 83 War False Doctrine, Building A Web Of Deception One Bible Verse At A Time, Why Some Christians Twist The Meaning Of Bible Prophecy, My Forty Long Years As A Diehard Futurist

As I concluded in part one, since the 1970s, there have been many Christians who have become totally infatuated with, and mesmerized by, all things Jewish and related to Israel. They bend over backwards to prove how pro-Israel they are. As you may know, there are Christian churches today which seem more like Jewish synagogues. They are in total bondage to Jewish legalism, as is demonstrated by the fact that they strive to keep all of the various Jewish feast days, observe Jewish kosher laws, worship on Saturday instead of Sunday, blow the shofar, take Jewish names, etc. Worse yet, some of them add legalistic conditions to our Salvation, rather than simply accept Christ's finished work on the Cross as the only means of our Salvation. In other words, they mix Grace with works, which I discuss at length in other articles, which you will

find listed at the end of this current series.

Sadly, these misguided Christians seem to want to prove their Jewishness to the world, and thus demonstrate their loyalty to the state of Israel. Something else which they often do is constantly remind us that Jesus was a Jew, the Apostles were Jews, and the first Disciples were Jews. It saddens me to see this happening, because they do not even realize how carnal-minded they have become. Their eyes are so much on the flesh, and what Jesus was in the flesh two thousand years ago, that they seem to have forgotten that what we are in the flesh is meaningless to God. All that truly matters is what we are in the Spirit, and whether or not we have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb of God. In their blindness, they seem to be ignoring verses such as the following:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."
Galatians 3:28, KJV

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

"And hath made of ONE BLOOD all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"
Acts 17:26, KJV

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; THE FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."
John 6:63, KJV

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."
Galatians 5:6, KJV

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."
Galatians 6:15, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

Colossians 3:9-11, KJV

"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7, KJV

Despite the clear truths which are expressed in the previous verses, these misguided Zionist Christians go around trying to make Christians more Jewish. Who cares! It doesn't matter! It has zero effect on your Salvation. It is a works trip! And speaking of works, they likewise constantly mention how Jesus observed the Mosaic Law -- that is to say, the Laws of Moses -- never even fully understanding why He did this. As I note in the aforementioned two articles, Jesus did this so that we don't have to. Jesus fulfilled the Law on our behalf, and He introduced a New Covenant. He kept the Law so that we can now depend fully on HIM for our Salvation, and NOT on striving to observe the Laws of Moses, which NONE of us can ever hope to do anyway. As the Apostle Paul was inspired to write:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

The simple truth is that we just cannot be righteous enough on our own to merit God's Salvation. We are hopelessly lost. Thus, God made a much better, easier way for us to obtain our Salvation, and that is through faith in the atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ alone. Period.

Another factor which contributes to so many of our Christian brethren becoming deceived by the false interpretations of ancient Bible prophecies, is that so many of them have fallen under the very powerful deception of the Futurist theological perspective. If you don't know what this is, then I encourage you to consider reading my seven-part series entitled "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?", which you will also

find listed at the end of this same series. In this series, I explain my own personal deception which lasted for about forty years of my life, until God finally woke me up. As you will learn, many Christians so badly want certain prophecies to be fulfilled in our modern day, that they will force some Scriptures to say what they want them to say, even if that is not what those particular verses really mean.

To reiterate one more time, it is the conjunction of all of these various factors which directly contributes to many of our Christian brethren becoming totally deceived by Zionist propaganda. They basically become puppets of, and in fact free advertisements for, the state of Israel. They are like Pavlov dogs who automatically respond as their masters wish. Because of their infatuation with the nation of Israel and all things Jewish, these misguided Christians have made themselves the perfect targets for deception and Jewish legalism. As we have now clearly seen, that includes being deceived by the faulty interpretation of Bible prophecies which were fulfilled long ago, and believing that they are being fulfilled, or are yet to be fulfilled, in our modern day.

At this point in our discussion, I would like to take a brief moment to explain to you exactly what inspired me to write this current series. Recently, while I was scrolling through my news feed on Twitter -- now known as X -- I came across a tweet where someone quoted Jeremiah 30:1-4 and then proceeded to explain the so-called "modern fulfillment" of these verses. Normally, I just ignore such posts, because I already know what will happen if I dare to post an opposing view. It usually results in rejection, removing my comment, unfriending me, or even blocking me. However, I could not help myself. Thus, I posted a multi-paragraph response which included some of the very same verses I have shared with you in this series. Obviously, I offered a much more abbreviated response, because Twitter only allows so many characters per tweet.

In a way it was good that I did respond to the aforementioned person; not only because it might help other Christians to come out from under the deception we have been discussing in this series, but also because my response resulted in that person resorting to one of the common arguments that is often used -- erroneously so -- and promoted by quite a few of the Futurist-leaning and pro-Israel Christians, to try to justify these bogus modern interpretations of fulfilled ancient Bible

prophecies. That argument -- which I personally reject -- is that certain Bible prophecies are sometimes only partially fulfilled -- and then completely fulfilled at a later date -- and that they may possibly even have multiple fulfillments.

