

Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 1

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Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

Matthew 24 End Of Age Dissertation, Parable Of Fig Tree, Questions Posed, Many Bible Versions = No Christian Unity, 1948: Israel Becomes A Nation, Opinions Molded By Popular Preachers, Personal Biblical Research Aided By Holy Spirit, Bible Self-Interprets, Problem: How Long Is A Generation?, Jesus Didn't Say Fig Tree Is Israel, No One Knows The Day And Hour, Danger Of Forcing Bible Prophecy To Fit Into Our Personal Understanding, Preachers Disgraced By False Time Prophecies, Damage Control, Blind Sheep Keep On Following, Scriptural Warnings Regarding False Prophets And Deceivers, Advice Regarding How To React To And Treat False Prophets, The False Year 2,000 Prediction Regarding Christ's Return, Y2K Date Problem, End Of A Millennium, Significance Of The Number Seven, Archbishop James Ussher: October 23, 4004 BC

Some time ago, someone wrote to me concerning some of Jesus' words which are found in Matthew chapter twenty-four, which, as some of you will already know, deals in large part with the signs of the end of the age, and the events which would lead up to Jesus Christ's return. To be more specific, this person's questions revolved around the following group of Bible verses:

"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

Concerning the previous Bible verses, this individual stated the following in their email message to me:

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

I have a 2 part question about the fulfillment of the fig tree parable:

1) Jesus mentioned the word "generation" in Matthew 24:36. He stated that a specific generation would live to see His return. He said that the "generation" that lives to see Israel become a nation would not pass from the earth.

So, what is a biblical "generation"?

One person said it was 52 years and gave the following reasons . . .

Luke 3:23-38, you have 77 generations from Adam to Jesus Christ. That's a period of 4,000 years. Divided by 77 it comes out to 51.9. 52 years.

Matthew 1:17, there were 42 generations between Abraham and Jesus Christ. This covers a period of 2,160 years. Divide the 2,160 by 42 and it comes to 51.4 years.

Is he right?

2) If so, then if we use the biblical definition of a generation as 52 years. Then should we be looking at the Lord's return as 52 years from 1948 (Israel becoming a nation) OR the more recent date of 1967 after the reunification of Jerusalem and the 6 Day War?

I ask simply because 1948 plus 52 years was the year 2000 which is obviously behind us . . .

And, 1967 plus 52 gives us 2019 . . .

I just wanted some clarification. Which date are we using as our fulfillment of the fig tree parable? And why?

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

Before answering this person's questions, allow me to point out that in the King James Version of the Bible -- which, as some of you will know, is my Bible of preference -- the word "generation" is actually used in verse thirty-four, and not in verse thirty-six as stated above. It's possible that this person simply made a typographical error, or else they could be using a different version of the Bible. This is a clear

example of why I have long believed that there should only be one standard Christian Bible.

As I have said before, how in the world can we Christians ever hope to achieve any degree of Christian unity, while we are all reading from different Bibles, which have different words, or the same words but in different places, or where some verses are entirely omitted, or placed in footnotes? Given this lamentable situation, we will never be able to fulfill the desire that the Apostle Paul expressed when he stated the following in his first Epistle to the Church at Corinth:

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

1 Corinthians 1:10, KJV

That issue aside, as I pondered this person's email message, it occurred to me that perhaps they need to approach this issue from a different perspective, because their current approach is obviously causing them some difficulty, as well as presenting challenges which they cannot seem to resolve. So to answer their questions, I will offer the following for their, and your, consideration.

While it is commonly assumed by some Bible scholars, 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, as I point out in articles such as the series "Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation", there is absolutely nothing in the verses which we find 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.

As far as I am concerned, this theory is simply one possible interpretation. It is nothing more than speculation. It is a conjecture. It is an assumption which has long been promoted by certain pro-Israel, Futurist-leaning Christians, and maybe even by the Jews themselves, even though the latter for the most part reject Christ as being the Messiah. Perhaps the fig tree truly does represent Israel. I honestly don't know. But Jesus does not directly say this in His Olivet dissertation in Matthew 24. So it is rather important that we make this

particular distinction.

Are you surprised by my pronouncement? You really shouldn't be; unless you have allowed your understanding of the Bible to be molded by some of these modern, popular, fast-talking preachers, instead of reading God's Word for yourself, as you are supposed to do. You need to allow God's Holy Spirit to speak to your heart concerning its meaning. Is not this precisely what the Holy Spirit, and also diligent, personal Scriptural research, is for? As I explain in other articles, the Holy Spirit is our Guide, Teacher and Comforter. Jesus Himself in fact stated the following in the Gospels:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you . . . But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:16-17, 26, KJV

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"

John 15:26, KJV

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment . . . Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

John 16:7-8, 13, KJV

Most of us have access to God's Word, either in print, or via the Internet, or through a computer program, or by some other way. So why have so many of you become so spiritually lethargic, that you allow yourselves to be spoon-fed by some fancy preacher who loves to bathe in his popularity, as he stands before his huge congregation -- where most people do not even know each other on a personal level -- in a million

dollar church building?

I have stated a number of times before that the Bible will in large part interpret itself, if we invest the time, and read enough of it. It is like a great Divine Jigsaw Puzzle. The more time we dedicate to reading the Holy Scriptures, the more the pieces slowly begin to fall into their proper place, and our understanding of God's Word begins to open. The problem is that many Christians just aren't willing to take the time to read it. As I point out in "Study, Work, and Don't Be Ashamed!", it is our Christian duty to study God's Word. The Apostle Paul wrote to his dear son in the Lord, Timothy, the following admonition:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

Another related article which emphasizes the importance of reading God's Word, as well as properly understanding it, is "Understanding the Bible in Context"; and there are others as well, which you will find listed at the end of this same series. I encourage you to please take advantage of them. So my point is this: Because some Christians rely so heavily on a particular popular preacher to tell them what the Bible is supposed to mean, they open themselves up to the possibility of accepting erroneous beliefs, which, in the end, may not be Scripturally sound at all. Oh my!

To reiterate the point I made earlier, personally, I am not convinced that Jesus was saying that the budding fig tree represents Israel. If you sincerely want to understand why I adopt this position, then again, please consider reading the aforementioned series entitled "Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation", as well as its companion series called "Modern Deception: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?". Trust me; if you have a receptive heart, they will really open your eyes.

Sadly, other Christians -- such as the individual who wrote to me -- embrace a different view. In his message to me, he very specifically stated "He said that the 'generation' that lives to see Israel become a nation would not pass from the earth." I am sorry, but the Lord did NOT say that in Matthew, or in any of the other three Gospels. That is simply how that person has chosen to interpret the verse. Either that, or he

is accepting someone else's interpretation of the verses in question.

But the end result is that because they've become convinced that Jesus was cryptically suggesting in His Parable that the fig tree represents Israel becoming a nation in 1948, they are now faced with the challenge -- and the dilemma -- of figuring out exactly how long a Biblical generation is, as well as when this "last generation" began, and when it will end. The idea seems to be that if they can correctly figure out the math, they will know exactly what year the Lord will supposedly return. But is this really the case? Friends, this is a very loaded question; and knowing how some of you currently think and believe, you may not like the answer.

Now, friends, before you quickly respond in the affirmative to my previous question, and tell me that Jesus was dropping us a hint by inferring that the fig tree represents Israel becoming a nation in 1948, so that we can then do our number crunching -- and thus supposedly know the exact year when He will presumably return -- allow me to remind you of what else the Lord said in the aforementioned verses. Verse thirty-six plainly states the following:

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."  
Matthew 24:36, KJV

Please stop and think for a moment. Does it make any sense to you that the Lord would supposedly drop a hint regarding 1948 -- via the Parable of the Fig Tree -- so that according to some Christians, we could begin counting the exact number of years until His arrival, only to turn around and state in the same breath that nobody will know the day of His advent?

If we accept these Christians' interpretation of the Lord's words, then if we read those five verses together -- meaning verse 32 to verse 36 -- it is as if Jesus is stating, "Here is a huge hint for you. This fig tree that you see sprouting leaves, represents Israel becoming a nation. When that event occurs, when Israel becomes a nation, then start counting the years, because the generation that witnesses such a historic event will not pass until I return. Oops! Sorry! Forget that! My Father says that you are NOT supposed to know when I will be returning to the Earth."

Are you beginning to see the light yet? There is something clearly wrong with that picture, isn't there? Jesus would not behave in that manner, would He? He wouldn't tantalize us with a clue supposedly concealed in the Parable of the Fig Tree, and then turn around and say that we really have no business knowing when He will return, would He?

So, in my opinion, here is the lowdown: There is absolutely nothing wrong with Jesus' words. I am convinced that the real source of the problem is that because these Christians have been led to believe that Israel being declared a nation in 1948 is represented by the fig tree in the Lord's Parable, they are trying to force Jesus's words to fit their personal understanding. They're making the mistake of trying to assign a specific number of years to Jesus' words, when perhaps that is NOT what the Lord meant at all. In fact, I KNOW that isn't what He meant, as I will attempt to prove to you in a moment.

As I have mentioned before, trying to force Bible prophecy -- particularly time-based prophecy -- to fit into our personal understanding is rather dangerous business. Not only that, it can be extremely embarrassing when we're proven wrong. In the case of some of these high-profile preachers, it can in fact be disastrous; because making such a time-specific prediction such as the precise year when Jesus will return, can totally discredit them, and cause people to lose faith in them, and in their ministry, when their prediction fails to materialize.

In my own writings, I have always been very careful to never make this mistake. You will never see me setting any dates. I have lived long enough to watch a number of these very popular radio and TV evangelists tumble from their lofty pedestals in absolute disgrace, precisely because they committed this very foolish error. I've written a few articles regarding a number of them, such as "Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism", and also "The Misguided End of the World Predictions of Harold Camping", both of which you'll find listed at the end of this same series.

But what truly amazes me, is that in spite of the fact that some of these men have been clearly proven to be frauds and false prophets, a lot of Christians are so blind and foolish, and so mesmerized by these fast-talking preachers, that they continue believing in them, attending their "mega-churches", and giving them their hard-earned money. Just like a lot of modern politicians, they implement damage control, and their blind followers just keep on following them. Their attitude

seems to be "Just forgive and forget, and then move on." But is that what we should really do once such a person has been exposed as a fraud?

Sadly, such false prophets are really nothing new. As I point out in the series "The Office of Prophets and Teachers", they have been around since the time of Moses, and quite possibly earlier than that. So what does the Bible instruct us to do once we have become aware of such a deceptive, false prophet? Does it advise us to just keep on blindly following them and throwing our hard-earned money at them? No, it does not! In fact, if we were living during Old Testament times, we are told that they would be stoned to death. That is how serious of a sin the Lord considered someone who spoke erroneously in His Name, as we see by the following group of verses.

"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

There are in fact a number of verses scattered throughout the pages of the Bible where God strongly rebukes misguided and deceived people who erroneously claim to speak in His holy Name when He has not even sent them. Consider the following sample Bible verses which are found in the Book of Jeremiah. They had a very serious problem with false prophets who were in opposition to God's true Prophets such as Jeremiah:

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Jeremiah 5:31, 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

In the New Testament, beginning with Jesus Himself, we find even more warnings regarding those individuals who falsely represent the Lord, and who dare to speak in His holy Name, when He has clearly not spoken through them. Again, consider the following sample verses and be warned:

"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

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Acts 20:28-30, 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

"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

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

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

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

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

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

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"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

So how should we react to and respond to such deceivers who do not really come in the Name of the Lord, who don't really speak in His Name, and who deceive people with their false visions and dreams, their false prophecies, and their false doctrines which confuse and divide God's sheep, and who may even cause some brethren to stumble and fall away from the faith due to their heresies? Allow me to share a few more Bible verses with you for your consideration:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, MARK THEM which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and AVOID THEM."

Romans 16:17, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve

through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well BEAR WITH HIM [meaning to hold firm and resist him]."

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, KJV

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

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: FROM SUCH WITHDRAW THYSELF."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

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

Titus 3:9-11, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, RECEIVE HIM NOT INTO YOUR HOUSE, NEITHER BID HIM GOD SPEED: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:9-11, KJV

So, while we obviously cannot and should not stone them in our modern day -- as if such a thing would even be permitted in our current times -- as the Apostles write, we can mark

and avoid them. We can stand firm against them and resist them. We can withdraw ourselves from them. We can reject them. We should not even allow them into our homes -- or even in our churches and fellowships -- and we should not bless them. That is to say, bid them Godspeed. We should try or test the spirits, and we should not be afraid of them when they are proven to be false prophets, false teachers and the like.

Returning to the person who wrote to me, in his message to me, this individual also briefly mentioned the well-known year 2,000 fiasco. As some of my readers may already know, I am referring to the fact that at that time, there was a lot of excitement within the Christian world. That is to say, at least within American Christendom. Many American Christians were apparently in a heightened state of euphoria, because some of their so-called "learned" spiritual shepherds had led them down the path of deception, and convinced them that the year 2,000 was it! It was THE year, and Jesus was about to appear in the clouds of Heaven, in order to gather His beloved children together during the glorious Rapture.

The Y2K date problem was fuel for the fire, and only served to further strengthen some Christians' belief that the world was about to fall apart. So Jesus must surely be returning at any moment! The fact that we would soon be leaving behind one millennium, and entering another one, also made the year 2,000 seem to some Christians like the appropriate time for Jesus Christ to make His grand, awe-inspiring appearance as the millennial turnover occurred.

The common view amongst these misguided Christians was that surely there was no better time for the Lord to usher in the long-anticipated Golden Age of the Millennium, when according to their beliefs, He would initiate His 1000-year reign upon the Earth -- as we find described in the Book of Revelation -- than at the beginning of the Seventh Millennium. So as I said a moment ago, the level of excitement and anticipation was quite high at the time. Here we are now over two decades later, and sadly, it is wash, rinse and repeat with President Donald Trump and the Abraham Accords. The deceived Christians are at it again and whooping it up on the social networks!

As some of you may know, the number seven is regarded as a very holy number in the Bible. Not only is this number very prominent in the actual printed text of the Bible -- such as in the mention of seven Angels, seven trumpets, seven vials

of wrath, seven plagues, seven days of Creation -- but it's also been revealed in recent years that the Holy Scriptures exhibit a very intelligent, intricate, mathematical design. Furthermore, it is said that in the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages, the number seven is heavily interwoven throughout the text.

To add to this mystery surrounding the number seven, based upon the seventeenth century work of James Ussher, who was the Anglican Archbishop of Armagh -- which is the smallest of the six counties which today form Northern Ireland -- some Christians are of the opinion that the planet Earth, and the Universe, were created about six thousand years ago. After conducting considerable research, Ussher arrived at the date of October 23, 4004 BC as being the first day of Creation. Some of his own contemporaries arrived at similar dates, give or take a few decades. Thus, leaving room for error, this would explain why some Christians believed that the year 2,000 marked the end of the Sixth Millennium, and the beginning of the Seventh Millennium, when Christ would return, and begin ruling upon the Earth.

In other words, if we add the 4,000 years which had passed prior to the birth of Christ, to the additional 2,000 years which had passed up until 2,000 AD, we arrive at a total of about 6,000 years, or six full millennia.

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

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Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2025 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

Oslo Accords (Declaration Of Principles) And Holy Covenant,  
Seven-Year Holy Covenant False Doctrine, Temple Mount Beast  
Or Antichrist, False Prediction: Christ's Year 2,000 Return,

Is 1948 Anchor Point Of Bible Prophecy?, Israel Established On May 14, 1948, President Harry Truman Acknowledges Israel, "Shabbos Goy", Iran Was Second Nation To Recognize Israel, Reza Shah Pahlavi And Iran/Persia Naming Controversy, Cyrus The Great, Ezra Zerubbabel Nehemiah And The Return To Israel, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi: The Shah Of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini And 1979 Iranian Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, 2025 Israel-Iran Twelve Day War And US Strikes, Tel Aviv Versus Jerusalem, Palestinians And Muslim And Arabs' Anti-Israel Stance, 1948 + 52 Years = 2000 Jesus Return False Doctrine, Y2K Glitch, My Own Rejection Of Year 2000 Doctrine, My Former Deception As A Futurist, Widespread Influences Of Futurism, Lie Upon Lie And Deception Upon Deception, The Lord Challenged My Views, The Importance Of Doctrinal Flexibility, Explore BBB Articles, Question Your Beliefs: Man's Opinion Or God's Word, My Approach To Teaching, Be Convinced In Your Own Mind, God's Has A Timetable, Temple Mount Christian Radicals, Double Destruction Of Jewish Temple, Foolishness Of Trying To Force God's Hand, Negative Consequences Of Perverting Meaning Of Scripture, Paul's Difficult Doctrines, Exposing The At Any Moment Folks, My Struggle To Escape False Doctrine, Powerful Influence Of Cultish Belief Systems, Some Cult Warning Signs

Continuing our discussion from part one, of course, in order to convince their gullible followers that their claims were indeed very true -- that is to say, that the Lord's Return was imminent -- these American false prophets had to provide Biblical proof to back up their claims. I remember that one of the arguments which was used by some of these men, was to tell their flocks that the Oslo Accords was the fulfillment of the prophecies regarding the seven-year Holy Covenant, which is discussed in various Books of the Bible, including Daniel, Revelation, 2 Thessalonians 2, and in the Gospels.

As some of my readers will recall, the Oslo Accords -- which were likewise referred to as the Declaration Of Principles -- were signed in Washington, D.C. on September 13, 1993 by Mahmoud Abbas, who represented the Palestinians -- and who is now the Palestinian president -- and by Shimon Peres, who represented the Israelis. Also present at the signing were PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Israeli P.M. Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and other dignitaries.

For those of my readers who may possibly be too young to know about them, the goal of the Oslo Accords was to establish a

framework for establishing peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. A secondary goal was to lead to a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. The Accords -- that is to say, the Declaration of Principles -- outlined a two-stage process for resolving the final-status issues between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The issues included the status of the city of Jerusalem itself, the right of return for all Palestinian refugees, the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and of course, the final borders between these two entities. The Principles also established a five-year, probationary period of Palestinian self-rule.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the seven-year Holy Covenant false doctrine, Futurist-leaning Christians believe that the Books of the Bible I mentioned a moment ago predict that Jesus will return to the Earth following a series of both political and religious events which will span a period of seven years. These deceived Christians are very convinced that the seven-year period will commence with the signing of this Holy Covenant -- or peace treaty -- which, among other stipulations, will allow the Orthodox Jews to rebuild their temple on the Temple Mount that's located in East Jerusalem.

As some of you will know, for many centuries now -- over a millennia, in fact -- this controversial site has hosted the Muslim al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. This treaty will supposedly be abrogated at midpoint -- that is to say, after three and a half years -- by a political leader who is commonly referred to in Christian circles as the Beast, or the Antichrist. For more information regarding the covenant, and my personal thoughts concerning it, consider reading my series entitled "Seventy Weeks Prophecy: What It Means". It may open your eyes to certain things you do not currently know or understand.

At any rate, being as the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, these American shepherds did the simple math and concluded that Jesus would return seven years later in the year 2,000. Thus, that is exactly what they told their gullible flocks who hung on to their every word. Oh what a terrible mistake that was! This deception was compounded by the fact that, as we saw a moment ago, based on their interpretation of Jesus' words as found in Matthew chapter twenty-four regarding the fig tree, these same misguided shepherds convinced themselves -- and erroneously taught their flocks -- that Bible prophecy finds its anchor point in the year 1948.

For those of you who may not be aware of it, it was on May 14, 1948, in Tel Aviv, that Jewish Agency Chairman, David Ben-Gurion, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel for the first time in 2,000 years. Ben-Gurion also became Israel's first premier after that. While the Jewish Congress -- which at the time was led by its then president, Stephen S. Wise -- played an important role in advocating for a Jewish state, it was David Ben-Gurion who formally made the declaration. It is precisely this subject which I amply discuss -- among a few other important topics -- in the aforementioned series called "Modern Deceptions: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?". Again, please consider reading it. It may challenge some of your current views.

It may interest you to know that literally within minutes, the government of the United States of America -- then under its 33rd president, Harry S. Truman -- officially recognized the State of Israel. This, in my view, is a clear reflection of how much Zionist power had already influenced America's policy makers. Imagine how much worse it is today. It comes as no surprise then, that on one occasion, Ariel Sharon, the former Prime Minister of Israel, boasted on Israeli radio, that there was no need for Israel to worry about America's policy makers, because the Jews had -- and continue to have I might add -- America in their pocket.

On a related note, one interesting fact I dug up of which I was not previously aware, is that at one time, Harry Truman served as a "Shabbos goy" for his Jewish neighbors. In case you are not aware of it, "goy" is the singular word which is used by Jews to denote non-Jewish people, meaning Gentiles. The plural of "goy" is thus "goyim". At any rate, a "Shabbos goy" is a goy who performs tasks for an observant Jew on the Sabbath day, being as Jewish laws prevent the Jew from doing said tasks himself on the Sabbath.

However, given today's political climate in the Middle East, particularly with Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran recently engaging in a very serious twelve-day missile war, what may surprise you, is the fact that the second country to officially recognize the new State of Israel was Iran. "How could that possibly be?" you may ask. You see, decades ago, Iran was ruled by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was the second monarch of the Pahlavi dynasty, as well as the last Shah of the Iranian monarchy. The dynasty was begun by his father, Reza Shah Pahlavi, who, among other things, made the controversial declaration on March 21, 1935, that Persia --



as it was then known -- should be renamed and known as Iran.

In actuality, in the past, the country had been previously known as Iran, which translates as "land of the Aryans". However it was changed to Persia due to Western influences, such as the Greeks and the Romans. The Iranian monarchy had ruled continuously for over 2,500 years, since the founding of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great. As I amply discuss in other articles such as the series "Seventy Weeks Prophecy: What It Means", Cyrus -- or Koresh, as this ruler was known in the Hebrew language -- is clearly mentioned in the Bible, and was responsible for signing a decree called the "Edict of Reconciliation", which gave the Jews permission to return to Israel, following their Seventy Years of Captivity under Babylonian rule.