My friends, I beg to differ. As I said, I soundly reject this belief. As I explain in the series entitled "Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word", I obviously don't claim to know or understand every single thing that is mentioned in the Bible. After all, God's Word is simply way too profound for any of us to make such a proud, foolish boast. I am reminded of Bible verses such as the following:

"LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep."

Psalms 92:5, KJV

"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it."

Psalms 139:6, KJV

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable."

Psalms 145:3, KJV

"As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all."

Ecclesiastes 11:5, KJV

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."

Isaiah 40:28, KJV

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:"

Job 5:9, KJV

"Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders

without number."

Job 9:10, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33, KJV

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Psalms 119:18, KJV

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

1 Corinthians 2:9-12, KJV

Please stop and think about this idea of partially-fulfilled prophecies and multiple-fulfilled prophecies for a moment. Imagine indeed how very confusing it would be if this were truly the case. For many of us, it is already difficult just trying to understand ancient Bible prophecies as it is, even without considering the aforementioned misguided proposals. If we throw in those possibilities as well, we might as well just forget it. However, I am not convinced that such is the case. Rather, I am fully convinced that each prophecy in the Bible only has one fulfillment. Furthermore, in my fifty plus years of studying God's Word, I have never once come across a single prophecy which could be interpreted in such a faulty manner.

If there's one thing which I know about God's Word, it's that God is very specific about the things which He says. He says that a certain event will happen, and then it happens at the specified time. End of story. There are no so-called partial fulfillments or multiple fulfillments. As you may know, while discussing the spiritual Gifts of prophecy and speaking in tongues, the Apostle Paul wrote something which I personally believe can be applied to every facet of our Christian lives. He wrote that "God is not the author of confusion". In his second Epistle, the Apostle Peter also wrote about the "more

sure word of prophecy". Consider the following two verses:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

1 Corinthians 14:33, KJV

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

2 Peter 1:19, KJV

As I said, when we start to consider the possibility of some ancient prophecies being partially fulfilled, and then later being completely fulfilled, and yet other prophecies having different multiple fulfillments, it only leads to one thing, and that is absolute confusion. Sorry, my friends, but I just don't buy it. That is just not how God normally operates. At the same time, if some people insist on doing certain things, or believing in certain things, even if it is wrong to do, or else wrong to believe, God may in fact allow it; not because it is right, but rather because that is what we have in fact insisted upon. Furthermore, the Scriptures inform us that God will actually choose our delusions for us, and send leanness to our souls if we try to push our program across on Him. Consider the following verses and beware:

"I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

Isaiah 66:4, KJV

". . . 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 2:10-11, KJV

"And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak. So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the

hand of the king. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD? And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee. But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace."

1 Kings 22:13-27, KJV

"And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

Psalms 106:15, KJV

At any rate, that is exactly what this person on Twitter did. After they had read my original comment, they kind of agreed that what I had tweeted was right, but they were still not ready to fully abandon the notion that Jeremiah 30:1-4 might have another modern-day fulfillment. After all, for them to absolutely agree that I was right, would be to admit that applying Jeremiah 30:1-4 to a modern-day return of the Jews to Israel is erroneous, and thus a false interpretation of the Scriptures. So, as I explained earlier, this person fell back on the oft used -- and misguided -- belief that some ancient prophecies have either partial fulfillments, or even

multiple fulfillments.

Mind you, this is not the only time where I have seen people resort to doing this. There are other instances where certain Christians -- namely the Futurists -- will likewise apply the same technique as a means to justify or supposedly validate their erroneous doctrinal beliefs. They have no other choice really, because there's simply no other way to validate their doctrines if they do not do this. Thus, as I said, they will purposely twist and pervert the actual meanings of certain verses so that they seem to support their wayward doctrines.

It may surprise some of you to know that this problem with intentionally or ignorantly distorting the meaning of God's Word is nothing new. As I mention in other articles, this practice has been going on since the First Century. We find evidence of this in the following verse as written by the Apostle Peter. In this verse, the word "wrest" really means to distort or divert to an unnatural or inappropriate use or meaning, to pervert something. It is derived from the Greek word "strebloo":

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."
2 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

So what the Apostle Peter is explaining is that due to the difficulty in understanding some of the things which the Apostle Paul wrote, as well as to the fact that they did not have a firm foundation in, and understanding of, God's Word, certain people were irresponsibly twisting the meaning of some of Paul's writings. That this serious problem pervaded the Early Church is evidenced by additional verses such as the following:

"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."
1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud,

knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

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

1 Timothy 1:6-7, KJV

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

1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

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

Hebrews 5:11-14, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

2 Peter 2:1, KJV

While we have already discussed how the meaning of Jeremiah 30:1-4 has been distorted by Futurist-leaning Christians and pro-Israel, Zionist Christians, another clear example which comes to mind concerns the Prophet Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" prophecy, which I discuss at length in other articles such as the series entitled "The Last Seven Years Chart". The gist of it is that they take the final week -- that is, the

seventieth week, or last seven years -- and move it from the past where it was already fulfilled, and bring it up to our present day, so that it fits -- or at least so they believe -- into their Futurist eschatological understanding. Again, this is simply dead wrong. Please refer to some of my other articles for a more expanded explanation regarding this subject.