As I explain in the aforementioned series, following their return to Israel, under the leadership of such men as Ezra, Zerubbabel and Nehemiah, they rebuilt the temple which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar II -- thus beginning the Second Temple period -- rebuilt the wall which surrounded Jerusalem, rebuilt the city itself and repopulated it, and returned to obeying the Laws of God. All of these events had been prophesied in the Seventy Weeks Prophecy, as it is found in the Book of Daniel.

At any rate, I find it rather interesting then, that about 2,500 years later, another Persian/Iranian leader would be the second world leader to recognize the young, new State of Israel. Pahlavi was well known for his pomp and ceremony. In fact, the title "Shah" is a shortened version of the Iranian word "shahanshah", which is interpreted as "king of kings". But what is important for our discussion is that Pahlavi was an American ally -- and you might think to say, US puppet -- which partially explains why the Shah may have been so quick to recognize the State of Israel in 1948.

It was precisely because of the fact that the Shah supported Israel, and allowed Western influences to penetrate Islamic society in Iran in both a political and moral sense, as well as the fact that his government was known for its corruption and the oppressive tactics it employed via the secret police known as SAVAK to control Iranian society, that the Iranian clergy turned against him. Pahlavi was overthrown during the 1979 Iranian Revolution, which had been orchestrated by the exiled Shia -- or Shi'ite -- cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who then became Iran's so-called "Supreme Leader".

As I have noted before, the Supreme Leader is the true ruler of Iran, and has even more power than the Iranian president.

Upon Ruhollah Khomeini's death in June of 1989 at the age of 86, Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei became the new Supreme Leader. Now 86 years old himself as of 2025, his days are no doubt numbered as well. His country is likewise at a fragile moment, having just suffered a major military blow with the recent American bomb strikes on three of Iran's crucial and major nuclear facilities. While for now a very fragile peace has been respected between Israel and Iran since the strikes occurred, one must truly wonder how much longer said peace will last, being as Iran continues to insist that it will not give up enriching uranium. For additional information regarding this topic, please consider reading the article called "Nuclear States and the Israel-Iran War".

As a matter of historical record, the Soviet Union did not acknowledge Israel as a nation state until three days after the May 14th declaration had been made. Other nations slowly followed suit. However, even to this day, due in large part to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian problem -- which has now been exasperated by the terrible war in Gaza -- Jerusalem is still not officially recognized as the capital of Israel by the international community. In fact, this is precisely why most countries have their embassies in Tel Aviv.

Furthermore, as you will probably already know, some Muslim and Arab countries -- such as Iran, obviously -- even refuse to recognize Israel's legitimacy and right to exist. While the current US President -- Donald J. Trump -- surprised the world by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's official capital, and has been partially successful with getting a few Muslim nations to sign on to the Abraham Accords, for their part, the Saudis refuse to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel until the Palestinian issue is fully resolved, and a Palestinian State has been formed.

The main reason why I am sharing these historical facts with you, is so that you can better understand how these American shepherds arrived at their erroneous conclusions regarding the Second Coming of our Lord. As the person who wrote to me mentioned, these American preachers arrived at the consensus that a Biblical generation must represent about fifty-two years. Because of their misinterpretation of the Scriptures in Matthew chapter twenty-four, they added 52 to 1948, thus arriving at the wonderful year of 2,000 as the time when the

Lord would supposedly arrive in the clouds of heaven, and then whisk off His saved children to the Heavenly Realm.

As we have already seen, based upon the work of Bishop James Ussher, this event -- if it had actually been true -- would have occurred precisely when the world would celebrate and welcome the Seventh Millennium. This apparent confluence of events obviously made this false doctrine seem all the more believable. Well, at least to certain gullible Christians. As I explained earlier, convinced of the year 2,000 doctrine, it must not have been very difficult for them to then factor in the "Declaration of Principles" of 1993 as the prophesied seven-year Holy Covenant, in order to further strengthen the claim that 2,000 would be the year when Jesus would return. Tragically, these misguided shepherds shared this "evidence" with their congregations, who excitedly believed every word of it.

Well, they may have been excited by this news, but I most certainly wasn't. I was absolutely convinced that they were wrong, dead wrong. I had no anticipation whatsoever of Jesus arriving in 2,000. At the time, I was more concerned about the potential negative effects of the Y2K glitch, and I wrote several articles in which I advised my readers how to prepare themselves spiritually, and physically, just in case Y2K did result in a serious disruption of government operations and local services. Thankfully, the fear which had been created proved to be greater than what actually occurred as millions of computer clocks around the world struck the new year. Of course, some technical flukes were reported here and there, but it was nothing like what the profiteering mass media had described. I don't doubt that the freeze-dried food industry and other businesses which cater to survivalist needs, must have made themselves quite a profit during the time leading up to the year 2,000.

As I partially pointed out earlier, the reason why I was not excited by the possibility that Jesus might return in 2,000 was because, in a word, based upon my personal understanding of the Scriptures, particularly Bible verses which concern eschatology, or end of age events, I was absolutely convinced that there was no such possibility. In fact, I am not, and I have never been, one of these "at any moment" folks. In my view, Christians who have embraced this false doctrine just don't know their Bible as they should. Because of this fact, they are living in a state of either unintentional ignorance, or in some case, perhaps even intentional deception.

In fact, to be quite honest and transparent with you, at the time that I wrote the original version of this series back in 2007, in a doctrinal sense, I was of a rather different mindset from what I am today eighteen years later. You see, similar to many other Christians who still haven't woken up, I was also still living under a certain degree of what can only be described as doctrinal deception, plain and simple. I was already starting to come out from under that cloud, but I had not yet made a clean break with it. That would begin to happen in earnest about four years after that.

So exactly what am I talking about? Well, you see, like so many of my Christian peers, as I point out in other articles which are listed at the end of this same series, I'd fallen under, and become very deceived by, what is commonly known as Futurism. In fact, I fervently embraced, lived, breathed and passionately preached Futurism. Now, for those of you who don't know what Futurism is, let me explain it to you in as few words as possible. Futurism is a doctrine and belief system -- that is to say, a theological perspective -- which takes ancient, already-fulfilled prophecies, and places them in our current time -- or in the near future -- as if they have not been fulfilled yet. That is the gist of it.

Furthermore, it is in fact because so many modern Christians still approach Bible prophecy from this false doctrinal base, and this very misguided understanding, that they have become so terribly confused. Earlier I mentioned the Oslo Accords to you and how so many Christians interpreted those events. That was the influence of Futurism in their lives. Then I told you about Donald Trump and the Abraham Accords and how Christians are once again getting all excited. That's likewise clearly a reflection of how much Futurism has influenced their beliefs.

The problem is this. If you start off on a false premise and a false assumption -- which is exactly what Futurism does -- then the end result is that everything you believe after that is false as well. It is just one lie built upon another, and one deception built upon another. That is simply the way it works. Let me give you an easy example you can understand. If you are building a road, and your surveyor is just a little bit off, at first you may not even notice it, simply because the error is so small. However, the longer you keep building that road, and with each mile that you add to it, the more it is going to detour from its intended course.

If you are wondering what happened, and what got me back on track in a doctrinal sense, well, after embracing Futurism for about forty years of my life, the Lord simply began to shake up my Futurist beliefs. He in fact challenged me with certain New Testament Bible verses which clearly contradict what I had so fervently believed for many years of my life. You can learn about the specific whys and wherefores, and how I finally and totally abandoned Futurism, in my rather challenging series entitled "Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?". If you are still a Futurist, I hope that you will patiently and prayerfully consider what I have to say in that series.

In short, the end result of my renewed study of the Bible back then is that I was forced to make a complete U-turn in my understanding and personal belief system. I in fact had to totally re-evaluate everything I had believed regarding Bible prophecy up until that point in my life. If I had not done so, I would no doubt still be sharing the deceptions of Futurism to this very day. Instead, I chose to be flexible, and I let the Lord remold my mind, and give me a different perspective from what I had embraced for those many years. You can thank the Lord for that! A few related articles I encourage you to also read are the following:

Are You Flexible?

My Evolving Theology

Understanding the Bible in Context

Fight Against Futurism!

It Is Time to Wake Up!

Aside from the aforementioned articles, if you are hungry for the truth, and are a persevering student of God's Word who wants to better understand my current perspective as it pertains to Bible prophecy, then I encourage you to delve into the list of articles which you will find at the end of this same series. Just click or tap on the link to be taken to it. Those articles represent many years of personal work, prayer and study in my life. Trust me when I say that you'll find a lot of very interesting and/or challenging material to chew on and ponder.

You may not agree with all of it the first time around the

block, but it will get you thinking, and it will motivate you to more closely examine your own personal beliefs, and perhaps even cause you to question why you believe some of the things that you do. But this is a good thing, because we should NOT believe certain things just because we have been spoon-fed by someone else. Our foundation of faith should be firmly based upon our understanding of God's Word, and NOT upon the opinions of other men.

In case you are wondering, yes, this applies my own views as well. In my articles, I always strive to do my very best to present you with what I'm personally convinced is Scriptural truth after performing my own due diligence. As my longtime readers know, I will constantly point you to the Scriptures to validate what I am saying and teaching. I will present you with the Biblical -- and sometimes even the historical -- evidence, and then I leave it up to each of you to arrive at your own conclusions. If after reading what I've written you are not convinced that what I have stated is fully in agreement with God's Word, then you are, of course, under no obligation to accept it. As the Apostle Paul wrote regarding other matters:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Romans 14:5, KJV

But concerning Bible prophecy, one thing which I can tell you with full assurance, is that the omnipotent God has a very precise timetable for the world which He is following. He is very methodical in all of His doings. He is also very patient, and nothing that we say, or do, is going to alter His plans, or hasten the fulfillment of any prophecies that may possibly yet remain unfulfilled. That, of course, also includes our erroneous interpretations of His Word. I am reminded of the following two verses which we find in the powerful Book of Isaiah:

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

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

Contrary to the previous verses, it seems that there are some

wayward individuals -- who even claim to be Christians -- who have deceived themselves into believing that they can hurry God along. Quite a few years ago, I remember reading certain news reports regarding some extremists who, according to the reports, had plans to destroy the Muslim "Dome of the Rock", which I briefly mentioned earlier. I believe that this group of radicals may have been from the US state of Colorado. It has been a while since I read this information, so I could be wrong regarding their place of origin.

As many of you will already know, certain Jews and Christians believe that the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem was the site of the former temple, which was destroyed two times in the past; first by King Nebuchadnezzar's forces at the beginning of the Seventy Years of Captivity around 587 BC, and then a second time -- as prophesied by Jesus Himself -- in 70 AD, by Roman general, Titus, who was the oldest son of then Emperor Vespasian. Titus would later become emperor himself for a brief period of only two years. I discuss these events in my compelling twenty-five part series entitled "Vespasian, Titus and the Fall of Jerusalem". If you really want to understand the events of 70 AD, and what led up to them, then this is a series you will definitely want to read.

At any rate, to continue my story, from what I understand, the aforementioned Christian radicals seemed to believe that if they could destroy the Muslim mosque, they would be able to precipitate an inevitable war between the Israelis and the Arab and Muslim nations, which would ultimately result in the foretold Battle of Armageddon, and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. I find the idea of trying to force God to move faster than He wants to absolutely ludicrous. Who did these people think they were? How dare they place themselves above God, or think that they know better than He does!