Another example which comes to mind is Psalm 83. As I point out in the series "Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed!", this particular Psalm describes a desperate prayer by Asaph in which he asks God to stop a confederacy of nations which are conspiring against Israel. It is clearly a past event. Yet sadly, there are Futurist-leaning Christians, as well as pro-Israel Christians who erroneously turn this Psalm into a prophecy -- which it is not -- regarding a near-future war in which Israel will defeat her enemies. My friends, it just isn't so. Please refer to the aforementioned series, which you will find listed at the end of this same series.

But you see, one of the problems with distorting the meaning of certain verses, and with moving certain prophecies from the distant past where they have already been fulfilled, up to our present time and claiming that they have not yet been fulfilled, or are in the process of being fulfilled, is that it forces us to misinterpret other Bible verses as well, in order to supposedly validate and substantiate our erroneous beliefs and doctrines. In other words, it forces us to build one lie upon another, and one false interpretation upon yet another.

Sadly, the end result is one interconnected and confusing web of deception where each twisted and perverted Bible verse represents another strand in the overall web. This is in fact exactly how the Futurist theological perspective has evolved over the years since the 1800s, so that today it is the dominant theological understanding within the Christian church, insofar as Bible prophecy is concerned. Tragically, there is simply no end to this rabbit hole of deception; a rabbit hole which has been created, assisted and promoted by both the Zionist Jews themselves, and by their well-meaning but deceived Zionist Christian bedfellows.

At this point, you may be wondering why these Christians do this. In simplest of terms, it is because they are totally and utterly convinced that their Futuristic interpretation of Bible prophecy -- which, according to them, includes the

modern-day formation of the state of Israel, the modern-day return of the Jews to Israel, the modern-day reconstruction of Solomon's temple, and other apocalyptic events -- will ultimately culminate in the return of Jesus Christ to the Earth. Let me once again refer you to my seven-part series entitled "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?". It will give you quite a lot to prayerfully consider.

Now, for those of you who may be wondering exactly how it is that I happen to be so well-versed in the various points of the Futurist theological perspective, it's because as I share in the aforementioned series, for forty years of my life, I was a diehard Futurist myself. I believed in it with all my heart. I preached it boldly. I waited with patience and eager anticipation for its final fulfillment. At least I did until in His mercy, the Lord opened my eyes to the truth directly from the Scriptures, instead of believing in the misguided doctrines of men and organized religion.

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

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Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree
and This Generation:
Part 3

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Published On : December 2, 2023

Last Updated : December 2, 2023

Going Down The Misinterpretation Rabbit Hole, Matthew 24 And The Fig Tree, The Fig Tree Being Symbolic Of Israel Becoming A Nation In 1948 Is A Human Assumption, Jesus Never Said It, Erroneous Fig Tree Interpretation Is A Key Pillar Of Futurist Mindset, Zionists Declare Israel A Nation, False Predictions Regarding Jesus Christ's Return, False Prophets Bible Verses, Jesus' Primary Audience Was Comprised Of Simple-Minded Folks, Jesus Spoke In Familiar Terms That Listeners Would Understand,

Why Jesus Chose A Fig Tree In His Parable, Time In The Fields, The Fig Tree, And All The Trees, Watch The Trees And Weather As Signs Of The Times, Events 2,000 Years In The Future Would Have Little Meaning Or Effect On First Century Listeners, The "This Generation" Deception, The Futurist-Leaning Christians Purposely Change The Meaning Of The Phrase In Certain Verses, Intentionally Changing Audience To Whom The Lord Was Speaking, Read The Scriptures With An Open Mind And Heart And Not With A Preconceived List Of Personal Beliefs We Just Want To Enforce, We Are Supposed To Agree With The Scriptures, Renew Your Mind

As I mentioned in part two, once one begins going down this deep rabbit hole of prophetic misinterpretation, there is no end to it. Not surprisingly, this is exactly what happened with the person with whom I was engaged on Twitter. After weakly suggesting that some Bible prophecies have partial and then complete fulfillments, as well as multiple fulfillments -- which, as I said, I reject -- they then proceeded to jump right to Matthew chapter twenty-four 24, where, according to their particular understanding at least, Jesus addressed the issue of the re-establishment of the state of Israel in our modern day. More specifically, although they did not quote the actual verses in their response to me, I am assuming that they were more than likely referring to the following ones:

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."
Matthew 24:32-36, KJV

As I said, being a former, longtime Futurist myself, I knew exactly what this person was referring to. Furthermore, I've discussed this topic in my articles before, such as in my 2008 series entitled "Sorry . . . Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment!", which you will find listed at the end of this same series. So exactly what is Jesus saying in those verses? Is it what the Futurist-leaning Christians insist that the Lord is inferring? If you are currently a Futurist yourself, well, I am sorry to inform you, but I don't believe so. Allow me to explain.

The simple truth of the matter is that while it has been commonly assumed by some Bible teachers, popular radio and television preachers and lay Christians that the Parable of the Fig Tree is a reference to Israel becoming a nation in 1948, there is absolutely nothing in the Scriptures found in Matthew chapter twenty-four, which clearly states that this is so. Nowhere in those verses does Jesus outright say that the fig tree represents Israel becoming a nation in 1948. In fact, as I will explain to you in a moment, those verses are NOT even talking about events 2,000 years in the far distant future. In other words, in our current time.

If we are being perfectly honest with ourselves, this claim of the fig tree representing Israel becoming a nation almost two millennia later in 1948 is nothing more than speculation. It is in fact an assumption and a theory which has long been promoted by pro-Israel Christians, and perhaps even by the Zionist Jews themselves, even though the latter for the most part reject Christ as being the Messiah. To reiterate, Jesus does NOT directly say that the fig tree represents Israel in His Olivet discourse in Matthew chapter twenty-four.

Despite this obvious truth, some fifteen years ago, someone who embraces this erroneous interpretation of these verses in Matthew chapter 24 wrote to me and stated "He [meaning Jesus] said that the 'generation' that lives to see Israel become a nation would not pass from the earth." Well, as I've already made clear, Jesus most certainly did not say that in Matthew, or in any of the other three Gospels. That is simply how that person chose to interpret the verses, just like the person I engaged on Twitter recently.

This interpretation of the fig tree verses is very typical of Futurist thinking. It is a key pillar of their belief system when it comes to Bible prophecy. In fact, as you may possibly already know, for many decades now, certain popular preachers and Bible teachers have erroneously taught their flocks that so-called "Endtime Bible prophecy" finds its anchor point in the year 1948, when the Zionists declared Israel a nation on May 14, 1948. This occurred while Stephen S. Wise was the president of the World Jewish Congress. The proclamation was publicly made by David Ben-Gurion -- who was the head of the Jewish Agency -- who became Israel's first Prime Minister that same year.

Tragically, their whole theological perspective is based on

this one event, and other events which have occurred since that time. Furthermore, some of these misguided shepherds, pastors and teachers have been so convinced of their wayward views, that they have even foolishly made some very public, time-specific predictions regarding the timing of Christ's return. You may possibly still be able to find some of their erroneous predictions on the Internet.

Well, needless-to-say, as I point out in my series entitled "Sorry . . . Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment!", without exception, every single one of their misguided predictions has utterly failed to materialize, leaving all of these false teachers seriously embarrassed. Sadly, despite being exposed for the false teachers that they are, a lot of very gullible Christians still continue to follow them anyway. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote regarding people having itching ears, and following false teachers who tell them exactly what they want to hear. Well, all I have to say concerning these misguided teachers and preachers is the following. I think these verses speak for themselves:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"
2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."
Deuteronomy 18:20-22, KJV

"Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed."
Jeremiah 14:14-15, KJV

"Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 23:32, KJV

"For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 29:8-9, KJV

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Matthew 7:15-20, KJV

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many . . . 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 24:11, 24, KJV

"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."

Mark 13:22, KJV

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, KJV

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

2 Peter 2:1, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

Returning to the verses in Matthew 24 regarding the fig tree, we are not quite done yet. There are a few other things that you need to know concerning them. In fact, I have saved the very best -- and perhaps the most shocking things for some of you -- for very last. First of all, it is important that you understand the audience to whom Jesus was speaking on this occasion, as well as on many other occasions. They were very simple folk. They weren't learned people like the Scribes and the Pharisees. In fact, as you may recall, in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, we find the following interesting verse:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were UNLEARNED AND IGNORANT MEN, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Acts 4:13, KJV

Thus, because many of His listeners typically came from this kind of background where they had scant education -- that is, being farmers, fishermen, animal herders, etc. -- Jesus spoke to them like the spiritual children that they were. In other words, the Lord purposely came down to their level. He constantly used things in nature, and things with which they would obviously be very familiar in their daily lives -- such as seeds, fields, wheat, tares, fish, birds, flowers, goats, sheep, weather, nets, etc. -- for the purpose of teaching them valuable lessons regarding the Kingdom of God.

Jesus also used trees in some of His sermons. For example, in the particular sermon we find in Matthew twenty-four, the Lord chose to use a fig tree. However, as I will now clearly explain to you, He did NOT choose the fig tree because that tree had some profound, far-future, prophetic implication -- which His listeners obviously would never understand anyway

-- but simply because the Lord knew that they would better comprehend what He was trying to convey to them.

My friends, think about it. The Israelites spent a lot of time in the fields. In fact, as all Christians know, it was to the shepherds in the fields that the Angels appeared on the night that Christ was born. It was also a young shepherd boy named David who eventually became Israel's most popular king. So, because of all the time which they spent outdoors, the Israelites were very familiar with the changing of the seasons, changes in the vegetation, the rising and setting of the Sun, Moon and stars, etc.

I am convinced that it was in this context that Jesus spoke of the fig tree. In Matthew 24, the Lord lists a variety of telltale signs which precede and occur before and lead up to the time of His return. He then basically tells His listeners that just as they watch the foliage change on the fig tree, so too must they watch for the signs which will lead up to His return. This thought is likewise made perfectly clear in similar verses which are found in the Gospel of Luke, as we see here:

"And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled."
Luke 21:29-32, KJV

Wow! Do you see that? Whereas in Matthew we see Jesus mention the fig tree, in Luke's account of the very same incident, we see that the Lord says "the fig tree, and all the trees". Now wait just one minute! If the fig tree truly represents Israel being declared a nation in May of 1948 as the Zionist Jews and the Zionist Christians continually insist, why in the world do these verses add "and all the trees"? Isn't the answer rather obvious? I have already given it to you. The Parable of the Fig Tree had absolutely nothing to do with 1948. Jesus simply told them to watch for the signs of His return, just as they watch the foliage change on the trees. Period. End of story.