Let me ask you something. When certain American Christian leaders and preachers pervert the meaning of the Scriptures in order to convince their flocks that the Day of Christ is at hand, aren't they doing the same thing as those radicals? Maybe they are not blowing up anything, but the results of their misguided words can be just as disastrous. Not only are they trying to force God's hand, and trying to dictate their own plan to Him, but their failed prophecies can have very negative effects in the lives of their followers.

Folks, I really have to wonder how many young, impressionable Christians may have lost their faith in God, and in the Bible

as His inspired Word, when Jesus didn't make an appearance in 2,000. Their hope, excitement and anticipation must have been extremely high, but were then probably dashed to the ground when nothing happened. Did God fail them? No, most certainly not! It was those misguided church leaders, and the deceived preachers who did that by propagating a false doctrine and a foolish deception. Sadly, as I mentioned earlier, with the recent Israel-Iran "Twelve Day War" as it is now called, and with President Donald Trump and his Abraham Accords, it is the same deception all over again. As I said, I see the very same excitement on the social networks. But oh how it is so very misplaced!

To reiterate a point I made earlier, it is a serious matter to purposely distort the meaning of God's Word, in order to try to support one of our own pet doctrines. Even if it is done in ignorance, it can still have negative consequences. As we learned in part one of this series, the First Century Apostles encountered this same problem when certain people began promoting false doctrines within the Church. On one particular occasion, there were certain disciples who were trying to understand the Apostle Paul's profound writings. Let me share that one verse from the Apostle Peter's second Epistle again. Then I will offer an explanation. I've added a word in brackets for the sake of clarity:

"As also in all his [Paul's] 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 3:16, KJV

In the underlying Koine Greek text, the word "wrest" really means to twist, or to turn awry. Metaphorically, it means to pervert or torture language in a false sense. In short, "wrest" means to assign a meaning which is not true to the intent of the author. That is what those disciples seemed to be doing, which is why the Apostle Peter indirectly rebuked them via his Epistle.

It may surprise you to learn that the Apostle Paul also had a problem with the "At any moment" folks, who likewise held the belief that Jesus was going to return at any moment. As I mention in other articles which deal with prophetic events, in his second Epistle to the brethren at Thessalonika, Paul wrote the following lines. Again, I have added a few words for the sake of clarification:



"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, [the Rapture] that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [Christ's Return] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, [the Apostasy] and that man of sin [the Antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition;"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, KJV

As I have done in this series, the Apostle Paul then goes on to explain exactly why those people were wrong to assume that Jesus would return at any moment. Please refer to some of my other BBB articles, such as "Who Hindered the Antichrist?", for further details regarding this particular Bible prophecy issue.

Well, some two thousand years have passed, and it seems that the "At any moment" people are still with us today. I know exactly how some of those Christians must have felt in 2,000 when Jesus failed to appear, as their leaders had told them that He most assuredly would. As I mentioned to you earlier, the reason why I know how they must have felt, is because I too was a Futurist for those many years. Being a young and idealistic teenager, and a Christian to boot who was eager to serve the Lord, I absorbed a lot of false information as it related to Bible prophecy. I had no strong foundation in God's Word at the time, so I just assumed that what I was reading and hearing must be true. Well, it wasn't.

But again, thank the Lord that by the Grace of God, and with the leading of His Holy Spirit, I was eventually able to pull myself out from under the deception. However, it wasn't easy. Once one has been involved with a church or organization for any appreciable length of time, it can take literally years before one is able to completely rid himself of their ideas, and other influences. Cult-like organizations and churches use very powerful, persuasive, subtle techniques, and unless one is careful, he can become completely engulfed in their belief system before he realizes it. So let me offer a word to the wise.

Any time that a church or an organization elevates a man or a woman, or its group leadership, above God, beware! You are probably dealing with a cult. In addition, any time that a

church or an organization gives precedence and preference to their own teachings, and esteems those doctrines above what is actually contained in the Bible, beware! You are probably dealing with a cult. Even if the church or organization does hold the Bible in high regard, if their doctrines in any way conflict with what is taught in the Bible, beware! You may be dealing with a cult!

My friends, whatever you do, please be careful that you don't fall under the popular misconception that dangerous cults are only comprised of secretive leaders and members who hide away in communes or in basements. You need to understand that there are in fact some high-profile churches, popular preachers and evangelists who do seem to qualify as cults, and cult leaders, even if they have been shrouded in an aura or respectability. If you still haven't understood what I just said, please take the time to read this paragraph again until you are sure that you do understand it.

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

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Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 3

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Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

Danger Of Leading God's Children Astray, Stumbling Blocks, Those Troublesome 52 Years, 2019: Their New Prediction, It Is Extremely Foolish To Set Dates, God's Unknowable Ways, I've Never Been A Date Setter, The Fruit Of False Prophets, Jesus' Advice Regarding False Prophets And Their Evil Fruit, Modern Fast Living vs Ancient Simple Living, Backgrounds Of Apostles, Gospel Parables, Truth Reserved For Sincere Folks, Build The Temple In Three Days?, Christ's Resurrection And Jewish Elders' Grave Robbery Deception, Parable Of Fig Tree, Certainty Of God's Word, Sure Word Of Prophecy, Why Matthew Chapter 24 Came About, Related Series, Foul Weather Parable,

## Caiaphas' Words And Plot To Kill Jesus, Free Through Christ, Blindness Of The Jews, Rejected By His Own Jewish Brethren

Continuing our discussion from part two, and returning to the year 2,000 "Jesus is coming" fiasco, and how it may have had a negative effect on some Christians, I have mentioned before that in the Scriptures, Jesus offers a very serious warning regarding those people who cause His children to fall from the faith. Please realize that in the following verse, the word "offend" is somewhat of a mistranslation. It is derived from the Koine Greek word "skandalizo". According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the primary meaning of the word is "to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall, metaph. to offend". And so Jesus said the following as He was teaching:

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Matthew 18:6, KJV

So it is indeed serious business to cause one to fall away from the faith. Tragically, in spite of the fact that these American Christian leaders and preachers were so very wrong regarding their predictions that Jesus would return in the year 2,000, apparently, as is evidenced by the email that I received from the person who wrote to me, some of them were still at it in 2007, and they are still at it today in 2025 as they foolishly continue to force their interpretation on the Scriptures. Obviously, these false prophets and deceived teachers cannot deny that adding fifty-two years to 1948 was a major blooper on their part. Not only did they lead many Christian people astray, but they gave free ammunition to the enemies of our faith. That is to say, to the atheists, and to anyone else who may be opposed to our Christian faith. These misguided preachers made us Christians look like half-witted idiots, and they have been a reproach to the name of Christ.

But apparently, some of them still could not seem to let go of the idea that there must have been some secret meaning in Jesus' words regarding the Parable of the Fig Tree, and the word "generation". They were still trying to squeeze a deeper meaning out of it -- as they continue to do -- and they still were attempting to figure out how the number fifty-two fits

into their equation. Having realized their error in adding 52 to 1948, some of these leaders then began suggesting to their followers that the triggering event for counting to the year of Jesus' Return, was not the birth of the state of Israel in May 1948, but rather the 1967 Six Day War, in which, against all odds, Israel was victorious over her Muslim enemies, and reclaimed the eastern half of Jerusalem, as well as the Golan Heights, which were recaptured a second time during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

In other words, this person's email to me indicated that what was happening at that time in American prophetic circles was that these Christian leaders, having scrapped their  $52 + 1948$  equation -- and rightly so -- were now using their  $52 + 1967$  equation instead. In short, as this person pointed out in his email, it seems that some of those foolish preachers were now suggesting that the Lord would finally make His appearance in the year 2019. That is to say,  $52 + 1967 = 2019$ . Oh my, guys! Strike two! Or three, or four, or five. There have been so many false predictions by this time that I have simply lost track of them all. The point is, as I note in articles such as "The Day I Am Waiting For" and "Fight Against Futurism", they have ALL been wrong!

So what are my thoughts on the above speculation? Obviously, at this late date, it no longer even requires a response due to the fact that we are now in 2025 as I update this series. Is that not an answer in itself? In fact, even with any new dates, or future dates, which any misguided souls may offer, my answer will still remain the same, and that is this: It is extremely foolish to be setting dates for anything when it comes to Bible prophecy, because we do not have the mind of God. So even when we THINK we may understand something properly, there still exists the possibility that maybe we really don't. But it requires humility to even embrace this kind of position. This is a subject which I discuss in my article "Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word", a link for which you will find at the end of this series. I'm reminded of the following Bible verses:

"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

"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

"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."

1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV

Let me remind my readers that since the time that I founded the Bill's Bible Basics online ministry in 1993-1994, I have never once offered a date for any prophetic event, and I've absolutely no intentions of offering one now. As such, I do not advise you to hold your breath. But regarding all of the foolish date-setting which is done by others, I'll tell you the following:

No matter what I do, one thing is absolutely for certain. I most assuredly won't place my faith in anything that these American false prophets are saying, no matter how convincing it may sound. I have told my readers many times before that Jesus very specifically stated in the Gospel of Matthew that we can know a tree by its fruits; and the prophetic fruit of some of these American preachers and teachers is obviously rotten to the core and definitely not good for one's health. Let me share that group of verses with you one more time:

"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

Those of my friends who are Christians, and who are reading this series, may have already been familiar with that final verse. However, did you realize that when we read it in its proper context, Jesus was really warning His followers about false prophets? Well, there it is before your very eyes. The evil fruit of a false prophet is obviously false prophecies. That most certainly includes the year 2000 "Jesus is coming" prophecy, the year 2019 "Jesus is coming" prophecy, and all of the rest of the "Jesus is coming" prophecies as well. It is an all-inclusive warning.

In part one of this series, I mentioned that I would offer an explanation regarding why I don't believe that Jesus was using the Parable of the Fig Tree as a veiled message which, as we have already seen, some American preachers have chosen to interpret as being a cryptic reference to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. While I have already presented some of my arguments to explain why I've adopted my current position, there are other reasons as well, which I will now share with you.

In addressing this issue, I think that it is important that we first understand the huge difference which exists between many people of our current time, and those who lived almost two thousand years ago. Unlike ourselves, who live in a very loud, fast-paced, modern, gadget-oriented world filled with all kinds of electronic and technological distractions, the people of two thousand years ago lived in a more leisurely, natural world. By leisurely, I do not mean that they all led easy lives. After all, the Jews of that period were in fact subservient to Roman domination and cruelty. But what I do mean, is that they led slower lives, compared with today.

Because the Jews led slower lives, without all of our modern trappings and distractions, obviously, they had more time to observe the natural world around them, and they were in fact in tune with it. From the calendar that they used, to when they chose to plant their crops, or to breed their animals, or to make long journeys, as well as the very holy days that they celebrated, everything that they did was in large part determined by their observation of the natural world.

It is to this environment that Jesus arrived preaching the Gospel of Salvation. While the proud people of our current time take pride in boasting of their intelligence, I posit that the people of that era were equally as smart. This does not mean that they understood all of the advanced scientific concepts that have been discovered in our current time, but they weren't stupid either. In fact, as I have noted before, unlike some Bible-bashing evolutionists, I believe that God created the first man and woman with intelligence. I do not believe that the first couple communicated by grunting and groaning, as is quite often depicted in modern pro-evolution movies. Yet at the same time, I also believe that the people of 2,000 years ago were simpler as well.