Earlier, I mentioned how Jesus often used things from nature to share valuable lessons with His listeners regarding the nature of the Kingdom of God. One of the things I mentioned to you was the weather. I find it very interesting that Jesus

used the weather in the very same way that He used the fig tree, to advise His listeners to keep their eyes on the signs of the times. What signs, times and events was Jesus talking about in those verses? Signs, times and events which would all occur during that very same century. In fact, within a period of forty years following His death and resurrection. Consider the following group of verses:

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed."

Matthew 16:1-4, KJV

It should be rather obvious to you that Jesus was NOT using the weather to tell the unbelieving Pharisees and Sadducees to watch for signs which would serve as precursors for any events which would occur two thousand years in the future. Doing so would have been totally meaningless to them. Thus, clearly, He was warning them of events which had transpired, and which would yet transpire, during their own generation of the First Century. It is evident that the Lord used both the fig tree and the weather in the exact same manner. That is, to advise His listeners to open their eyes to the events which were happening around them. "Look at the weather. Look at the fig tree. Look at what God is doing right now in your own time." That is basically what Jesus was saying.

To reiterate, there's absolutely nothing in those five verses in Matthew 24 to indicate that Jesus was talking about Israel becoming a nation almost two thousand years in the future in 1948. In fact, as I have already clearly explained, if one uses a little bit of logic and common sense, he will come to understand that it makes no sense for Jesus to speak to His First Century listeners regarding His imminent return to the Earth, and in fact, even tell them to watch for it, if those events -- including the budding fig tree -- were not going to happen for another two thousand years until our current time, as Futurist Christians believe.

After all, if this were the case, if Jesus really was talking

about far-future events as these misguided Christians like to continually insist, then such events would have absolutely no effect on the lives of First Century believers. That being the case, why even tell them such things? What possible good purpose would this information serve First Century Believers? In fact, it might have even discouraged them and given them false hope, if Jesus truly wasn't going to return for another two thousand years.

This brings us directly to our next point of discussion, and it is an important one indeed. As I point out in the series entitled "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?", in all four Gospels, the Lord uses the phrase "this generation" multiple times, as we can determine by the following group of verses. What I would like for you to specifically notice as you read this group of verses, is that in every single case without fail, "this generation" is referring to Jesus' actual listeners, as well as to other people who were alive during the First Century. This phrase has absolutely nothing to do with Christians who are living two thousand years in the far future in our current time:

"But whereunto shall I liken THIS GENERATION? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented. For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children."

Matthew 11:16-19, KJV

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with THIS GENERATION, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with THIS GENERATION, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater

than Solomon is here."

Matthew 12:38-42, KJV

"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon THIS GENERATION. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Matthew 23:33-39, KJV

"And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto THIS GENERATION."

Mark 8:11-12, KJV

"And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of THIS GENERATION? and to what are they like? They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept. For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children."

Luke 7:31-35, KJV

"And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to THIS GENERATION. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of

THIS GENERATION, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with THIS GENERATION, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here . . . Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres. Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of THIS GENERATION; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of THIS GENERATION."

Luke 11:29-32, 47-51, KJV

"For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of THIS GENERATION."

Luke 17:24-25, KJV

Now, if we are being honest with ourselves, there should be no doubt in our minds that all of the previous verses are in fact truly referring to a generation of people who lived two thousand years ago during the First Century. It's very plain to see once we read all of the verses together as a group, that the phrase refers to people who were actually listening to the Lord speak, and to that generation of people as a whole.

Now here comes the problem. If you agree with me that all of the previous verses where the phrase "this generation" is used are referring to the generation which was alive at the time that Jesus walked the Earth in the flesh, then why do the Futurist Christians suddenly change course, violate the continuity of the Holy Scriptures, and totally change the meaning of the phrase "this generation" in certain verses?

In other words, why do they claim that the phrase now refers to a far-future generation -- meaning our current generation -- in certain verses where Jesus speaks of the fig tree and of His return, while in other verses it is referring to a generation which lived during the First Century? Can you see

how totally confusing and contradictory such a belief is? It is very much like properly identifying twenty red automobiles as being red, but then when automobile number twenty-one is in front of us, we suddenly claim that it's blue, even though it is also really red. Let me refresh your memory by sharing those verses with you again:

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, THIS GENERATION shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Matthew 24:32-34, KJV

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that THIS GENERATION shall not pass, till all these things be done."

Mark 13:28-30, KJV

"And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, THIS GENERATION shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled."

Luke 21:29-32, KJV

Perhaps you have already realized this, but I have just now demonstrated to you another way in which Zionist Jews and a lot of pro-Israel, Futurist-leaning Christians purposely or ignorantly alter the meaning of the Scriptures. Not only do they take ancient already-fulfilled prophecies and push them up into the future as if they have not occurred yet, or are in the process of being fulfilled, but they also change the audience to whom certain words are being directed. They do this repeatedly. I have seen it online so many times. These people take verses that are not even talking to us today, and they say "That's us! He's talking to us! We are the "we" in that verse!". Sorry, but not so!

In short, when Jesus says "ye", He is speaking to the people who are right there within listening range. Likewise when He says "this generation", He is referring to the generation of

the First Century. In similar fashion, when the Apostles use "ye" in the Book of Acts or in one of their Epistles, they are directing their words to the audience who is in front of them, or to the people of the First Century who will receive and read their Epistles. To think or believe otherwise is to pervert and change the meaning of the Scriptures. It is to alter the context of what is being said or written.

Sadly, as we have seen, that is exactly what a lot of modern Christians do, because that is the only way in which they can force the Bible to fit their understanding, and the doctrines which they have chosen to embrace. Instead of comparing verse with verse and allowing the Bible to interpret itself as much as possible, and instead of beginning with an open heart and mind, and simply letting the Holy Spirit lead them in their understanding as they ought to do, many modern Christians in fact begin with a preconceived list of ideas and beliefs, and then they intentionally look for verses which will support their views, while ignoring those verses which don't support them.

My friends, this is simply NOT the way to do it. We are NOT supposed to try to rewrite the Bible so that it agrees with our own thoughts and beliefs. We are in fact supposed to do the exact opposite by allowing God's Word to conform, renew and mold our thoughts so that we have the mind of Christ. We are supposed to agree with the Scriptures. The Scriptures are not supposed to agree with us. I have spoken about this renewing process a number of times before. Please consider the following group of verses:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
Romans 12:2, KJV

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
Romans 8:6, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."
1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

"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, KJV

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"

Ephesians 4:23, KJV

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

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Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree

and This Generation:

Part 4

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Published On : December 2, 2023

Last Updated : December 2, 2023

Fig Tree Is Not The National Tree Of Israel, Significance Of Olive Tree Olive Oil And Mount of Olives In Biblical History, Jewish National Fund Chose Olive Tree As The National Tree Of Israel And Not Fig Tree, Jesus Made No Futuristic Political Statement In Parable Of The Fig Tree, A Confusing Deceptive Web Of Misinterpretations, A Review Of Their Key Distortions, First Century Rebellion Of Unbelieving Jews, Vespasian's Son Titus And Roman Armies Destroy Jerusalem And Temple In 70 AD, Defining The Three Diasporas Of The Israelites, Jewish Leaders Knew That Rome Would Eventually Invade Israel, Murdering Jesus Fulfilled God's Redemptive Plan But Did Not Save The Jews From Rome's Wrath, How To Explain Current Return To Israel, God Has Given Us Free Will And Personal Choice, Was Modern Creation Of State Of Israel An Act Of God Or Due To Political Maneuvers?, Colonial Powers Carved Up The Middle East Thus Creating Many Problems To This Current Day, The 1947 Division Of India And Pakistan And The Wars Over Kashmir, Major World Powers Should Not Engage In Nation-Building, The Islamification of Europe, A Warning To The United States, Closing Remarks, Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part three, before leaving behind the Parable of the Fig Tree, there is one more truth bomb I want to share with you. As we have now clearly seen, some Zionist Jews and pro-Israel Christians insist that the fig tree symbolizes modern Israel declaring itself a nation in May of 1948. As we saw earlier, this doctrine forms the very foundation of their understanding regarding what is commonly referred to as Endtime prophecy. But the odd thing about this doctrine is that the fig tree is NOT even the national tree of Israel. It is the olive tree. If you doubt my word, please feel free to conduct some online research of your own. You will quickly become convinced of what I am saying here.

Now let's think about this for a moment. Yes, there were and still are a lot of fig trees and olive trees growing in the land of Israel. Many thousands of them in fact. Furthermore, some olive trees in Israel are many hundreds of years old. I am reminded of the fact that on the very night of His actual betrayal, the Lord was in the Garden of Gethsemane with the Apostles. Please note that online sources inform us that the Garden of Gethsemane was, and is, a small grove consisting of eight ancient olive trees which is located at the foot of the Mount of Olives, just outside of what is today known as the Old City of Jerusalem. I am likewise reminded of how the two witnesses who are mentioned in the Book of Zechariah and in the Book of Revelation are symbolized by two olive trees. Consider the following group of verses:

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."

Matthew 26:36, KJV

"And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray."

Mark 14:32, KJV

"And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof . . . Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the

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

Zechariah 4:1-3, 11-14, KJV

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them."

Revelation 11:3-12, KJV

The Mount of Olives is mentioned in a number of places in the New Testament. For example, it was upon the Mount of Olives where Jesus delivered what has become known as the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24 and related chapters. It was also from the Mount of Olives that Jesus instructed two of His disciples to go and fetch an ass, upon which He would ride into Jerusalem. The Lord not only rested and prayed on the Mount of Olives, but it was likewise from there where He ascended to Heaven. In fact, it was to that same place where

the two Angels told the Apostles that Jesus would someday return. Consider the following group of verses which confirm these various points:

"And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them."