In the case of the Twelve Apostles, to whom the message of

Matthew chapter twenty-four was directed, we also need to remember that they were not exactly what we would call the cream of Jewish society. They were not highly educated men. The majority were fishermen from Galilee, along with a few revolutionaries -- Zealots -- a tax collector, etc. Jesus undoubtedly kept this fact in mind when He spoke with them. Yet, at the same time, I also suspect that it was probably because of their lower social status, that Jesus chose them in the first place. For more on this topic, I encourage you to read my article "The Only Credentials You Need", as well as "The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men".

My point in all of this, is that Jesus fully understood into what kind of world He was coming, and He adapted His message so that it would reach, and be understood, by as many people as possible. What better way was there to reach out to those people then, if not by speaking to them of things with which they were already familiar in their daily lives?

Thus, as the Gospels will clearly attest, Jesus often shared simple moral-containing stories, into which He would inject familiar elements from their surroundings. Today, we refer to these stories as Parables. Exactly what kind of Parable Jesus shared, depended a lot upon whom He was speaking with. In the case of His followers, He would often share stories where the meaning was rather clear. After all, what would be the purpose of sharing a story with them, if they were left scratching their heads, and wondering what He had said? They would learn nothing from such an experience. But in spite of the Lord's best efforts to be clear, sometimes His Disciples weren't able to immediately grasp the meaning of His words. In such cases, the Lord would often later more fully explain to them what it was that He meant.

At the same time, there were other occasions where the Lord was purposely ambiguous, such as when He was challenged or provoked by His unbelieving Jewish enemies. Jesus even told His close followers that He purposely did this, so that, in His words, "seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand". Consider the full context of what the Lord said to His Disciples in Luke chapter eight, after sharing the Parable of the Sower with them:

"And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not

understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God . . ."

Luke 8:9-11, KJV

In Matthew chapter eight, we find another account concerning the very same event. Consider again what happened, as well as how Jesus responded:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."

Matthew 13:10-16, KJV

As you can see, Jesus was eager to share the spiritual riches of His Father's Kingdom with His sincere followers. Yet, as I noted before, when it came to His obvious enemies such as the Jewish religious hierarchy, or other people who rejected Him, it was an entirely different matter. Consider the following Scriptural example:

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

John 2:18-22, KJV

You see, Jesus obviously realized that the Jewish elders did



not understand Him, but it didn't matter to Him, because He knew that they would never believe Him, or accept Him, even if He did reveal to them the truth behind His words. In fact, as you may recall, in the final chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Jewish religious leaders were so desperate to discredit Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, that they even bribed the soldiers into spreading the lie that Jesus' body had merely been stolen by His followers, as we see by this set of Bible verses:

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

Having now shared these different points and examples with you, let's take a closer look at what Jesus said in Matthew chapter twenty-four. In verses thirty-two and thirty-three, the Lord states the following regarding the fig tree:

"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."  
Matthew 24:32-33, KJV

As far as I can tell, there is no mystery or secret meaning encrypted in those verses. Jesus is doing exactly as He was accustomed to doing. He is taking something with which He knew His Disciples would be quite familiar, and using it to emphasize a point. Year after year, when the weather would begin to warm, and the fig trees would begin to sprout their leaves, the Jews would know that Summer was approaching. It was something which they knew by heart. It was an absolute certainty that they'd learned by watching the natural world around them. Summer was something which they could expect, and anticipate, occurring every single year, without fail. So how did they know that Summer was drawing close? Simply by noticing when the fig trees began to sprout their leaves.

So the Lord is using this normal occurrence in their lives

to help them to better understand the astounding things that He has just told them; and not only to understand them, but to emphasize the fact that they will most certainly occur as He has prophesied. Jesus is telling them that just as they know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Summer is just around the corner when they see the fig tree begin to sprout its leaves, the generation that observes the events that He has just described to them, should "know that it is near, even at the doors". It is evident to me, that the primary reason why Jesus uses the Parable of the Fig Tree in this chapter, is to emphasize the certainty and surety of God's Word. You may recall that in part two, I shared the following verses with you:

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

The Apostle Peter shares a very similar thought in his second Epistle when he writes the following concerning Divine Prophecy:

"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

In the previous verse, the word "sure" is translated from the Koine Greek word "bebaios". Thayer's Greek English Lexicon states that it means stedfast, sure, firm, stable, fast, firm and trusty. In other words, God's Word is steadfast, firm and trustworthy. We can place our full faith in it, and we won't be disappointed. Jesus is conveying the very same thought by using the Parable of the Fig Tree as He describes the coming end of age events to His followers.

The next question that we need to ask ourselves is this: Exactly what is this "it" that Jesus is referring to? Again, He stated "know that it is near, even at the doors". All we have to do is go back to the beginning of this same chapter in order to find the answer. In the opening verses we read the following:

"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 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 24:1-3, KJV

So the bulk of this chapter is about answering three main questions which were posed to Jesus by His obviously very curious Disciples:

1. When will the temple be destroyed?
2. How will we know when you are returning?
3. How will we know when the end of the world is coming?

Jesus then very directly proceeds to answer their questions, thus resulting in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. If you have an interest in learning more about the specifics regarding the above questions, I encourage you to read the articles and series which I list at the end of this same series. All of them are found on the Bill's Bible Basics website and can be read online simply by clicking or tapping on the corresponding link.

Matthew 24:32-33 is by no means the only place in the Gospels where Jesus uses this approach -- using something familiar to them from nature -- to emphasize a point. Just as Jesus used the example of the sprouting fig tree to impress upon them how important it was for them to watch for the signs which would precede His Second Coming, and to know without a doubt that He was coming, eight chapters earlier, Jesus also used the weather to expose the spiritual blindness of His Jewish enemies. In the following verses, the style is exactly the same as what the Lord used in Matthew 24:

"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

Once again, we see Jesus using something that was obviously very familiar to everyone who lived in Israel: the weather. Jesus was basically saying to them, "Look; everyday you can look at the sky and decide by its appearance if the weather will be fair or rainy. Yet are you so spiritually blind that you cannot even interpret the dangerous signs that are all around, which are signaling your own demise?". Exactly what signs was Jesus referring to? Well, as I point out in other articles, Israel had become a nation which was subjugated by the powerful Roman Empire, and the Romans were slowly growing weary of the Zealots and their rebellion. While most people were blind to the danger, a few were not, such as the Jewish high priest, Caiaphas. This is why we find the following scene taking place in the Gospel of John:

"And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death."

John 11:49-53, KJV

While the Roman occupation was a clear omen of things yet to come, Jesus' own presence in Israel at that time was an even greater sign that the harsh, unforgiving, self-righteous rule of the Scribes and Pharisees would soon be brought to an end. Why? Because Jesus would free the Jews, and in fact, all men everywhere, through His own Blood which He would freely shed upon the Cross. As I explain elsewhere, in order for the New Covenant -- New Testament -- to come into full effect, Jesus had to die. Furthermore, the Old Covenant -- which revolved around the Jews' temple worship and vain traditions -- had to be destroyed. Consider what Jesus said in Luke chapter four and what we also read in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed

me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."  
Luke 4:18-21, KJV

"In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."  
Hebrews 8:13, KJV

Even though the Scripture was fulfilled that very day before their very eyes, and even though they had the truth standing in front of them, many of the old-school Jewish elders were simply unable to see it. The previous event occurred in the town of Nazareth, which most of you will know was Jesus' own boyhood town where He grew up, and where everyone knew Him. And yet, despite that familiarity, they rejected Jesus, and in fact, they tried to throw Him over a cliff, as we see by the following two Bible verses:

"And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong."  
Luke 4:28-29, KJV

It is also for this very reason that the Lord stated these powerful words in the Gospel of Matthew:

". . . A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house."  
Matthew 13:57, KJV

The Apostle John was likewise inspired to write the following in the first chapter of his Gospel:

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

Turning to the pages of the Old Testament, many of my readers will no doubt be familiar with the fact that Prophet Isaiah,

foreseeing the rejection and sufferings of Christ, wrote the following verse:

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

Isaiah 53:3, KJV

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

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Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 4

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Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

70 AD: Titus Destroys Herod's Temple, Third Temple Coming?, Kingdom Of Heaven Taken From The Jews, Rejected Cornerstone, Violent Spiritual Warfare, "Harpazo" Force And The Rapture, Dark Times Of The Great Tribulation, A "Lovey-Dovey" Jesus?, God's Displeasure Was Revealed Through The Torn Temple Veil, Jesus Flesh Was Torn Like The Veil To Open Way To Salvation, Theories Regarding Lost Ark Of The Covenant, Mercy Seat And A Dead Hollow Religion, Blind Leaders Of The Blind, Purpose Of Parables, More On Parable Of Fig Tree And 1948 Doctrine, Defining A Biblical Generation, Blindly Trusting Preachers, Seminary Doctrines, Pro-Israel Religious Right In America, Isaiah 66:8 The Diaspora Jacob's Trouble And 1948 Doctrine, The Jews Remained Enslaved In Babylon For Seventy Full Years

Continuing our discussion from part three, as I just stated, and as we discussed earlier in this series, as a result of their foolish rejection of God's Son, the Israelites -- and in particular, the Jews in Jerusalem -- would not feel the full weight of Jesus' words, and the terrible wrath of Rome, until almost forty years later, when General Titus, the son of Vespasian, would march into Jerusalem with his Roman army

comprised of 60,000+ men including their allies, and proceed to utterly destroy it, along with Herod's magnificent temple, which even the Apostles admired. You may recall that in part three, I shared the following verse with you that is found in Matthew chapter twenty-four, where Jesus clearly foretold of the fall of that awe-inspiring edifice:

". . . See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Matthew 24:2, KJV

As I have pointed out before, according to my research, the Romans were not content with just burning down the temple. Precisely as Jesus prophesied in Matthew chapter twenty-four, they also tore the temple remains apart, block by block, in order to recover all of the gold which had melted down into the cracks. There was apparently plenty of it too, based on the descriptions which are found in the Old Testament. Even Jewish historian Flavius Josephus wrote about the tremendous wealth which was stored in the temple complex. As we know, despite a few efforts to do so over the centuries, up until this current time, the temple has never been rebuilt. It is also my understanding that those blocks remain untouched by the Jews, due to their fear of offending God.

But imagine how shocked the Apostles must have been to learn that the beautiful building which they so admired, would be destroyed. So their first inquiry to Jesus in Matthew 24 was answered by Titus in 70 AD. However, once again, the Orthodox Jews are making a very serious effort to build a new temple on the Temple Mount. But what will it lead to if they should happen to succeed? Will this third temple -- should it really ever come to fruition -- also be destroyed by the enemies of Israel? Will it result in an expanded Middle East war? To be honest, with the way that Israel has been subduing Iran, and Hamas, and Hezbollah as of late, I really have to wonder.

Another point of interest is that at the time of our Lord's Crucifixion, God gave the Jewish religious leadership a very clear sign that He was displeased with them. You may recall that on one occasion, while Jesus was teaching in the temple in Jerusalem, the Jewish chief priests and elders came and challenged Him. In response, the Lord shared a Parable with them, and then He concluded by saying the following to them:

". . . Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which

the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

Matthew 21:42-44, KJV

In the previous verses, the word "taken" is derived from the Koine Greek word "airo", one meaning of which is to take by force or violence. You may recall that after John the Baptist had been imprisoned, he sent two of his disciples to inquire of Jesus whether or not He was the Messiah. In His response to them, one of the things that the Lord said was this:

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Matthew 11:12, KJV

So, as I have shared before in a number of my articles which touch on the topic of spiritual warfare, there is in fact a very real, violent spiritual war that is being fought for the Kingdom of Heaven. This invisible war is being fought between the forces of Light and the forces of Darkness. If you study the Book of Daniel, for example, you will find clear examples of this behind-the-scenes warfare. But that is not all. Our very souls are in fact a part of the prize. In the previous verse, let me point out that in the original Koine Greek, the word that is translated as "the violent" likewise means "the strong". So, we could translate that phrase as "the strong take it by force".

It is interesting to note that the phrase "take it by force" is derived from the Koine Greek word "harpazo". Some of you who are sharp students and more knowledgeable of God's Word may already realize that this is exactly the same word that is used in some other verses which are very familiar to and much loved by many modern Christians. I am referring to the following verses which are found in Paul's first Epistle to the Thessalonian brethren:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with



them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, KJV

In the previous verses, the verb "caught up" is likewise translated from "harpazo". Thayer's Greek English Lexicon defines this Koine Greek word in the following manner:

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

- 1) to seize, carry off by force
- 2) to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly
- 3) to snatch out or away

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

As I amply explain in other BBB articles such as the in-depth series entitled "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture", the Lord informed His followers that the situation would be very bad, and would look very dark, just prior to His return to the Earth. It is for this reason that while He was explaining the signs to His Disciples in Matthew chapter twenty-four, He pointedly told them the following:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Matthew 24:21-22, KJV

Putting all of the previous verses together, it appears that Jesus was saying that from the outward appearance, it might even look as if the forces of darkness had won. But then, at a moment when it was least expected, when their cause seemed to be lost, Jesus would suddenly and majestically appear in the clouds of heaven, and He would send His Angels to rip His followers right out of that very dark situation. He would just forcefully snatch them up in order to save them out of the grips of their enemies. In addition to studying "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture", I also encourage you to read the article called "He That Shall Endure Unto the End".

Some of the previous verses paint a side of God which some people don't like to see; particularly those Christians who

like to promote an image of a "love-dovey" Jesus, and a God who would never resort to force or violence, or even punish us. The truth is, as I have pointed out before, God can, and has, presented Himself as a gentle lamb; but He can also be a roaring lion as well. It depends on the situation and with whom He is dealing. I mentioned earlier that at the time of Jesus' Crucifixion, God gave the Jewish elders a very clear sign that He was very displeased with them. In fact, it was an omen that their power would soon be ripped right out of their hands, precisely as Jesus had prophesied. That sign can be found in the following verses:

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,"  
Matthew 27:51-52, KJV

Imagine that! When Jesus was resurrected, God split the veil of the temple -- which divided the inner Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple -- right in half from top to bottom. What a clear indication of His anger. However, at the same time, while this event may have been a clear demonstration of God's anger, I believe that it had more importance than just that. Allow me to remind you of the following verse I shared with you in part three of this series:

"In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."  
Hebrews 8:13, KJV

So, you see, in my view, the renting of the veil was also a sign of the vanishing away of the Old Covenant, and the New Covenant coming into effect from that point and forward. I'm also of the opinion that this change was further symbolized by Jesus' own flesh being very severely torn, both from the lash of the Roman whip, as well as from then being hung on a Roman cross. Through this act of profound love, Christ tore down the veil which had existed between God and man, which separated God from man due to sin, and He opened the way to Salvation. And so, we now have direct access to the Father through the Son. This truth is clearly evident in verses such as the following:

"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away

sins: But this man [Jesus Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, BOLDNESS TO ENTER INTO THE HOLIEST BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, THROUGH THE VEIL, THAT IS TO SAY, HIS FLESH;"

Hebrews 10:11-20, KJV

Now isn't that truly amazing? Through Jesus' loving Sacrifice on the Cross, we once again have full access to our Heavenly Father through the veil. Our peaceful relationship with Him can now be restored through faith in Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord! Now, I honestly don't know if there is really any truth to this theory, but some Bible researchers have stated that another reason why God may have split the temple veil as He did, was not just to demonstrate His anger with the Jewish religious leaders. It was also to expose the fact that the Ark of the Covenant -- which was a gold-plated chest which contained the holy items, such as the tablets on which were written the Commandments, Aaron's rod which budded, and a sample of the manna -- was long gone.

In fact, the general belief is that the Ark of the Covenant had either been spirited away for its own protection by the Jews sometime prior to the Babylonian invasions -- possibly by the Prophet Jeremiah -- or carried off by the Babylonians. Personally, I find this latter idea highly unlikely, being as anyone who even dared to touch the Ark, or who accidentally touched the Ark, immediately died. Either that, or else they were plagued, as in the case of the Philistines. Whatever the case may be, the Ark simply disappeared from Jewish history, and from the pages of the Bible.

Some people are also convinced that the Ark remains hidden in a secret chamber within the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. Supposedly, at the right time, once the new temple has been built, as many people believe it will be, the Orthodox Jews will present the Ark to the world once again. This belief is based to some degree on the story -- whether it is true or

false -- that Biblical archeologist, Ron Wyatt, discovered the Ark beneath the alleged crucifixion site many decades ago. Wyatt claimed that Jesus' blood had seeped down through a crack in the ground, and had landed on the Ark. However, some people claim that Wyatt was a fraud, so who knows. If I recall correctly, there have also been claims that the Ark of the Covenant is currently hidden somewhere in Jordan, around Mount Nebo, or possibly even in Ethiopia. Well, there is an Ark in Heaven, so that is really all we should be concerned about.

Whatever happened to the Ark, if it truly no longer resided in the temple at the time of Jesus' Crucifixion, the temple veil being torn from top to bottom certainly exposed what a dead, hollow religion the Jewish hierarchy was forcing upon their people. You see, in addition to the fact that the Ark contained the holy items, it was upon the Mercy Seat, which was located on the hood of the Ark between the wings, where the Lord would appear in order to speak with Moses, or to instruct the High Priest -- such as Aaron -- each year. Here are two verses for your consideration. Once again, I have added a few words in brackets for the sake of clarification:

"And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him [meaning the Lord], then he [Moses] heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him."

Numbers 7:89, KJV

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat."

Leviticus 16:2, KJV

So if the Ark of the Covenant was truly gone, then this was indeed a clear indication that God had abandoned their false religion centuries before, but the common people just didn't know it yet, because the Scribes and the Pharisees purposely kept them in the dark concerning it. Is it any wonder then, that in Luke chapter four, Jesus stated that He had come to give sight to the blind? That is to say, to the spiritually blind? Let us also not forget that in speaking of the Jewish religious elders -- the Pharisees in this case -- on one occasion the Lord said the following concerning them:

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Matthew 15:14, KJV

But let us backtrack a moment now, lest we lose sight of why I am sharing these things with you. Earlier in this series, I shared two clear examples with you where Jesus used things from nature in order to emphasize a point. In one case, the Lord used a budding fig tree, and in another, the weather. I pointed out that in both cases, in my view, there wasn't any secret meaning hidden in His words. Jesus was more than clear regarding what He meant. The Lord was merely using something which was quite familiar to every single listener, to ensure that they would make the proper connection to the lesson He was trying to share. He was making simple comparisons, as He often did. This is in fact exactly what Parables were meant for. According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the word "parable" finds its origin in the Greek word "parabole". In a Biblical sense, its principle definition is "A comparing, comparison of one thing with another, likeness, similitude; an example by which a doctrine or precept is illustrated".

So, in my view, the practice of making a statement such as "Jesus said that the generation that is alive at the time that Israel becomes a nation will live to see His Return", is not only misleading, it is in fact false. It is putting words in Jesus' mouth, and it is twisting the meaning of the Scriptures. So what I am saying is that Jesus never clearly said that the budding fig tree represents Israel becoming a nation in 1948, and it is wrong for anyone to say that He did.

To reiterate what I said earlier, the 1948 theory is merely one interpretation of what the fig tree may have symbolized. But, as I have made more than clear, I don't believe that it was meant to symbolize anything. It was simply a comparison that Jesus used so that His followers would know that what He had prophesied was indeed going to happen. It was a warning that they were to remain alert, and watch for the signs of His Return, just as the Jews also watched and realized that summer was approaching, when they saw the fig tree sprout its leaves. Period.

As we discussed in parts one and two, part of the confusion concerning this 1948 doctrine, and the year 2,000 fiasco, is a result of trying to apply a specific length of time to the Biblical word "generation". To refresh your memory, the man

who wrote to me stated "if we use the biblical definition of a generation as 52 years". That is his mistake right there. He obviously picked up this idea from one of those preachers. To my knowledge, nowhere does the Bible specifically say that a generation is equal to fifty-two years. Fifty-two is simply an average that those American preachers dreamed up, because it helped to supposedly prove their year 2,000 theory, which as we have seen, proved to be utterly and totally false.

In fact, it would really be impossible to assign a specific number of years to a generation, because throughout Biblical history, human beings have lived different lengths of time. Adam lived to the ripe old age of nine hundred and thirty. Abraham died rather young, comparatively speaking, at the age of one hundred and seventy-five years. Moses fulfilled his days at the age of one hundred and twenty. King David died even earlier at the age of seventy. On the other end of the spectrum, some people die at birth, or at a young age. In short, in my view, it is foolhardy to try to assign a specific number of years to a Biblical generation.

So exactly what is a generation in the Bible? The best way to answer this question is by examining the original Koine Greek word that is used in said verses. According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the word "generation" is translated from the Koine Greek word "genea", which it defines as follows:

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

1) fathered, birth, nativity

2) that which has been begotten, men of the same stock, a family

2a) the several ranks of natural descent, the successive members of a genealogy

2b) metaph. a group of men very like each other in endowments, pursuits, character

2b1) esp. in a bad sense, a perverse nation

3) the whole multitude of men living at the same time

4) an age (i.e. the time ordinarily occupied by each successive generation), a space of 30 - 33 years

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

Allow me to point out that aside from the transliteration of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words into English, it's important for you to understand that the definitions that are provided in Bible dictionaries and lexicons are subject to the views, opinions, beliefs and prejudices of the author of the work. Thus, the creator of the above entry states that a Biblical generation was about thirty to thirty-three years in length. This obviously conflicts with what these modern preachers are saying.

If we set aside these doctrinal prejudices, and take all of the previous definitions at face value, then we can arrive at the conclusion that a Biblical generation was variable in length, and consisted of the time that passed from the birth of one man, to the birth of his son, and anyone else who was born in that man's family while that man was alive. In other words, anyone who is born in that family while that man is alive, is a part of his generation. In similar fashion, we can say that anyone who is born in that family while the son is alive, is a part of the son's generation. A generation is simply all of the people who are living in that family at any given moment of time. On a larger scale, anyone living in the world during any specific time period, is likewise a part of that historical, global generation.