Matthew 21:1-3, KJV

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Matthew 24:3, KJV

"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

Matthew 26:30, KJV

"And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest."

Luke 19:37-38, KJV

"And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives."

Luke 21:37, KJV

"Jesus went unto the mount of Olives."

John 8:1, KJV

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the

mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath days journey."

Acts 1:9-12, KJV

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 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. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

Zechariah 14:1-4, KJV

The fact of the matter is that the olive tree has played a very significant role throughout Biblical history. When the dove returned to Noah, it bore an olive leaf in its mouth. Throughout Israelite history, olive oil was used to light their lamps. The two cherubims which were located within the oracle -- or holy place -- in the temple were made of wood from olive trees. Other parts of the temple were also made from the olive tree. Olive oil -- or "shemen" in the Hebrew language -- was used as the official anointing oil for both priests and kings in the Bible. There were other uses as well.

I also find it interesting that when the Jewish National Fund held a three-week competition in January 2021 for the purpose of selecting a national tree for the state of Israel, the top vote getter was the olive tree. According to one article in the Jerusalem Post, there were a total of seven contestants. These were the Atlantic Pistacia, the cypress tree, the Tabor oak tree, the eucalyptus tree, the fig tree, the olive tree, and the palm tree. The olive tree received just under 33% of the vote with the Tabor oak and the palm tree trailing close behind. The fig tree did not even make it into the top three spots. Now if the fig tree is such an important symbol for the state of Israel, doesn't it seem at least a little odd to you that it did not even qualify as one of the top three vote getters?

Based on these various points, one would think that if the Lord truly meant to drop a hint in the aforementioned verses

concerning the land of Israel being declared a nation far into the future in May of 1948, surely He would have chosen to symbolize it with an olive tree, and not with a fig tree. After all, being as He is not constrained by time, He would surely know that beginning in the 21st Century, the olive tree would become the national tree of Israel. Yet, oddly enough, as we have seen, Jesus spoke of a "fig tree, and all the trees," because He was NOT trying to make some kind of futuristic political statement as Zionist Christians insist. It is my hope that with all of the previous information, I have thoroughly buried the modern deception regarding the Parable of the Fig Tree being a symbolic prophecy regarding Israel becoming a nation in May of 1948. It just isn't so.

As I have mentioned before, trying to force Bible prophecy, particularly time-based prophecies, to fit into our personal understanding is very dangerous business. Yet sadly, as we've now seen, that is precisely what the Futurists who dominate modern Christianity have done with a number of the ancient Bible prophecies. As I have now made clear to you, they and the Zionist Jews have either intentionally, or ignorantly, taken so many verses out of context, and created a confusing and interconnecting web of deception and misinterpretations, in order to seemingly support their erroneous ideas, and to support the legitimacy of the state of Israel.

At this point in our discussion, let us now take a moment to quickly review the five key intentional distortions we have discussed in this series which both the Zionist Jews and the pro-Israel Christians have made with regards to God's Word:

1. They have intentionally misinterpreted the return of the Jews to Israel which is mentioned in Jeremiah 30:1-4 and other verses, so that it applies to our current time instead of to some 2,500 years ago where it really belongs.
2. They have intentionally misinterpreted the warning Jesus gave regarding the fig tree in the Gospels so that it seems to validate the creation of the state of Israel in May of 1948.
3. They have intentionally twisted the meaning of the phrase "this generation", as found in the Gospels, so that certain predictions that Jesus made regarding His return appear to apply to our current age when they most certainly do not.
4. They have intentionally changed the First Century audience

to whom Jesus and the Apostles spoke or wrote in some verses, so that their words seem to be directed to us today when they most certainly are not.

5. They have intentionally moved the final week -- that is to say, the 70th week, or final seven-year period -- of the Prophet Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" prophecy up to our current time where it most certainly does not belong.

It should be noted, however, that despite God being gracious and merciful to the Jews by allowing them to return to the land of Israel after Seventy Years of Captivity in Babylon, and even allowing them to repair the retaining walls around Jerusalem, as well as rebuild the temple of Solomon itself, yet those foolish people rebelled again when they rejected the Son of God during the First Century. As a result, exactly as Jesus had warned them, they were kicked out of Israel a third time -- that is, the third diaspora -- when the Romans invaded under Vespasian, followed by Vespasian's son, Titus, when Vespasian had to return to Rome in order to take power. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, and the Jews were enslaved and shipped off to other lands in the Roman Empire. I discuss these historical events regarding the seven-year First Jewish-Roman War of 66 AD to 73 AD in other Bill's Bible Basics articles.

As a point of clarification, the first diaspora -- that is to say, dispersion of the Israelites -- occurred during the Assyrian invasions, as had been warned by the Prophet Isaiah approximately one hundred and fifty years before the time of the Prophet Jeremiah. As I explain in the series "The Fruits of Disobedience", the Israelites were enslaved and exiled to other lands within the Assyrian Empire, while at the same time, foreigners came to occupy Israel. The second diaspora occurred at the time that Jeremiah preached in Israel, and culminated with the Babylonians' third siege of Jerusalem, at which time Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed for the first time. This led to the Seventy Years of Captivity, as we have already discussed.