Based upon the previous definitions and explanations, it's my belief that when Jesus used the word "generation" in Matthew chapter twenty-four, He was not offering us a subtle hint of a specific number of years. He was simply saying that some of the people who would be alive on the Earth at the time that all of those events begin to occur -- in other words, wars, earthquakes, famine, pestilence, invasion of Jerusalem, great tribulation, etc. -- would still be alive, and would see His Return in the clouds of Heaven. Again, it has nothing to do with 1948, or adding a magical number to 1948. That is all manmade doctrinal baloney. Are you convinced of this yet?

But you really have to wonder, why it is, and how it is, that this 1948 idea has become so deeply rooted with some American Christians. Well, as I've already stated, I believe that part of the problem is that too many of them allow themselves to be spoon-fed by their popular radio and television preachers, instead of studying and researching the Bible for themselves. They adopt this attitude that the preacher must know what he is talking about. After all, he went to seminary school, and

he is supposed to be the authority on these subjects. Sadly, as I have said before, that isn't always true. These men are not any more infallible than the Pope is. Let me also remind you that when these fellows graduate from seminary school, they have already been indoctrinated with some very specific theological beliefs from that school; and that is what they begin to preach to their flocks, whether those doctrines are Scripturally-sound or not.

As in other parts of the world, American Christendom consists of a lot of different branches, flavors and colors insofar as doctrines are concerned. Some churches and denominations are very pro-Israel while others are not. The 1948 interpretation of the Parable of the Fig Tree is clearly from the pro-Israel camp, which just so happens to hold a lot of political power and sway within the United States. It is precisely for this reason that president after president has been such a strong advocate and supporter of Israel. The American Conservative Right is to a large degree comprised of older, conservative Christians, and high-profile evangelical preachers in large part control them, influence how they vote, and instruct them doctrinally as well.

So the question is this: Where did this 1948 doctrine first originate? As I first mentioned many years ago, and as far back as 1998, there is in fact a verse which is found in the Bible which has been used by pro-Israel preachers to support their 1948 view. That verse is the following, which is found in the Book of Isaiah:

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things?  
Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall  
a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she  
brought forth her children."  
Isaiah 66:8, KJV

According to those preachers, the previous verse describes, or prophesies, the birth of the nation of Israel in 1948, following the "Diaspora". The Diaspora, or Dispersion, as it is also known, refers to the historical fact that the tribes of Israel were scattered around the world as a result of the various invasions of ancient Israel by foreign armies, such as the Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans. Of course, as I explain in such series as "The Fruits of Disobedience", the invasions were in fact a part of God's chastisements against them, due to their continuous disobedience to His Will. This included deep apostasy, idolatry, child sacrifices and more.



At any rate, the Diaspora is believed by some people -- such as certain Jews, as well as the aforementioned preachers and their followers -- to have come to an end when the Jews from around the world began migrating back to the land of Israel during the twentieth century. Furthermore, this migration is believed to mark the end of "Jacob's Trouble". Jacob was the original name of Israel, before God changed his name in the Book of Genesis. Jacob was the father of the twelve sons who became the first leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel. I discuss the return to Israel, and Israel becoming a nation, in much more detail in the two series I mentioned earlier in this same series. That is to say, "Modern Deception: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?" and "Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation". If you're prepared to accept the truth, I encourage you to read both of them.

Regarding this modern-day return of thousands of Jews to the land of Israel, following is a set of Scriptures which these same people insist is a description and prophecy regarding the Diaspora, or scattering, and the Jews' return to Israel:

"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

So the question we need to ask ourselves is whether or not the previous verses are really describing the modern return of the Jews to Israel. Personally, I have some very serious doubts. To understand why I have these reservations, and don't just hop on the 1948 bandwagon, one must understand

the history and context of these verses. Similar to Daniel, Ezekiel was a Jewish Prophet, and captive, in Babylon. His mission wasn't 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.

In my mind, it makes absolutely no sense that Ezekiel would then proceed to tell them things which would not occur for about another 2,500 years, until the twentieth century. What kind of comfort would that give to them? They would be long gone and dead. On the other hand, if Ezekiel was speaking of a more immediate return -- that is to say, within decades, and not in centuries -- that would certainly offer a lot more hope to the captives in Babylon. Perhaps they might not live long enough to see it, but some of their children would. As I explain in other articles, such as the in-depth series called "Seventy Years Prophecy: What It Means", it turns out that the Jews of Jerusalem were in fact held captive by the Babylonians in Babylon and the surrounding provinces, for an exact period of seventy years, precisely as the Prophet Jeremiah had told them would occur, as we see by the following group verses:

"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 . . . 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 . . . 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."

Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10, 30:3, KJV

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

Written by Bill Kochman

Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 5

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Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

The Jews Remained Enslaved In Babylon For Seventy Full Years  
David Their King, Zerubbabel's Special Calling From The Lord,  
Jehoiachin Imprisoned, Zedekiah Nebuchadnezzar Evilmerodach,  
Impending Judgement Pronounced Against Babylon After Seventy  
Years Of Captivity, God's Vessels Of Wrath And Medo-Persians,  
Time-Specific Fulfilled Prophecies And Not Modern-Day Events,  
Two Key Pillars Of Deception Upon Which Modern Israel Rests,  
Isaiah 66:8, Israel Has Existed For 4,000 Years, Political  
Maneuverings To Create Modern State Of Israel, Jews Lost The  
Kingdom Due To Their Rejection Of Christ, A Link Between The  
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Hollow Temple Worship During Isaiah's Time, Prophesied Birth  
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There Is Neither Jew Nor Gentile In Jesus Christ - We're All  
One, Summary Of This Series' Primary Points, Personal Message  
To The Futurists, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part four, as I just said,  
in fulfillment of the prophecy which had been given to the

Prophet Jeremiah, the Jewish captives were in fact kept enslaved in Babylon for a precise period of seventy years. Thus, within Christian circles, we refer to this historical Jewish period as the "Seventy Years of Captivity". We know from history, that following the invasions by the forces of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, and the fulfillment of the "Seventy Years of Captivity", the Jews were indeed allowed to return to Israel by Cyrus the Great, considered by many to be the greatest king of the Medo-Persian Empire. Again, this topic is discussed in considerable detail in my series called "Seventy Weeks Prophecy: What It Means".

In Jeremiah chapter thirty, a few verses after the ones I shared with you previously at the end of part four, we find some additional verses which speak of the "time of Jacob's trouble", and the eventual return of the Jews to Israel. As with the previous verses, while we can try to apply them to our current time and the modern return of the Jews to Israel, in my view, it is clear that they're really referring to the exodus from Babylon, which was initiated by Cyrus the Great. It simply does not make any sense to me that the Lord would speak to the Jerusalemites regarding their fast-approaching punishment, tell them that they will be liberated after the Seventy Years of Captivity have been completed, and then say that their return to Israel isn't going to occur for another 2,500 years. Consider the following verses:

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's 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: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."

Jeremiah 30:7-11, KJV

Regarding the mention of the Jewish returnees serving "David their king", I am not exactly certain what that means. It is

possibly a prophetic look into the future, when Jesus would fulfill His ministry in Israel. You may recall that in the Gospels, the people did refer to Jesus as the son of David. However, during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, other than during the last week of His life, nobody ever referred to Him as a king. Even when they did so, it was mockingly or in a questioning manner. Also, nobody really treated Jesus as a king, or served Him as king, at that time either.

One other remote possibility is that "David their king" is a veiled reference to Zerubbabel, who was the son of Pedaiah, and the grandson of Jeconiah. Zerubbabel was born in Babylon. As I note in the aforementioned series, Jeconiah -- who was also known as Jehoiachin -- was removed from being the king of Judah after only a few months, and taken to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar, along with the rest of the royal family, servants, and thousands of others. King Jehoiachin would be eventually liberated from prison thirty-seven years later by Babylonian king, Evilmerodach, who was one of the final four Babylonian kings before the Medes and the Persians overtook the empire. Jehoiachin was replaced by proud king Zedekiah. However, after three years, Zedekiah rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar. Thus, it was during Zedekiah's reign that Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

But my point is this: Zerubbabel was thus royal seed, and a direct descendant of Jehoiachin, which also made him a direct ancestor of Jesus Christ. You will find him mentioned in the genealogies in the Gospels. If you take the time to read the series "Seventy Weeks Prophecy: What It Means", you will see that Zerubbabel had a very special calling from the Lord. He in fact oversaw the construction of the Second Temple. One other point worth mentioning is the fact that in the Bible, oft times when you see a particular name mentioned, it does not necessarily mean that particular person. It is simply a way that is used in the Scriptures to address descendants of someone. If you are not aware of this point, genealogies and such in the Bible can be a bit confusing.

There is another clear hint in the previous sets of verses I shared with you in part four which further supports my belief that these Scriptures are really prophesying the Jews' return to Israel hundreds of years BEFORE the birth of Christ and NOT a modern twentieth century return to Israel, as certain Israel-loving American preachers, as well as some Jews, are trying to convince us. Please notice that in the prophecy, the Lord states the following through the Prophet Ezekiel:

". . . but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment."

In similar fashion, the Prophet Jeremiah -- who began his preaching in Israel decades before Ezekiel began preaching as a captive in Babylon -- likewise clearly stated this in his prophecies:

". . . 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."

This same warning of impending judgement is issued to the Babylonians in other places, and in other prophetic books as well. It is a proven historical fact that this is precisely what happened. As I explain in other articles, such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", time and time again, God would use the heathen nations to punish the Israelites. He would use these nations as His "vessels of wrath" against the Jews. But then He would turn around and judge those nations for their own wickedness. The reason why the "Seventy Years of Captivity" came to an end, is because the Babylonians were defeated by the Medes and the Persians, who initially formed the dual empire of Medo-Persia. The Persians are still with us today. As I noted earlier, they are the Iranians. It is also believed by some people that the Kurds are descendants of the Medes. The Babylonians, Medes and Persians are amply discussed in "Seventy Weeks Prophecy: What It Means".

But what I hope you can see here, is that these prophecies, which, according to some people, are supposedly talking about the Jews returning to Israel in our modern day, in order to found the modern nation of Israel in 1948, are in fact about historical events which actually occurred over two thousand years ago. Please notice that they very specifically mention the fate of Babylon. They were very time-specific prophecies, which cannot possibly be applied to our modern times. We are very specifically told that when the Seven Years of Captivity ended, and the Jews returned to Israel, God would punish the Babylonians. Well, that's exactly what happened. These events are intrinsically tied together, and they occurred thousands of years ago. You need to believe and understand this if you don't want to be deceived.

You see, the perpetrators of this deception have to convince you that the return of the Jews to Israel today is supported by the Scriptures. Why so? Because if they don't, then it is obvious that the rest of the deception will just fall apart. In other words, if the people who promote the false doctrine have purposely -- or perhaps ignorantly -- misinterpreted the previous verses, then it begs a big question: What else have they been teaching that is wrong?

My friends, seriously think about this for a moment. If the modern return of the Jews to Israel doesn't fulfill prophecy, well then what about Israel being declared a nation in 1948? What about all of the other things the Israelis have done in order to claim modern Israel as their own? What about the decades-old fight against the Palestinians? What about the terrible devastation in Gaza? What about the Palestinians' right of return? What about a two-state solution? So you see, everything is riding on the central beliefs that declaring Israel a nation on May 14, 1948 was fulfilling prophecy. In the same fashion, the Jews returning to Israel in our modern day is also fulfilling Bible prophecy. That is why they must maintain these two deceptions at all cost. They are the two key pillars upon which the modern state of Israel rests.