Tragically, the Jewish political and religious leadership of the First Century knew full well that the Roman invasion was going to happen sooner or later, because their relationship with the government in Rome was already strained as it was. The last thing they needed was for a popular Jewish preacher by the name of Jesus upsetting the delicate balance which they struggled to maintain, by being declared the king of the

Jews. While the Jewish religious leaders foolishly thought that murdering Jesus would save them from Roman wrath, it did not. As I mentioned a moment ago, forty years later in 70 AD, Jesus' words were fulfilled, and Jerusalem and the temple were laid desolate. Thus, for the third time in their history, the Jews were enslaved and kicked out of their land, in what we know today as the third diaspora. Consider the following set of verses:

"If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;"

John 11:48-51, KJV

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

Matthew 23:7-8, KJV

So as we have seen, God kicked the Jews out of Israel three times due to their sins, and He had their enemies destroy Jerusalem and the temple two times, due to their backsliding, stubbornness and disobedience. Now, almost two thousand years later today, the Orthodox Jews are bent on building a third temple. Sadly, most Jews staunchly continue to reject Jesus Christ. That being the case, in my view, if the construction of a third temple were to ever happen, the outcome is not too difficult to figure out. Will God tolerate it as long as they continue to reject His Son?

Before concluding this series, there is one more important topic we need to discuss. As I said at the very beginning of this series, I am fully aware of the fact that there exist some staunch pro-Israel Christians who will have a difficult time accepting what I have stated here. I imagine that one of the arguments which they will probably put forth is the following: If everything you state in this series is true, and if your particular understanding and interpretation is correct, then why is it that the Jews today now have their

own nation, and have in fact been slowly returning to Israel for decades? Doesn't this prove that you are wrong?

My answer is "Not necessarily so". As I point out in other articles, I firmly believe in the fact that God has given to each one of us free will and personal choice. I believe that there is the will of man, and there is the Will of God. I am sure that you will agree with me when I say that there are many things which happen in this world which are clearly NOT the Will of God. For example, the many wars, abortion, child abuse, same-sex "marriage", human trafficking, drug abuse, and many other evil and violent things. Nevertheless, due to a variety of reasons -- including the fact that we have free will and personal choice -- God allows them to happen.

Having said that, while some pro-Israel Christians will say that the creation of the state of Israel in May of 1948 was a supernatural act of God -- and likewise a fulfillment of Bible prophecy -- as I've already amply explained, I am NOT convinced of that view. To the contrary, as I point out in articles such as "Modern Deception: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?", I believe that the 1948 creation of the state of Israel was nothing more than the result of the political maneuvers of the colonial powers at that time in history.

Let me remind you of the fact that it was only a few years prior to that when Adolf Hitler perpetrated the Holocaust, which left a huge scar of guilt on the European nations. At the same time, Jewish bankers were slowly but surely taking over the major financial houses of Europe, and eventually of the United States and other nations as well. Against this backdrop, a lot of people wanted the Jews out of Europe. So despite serious concerns on the part of some people, carving up the Middle East into various nations, and in the process creating a state for the Jews, was the solution.

To reiterate, creating the state of Israel in 1948 was not an act of God, and it had absolutely nothing to do with any kind of Bible prophecy, as I explain in the aforementioned article. It was an act of man. In fact, not only was it a political act of human institutions, but it is because the political powers of the day carved up the Middle East as they did, that serious problems have continued in that region of the world up to this present day. If you conduct a bit of historical research, you will discover that this same pattern has repeated elsewhere as well.

For example, the very same thing occurred in 1947 when India was also carved up by the British to create the two nations of India and Pakistan, one nation primarily Hindu, and the other primarily Islamic. To this day, they have been at war with each other, particularly over Kashmir. However, today, both nations are nuclear powers, and they have come awfully close to pushing the button on each other. The point is, it is foolish for the major powers of the world to engage in nation building, because their success rate has not been exactly stellar, to say the least.

Ironically, while both the French and the British foolishly took it upon themselves to carve up the Middle East about seventy-five years ago, and to create a state so that Jews would move out of Europe, as I said, not only did the Jews still take over the financial houses of Europe, but now the Muslims are also moving into Europe in droves, and they are creating a lot of major problems for the European nations. The Islamification of Europe is now well under way, and the same destructive process has now begun in the United States of America as well. America must stand strong against this wave of Islamic fanaticism, and return to its Christian roots before it is too late.

I could go into a lot more detail, and discuss the question regarding whether or not the current residents of Israel are really Jews at all, but this series has already grown quite long. So, perhaps I will discuss this topic at some future date in a new article. In the meantime, if you conduct some online research of your own, you may possibly discover some interesting results which may surprise you. All I will say for the time being is that the Jews are masters of confusion and deception; so much more than most people even realize. Hopefully, this current series will help you to understand exactly what I mean.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were

either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts
Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace
Free Will and Personal Choice
Greater Israel Doctrine: Exposed!
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word
Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?
Modern Deception: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?
Oh Israel, Why Will Ye Die?
Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed!
Sorry . . . Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment!
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Holocaust: Did God Make a Mistake?
The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion
The Last Seven Years Chart
The Triumphant Touchdown of Jesus Christ
The Two Sackcloth Witnesses of Revelation 11
Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!

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