To continue then, the following verse is found in the Book of Isaiah. As some of my readers will probably already know, this particular verse has been widely used by a lot of the pro-Israel American preachers, and Zionist Jews themselves, to try to justify and legitimize the political "creation" of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, and declared on that same day by David ben-Gurion:

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things?  
Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall  
a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she  
brought forth her children."  
Isaiah 66:8, KJV

We have already seen that the prophecies which have been used to explain the return of the Jews to the land of Israel since the twentieth century, have, in my view, been grossly misinterpreted. Is it possible that the meaning of the above verse has also been distorted in order to support a wayward doctrine? Again, I suspect that it has.

To begin, I do not believe that the nation of Israel can be born in our modern times, "in one day", or "at once", due to

the fact that, according to the Biblical record, Israel has in fact existed for over four thousand years. As I explained before, it began with the birth of Jacob and his twelve sons. While it's true that Israel has been repeatedly attacked and dominated many times during this lengthy period of time, and even temporarily lost its national identity at times, such as when the Roman Empire renamed it Palestine, nevertheless, the Jewish nation, whether scattered, or bound together into one cohesive form, has existed; and I am sure that many Jews will know exactly what I mean by this. Nationhood isn't just a matter of being at one physical place at the same time. It is also a matter of personal identity, tradition and belief.

Furthermore, in the real sense of the word, the nation state that we know as Israel today did NOT become a nation "in one day", or even "at once", as the prophecy states. It may have been declared a nation to the world on a particular day, just as the foreign colonial powers created and carved out quite a few nations in decades past; particularly in the Middle East and Asia, with just the stroke of their pen; but in reality, the 1948 announcement by the World Jewish Congress was the result of political maneuverings which had been going on for literally decades. In short, this event did not occur "in one day", or "at once"; therefore, I am not fully convinced that it really meets the requirements of the prophecy. Isaiah's prophecy is describing something truly unique which creates astonishment for the observer of the event.

Concerning the events of 1948, I again suggest that you read the "The Seven Heads" series, and/or conduct online research of your own regarding the British Mandate, Europe's attitude toward the Jews during that time period, as well as the 1917 Balfour Declaration. You'll learn that the Europeans wanted the Jews to leave Europe; and thus, they had to politically create a place for them to go. The atrocities committed by Hitler only strengthened the resolve of the European powers to achieve their goal, and they may have acted partially out of guilt. But the point I wish to emphasize here is that the process to carve out a home for the Jews did not occur "in one day", or "at once"; it took decades to complete; and to my knowledge, such a slow development would not result in surprise or astonishment, as the prophecy seems to indicate. European politicians were fully aware of what was happening, as were the other major world powers of the day.

Another reason why I have difficulty accepting the argument that the verse in Isaiah is a prophecy regarding the "birth"



of Israel in May of 1948, is because, as I explained in part three, Jesus very clearly stated that the Jews had forfeited their rights to the Kingdom, due to their unbelief. In fact, you may recall that the Lord very specifically said that it would be given to ANOTHER nation; and that is the key which will help us to unlock this mystery. The Lord said:

". . . Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

Matthew 21:42-44, KJV

So here we have Jesus clearly stating that another nation is going to be given the Kingdom; and we also have Isaiah saying that a nation will be born "in a day", and "at once". He also conveys the idea that the birth of this nation will come as a surprise. Thus he writes "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things?". This attitude cannot possibly refer to the 1948 declaration; because as we have already seen, it was no mystery that the Europeans had been working on plans to create a homeland for the Jews for decades. Is it possible that what Isaiah is saying, and what Jesus is saying, are in some way related. I suspect as much. So who is this nation?

To better understand what Isaiah is talking about, and to put the verse in its proper context, all we have to do is to read some of the previous verses in that chapter. Once we do that, we discover that just as God was sick and tired of the Jews, and their hypocritical, dead temple worship during the First Century, (as we discussed earlier), He was equally tired of the Jews and their hollow temple worship during Isaiah's time as well. This was some one hundred and fifty years before the Babylonian invasions, and even before the Assyrian invasions. Isaiah was in fact sent to warn the Israelites of the coming chastisement by the hand of the Assyrians. At any rate, the beginning of the chapter clearly reveals God's attitude:

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor

and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. 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 66:1-4, KJV

So, as you can plainly see, the Lord was utterly fed up with their false spirituality, and even with their temple, which King Solomon had built centuries earlier. The Jews had become totally absorbed in their traditions. They were going through the motion of being holy and righteous, but they had lost the Spirit. How much this sounds like so many modern churches in America. As a result, God decided to do something new. After expressing His anger with the Jews, in the seventh and eighth verses He tells us exactly what He is going to do about it:

"Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Isaiah 66:7-8, KJV

In these verses, "Zion" refers to Jerusalem, or in a larger sense, to Israel as a whole. If we just read verse eight by itself, we can be tricked into believing that it is talking about Israel becoming a nation on May 14, 1948; which is what some of these preachers, (and certain Jews), want us to see. However, if we take the time to read verses seven and eight together, as we really should, suddenly, the verses takes on an entirely new, and wonderful, meaning.

In short, the Lord seems to be saying that because the Jews have become so sidetracked in a spiritual sense, and are only interested in their temple worship and their vain traditions, (just as Jesus would tell them centuries later), He is going to do something new. We are informed that a man child will be born; in other words, a son. Isaiah appears to be describing a very unique, miraculous birth. Notice that he says that the child will be born before the woman travails, and before her

pain comes. In other words, it sounds as if this woman will give birth without experiencing labor pains. Are you starting to grasp what is actually being said here? Do you understand what this prophecy is really all about? It is much more than the concocted "birth" of Israel in 1948.

In verse eight, it is translated as "for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Actually, in my view, this is an important mistranslation; because the word "children" is translated from the Hebrew word "ben". As the Hebrew lexicon clearly proves, "ben" shouldn't be translated as "children"; it should be translated as "son":

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

ben bane

- 1) son, grandson, child, member of a group
  - 1a) son, male child
  - 1b) grandson
  - 1c) children (pl. - male and female)
  - 1d) youth, young men (pl.)
  - 1e) young (of animals)
  - 1f) sons (as characterisation, i.e. sons of injustice [for un- righteous men] or sons of God [for angels])
  - 1g) people (of a nation) (pl.)
  - 1h) of lifeless things, i.e. sparks, stars, arrows (fig.)
  - 1i) a member of a guild, order, class

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

As you can plainly see, "son", or "male child", is clearly the primary meaning of the Hebrew word "ben"; thus, those two verses together should be read as:

"Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her [son]."

Isaiah 66:7-8, KJV

As soon as I read those two verses together, my eyes nearly popped out of my head, because I was immediately reminded of very similar phraseology in the Book of Revelation. Consider the following verses:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

Revelation 12:1-5, KJV

As I have explained before, the above Scriptures are widely believed to be discussing Jesus' birth in Israel, as well as His subsequent Ascension to Heaven following His Crucifixion and Resurrection from the dead. Notice how the woman wears a crown of twelve stars. This may represent the Twelve Tribes of Israel, or perhaps the Twelve Apostles, who represent the leadership of the New Nation that was founded upon Christ's blood. Please notice the similarities between the verses in Isaiah, and these verses in the Book of Revelation. In both instances, we have Jerusalem or Israel being described as a woman in travail; that is, in labor, who then brings forth a son. The verses in Isaiah, when read together, make it clear in my mind, that this son is directly linked to the birth of the prophesied nation. In fact, he seems to be responsible for its very birth.

It should be clear to you by now that I'm not referring to a physically-recognized, political nation with earthly borders like Israel, but rather to a global, spiritual, eternal one, that is comprised of all Christian believers everywhere, and for all time.

Based upon these verses, and others I will be sharing with you momentarily, I am convinced that this is what Jesus was talking about when He told the Jewish spiritual leaders that the Kingdom would be taken from them, and given to another nation. As we saw earlier, He very clearly told them that the cornerstone which they had rejected, (meaning Himself), would become the foundation stone for His new nation; which as we now know, would be born once He died and rose from the dead.

I am convinced that this is the man child, or son, as well as the nation which would be born "at once", or "in a day", just as Isaiah had prophesied. This nation perfectly meets all of the requirements set by Isaiah's prophecy, because it had in fact never existed before, unlike the nation of Israel which had already existed for several thousand years.

The reason why I'm so convinced that this nation didn't exist prior to Christ's Sacrifice and Resurrection, is because the Bible very plainly tells us, as I have explained before, that Jesus Christ is the very first member of this new spiritual nation, and it couldn't possibly have existed until Jesus did what He did for us. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is the first begotten of the dead, the firstborn and the firstfruits of the Resurrection, as we see here:

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body . . . For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:22-23, 29, KJV

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

1 Corinthians 15:19-23, KJV

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:12-15, 18, KJV

"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"

Hebrews 12:23, KJV

"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

James 1:18, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

Revelation 14:4, KJV

Jesus also made it very plain in His conversation with the Pharisee Nicodemus, that in order to become members of this new spiritual nation, we must be born of water, (meaning a physical birth in the womb, as Nicodemus understood), and of the Spirit, through our faith in Christ. Consider the Lord's words to Nicodemus:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

John 3:3-8, KJV

There is further proof that the nation of which both Isaiah and Jesus spoke is really the spiritual nation of worldwide believers in Jesus Christ. Please consider what the Apostle Peter wrote to the First Century Christian brethren. Peter

makes it very plain that Jesus Christ, (the Cornerstone who was rejected by the Jewish Elders, as per the Old Testament prophecies), is the founder of our spiritual temple. He also explains that not only are we symbolic living stones in the Lord's Temple, but we are also a Holy Nation. Peter wrote:

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

1 Peter 2:4-10, KJV

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

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Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 6

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Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

Jesus Is The Firstfruits Of The Resurrection, Nicodemus And The Necessity Of Spiritual Rebirth, Spiritual Temple And A Holy Nation, Jesus Christ Is The Rejected Cornerstone, Chosen Generation And Royal Priesthood, Tribulation Saints, Nations

Of Them Which Are Saved: We Cannot All Be Kings And Priests, Kingdom Passed From Unbelieving Jews To Peter And The First Century Church, RCC Pope Doctrine, Jesus Is The One True Rock And Not Peter, Jesus Is Our Advocate High Priest Intercessor, Birth Of The New Nation, Christ's Resurrection, An Earthquake And A Centurion's Remark, Surprise And Astonishment: Isaiah's Prophecy Was Fulfilled, Spiritual Christian Nation Born "In One Day" And "At Once", God Will Complete The Full Number Of Saved And Resurrected Saints, Isaiah 66:8 Is A Prophecy About A Nation Of Gentile Believers, Goyim And Infidels, In His Name Shall The Gentiles Trust, Apostle Paul Was The Apostle To The Gentiles, The Father Sent Jesus To Be A Light Of The Gentiles

Continuing our discussion from part five, the reason why I'm so convinced that this nation didn't exist prior to Christ's Sacrifice and Resurrection, is because the Bible very plainly informs us, as I have explained before, that Jesus Christ is the very first member of this new spiritual nation. It could not possibly have existed until Jesus did what He did for us. The Holy Scriptures tell us that Jesus is the first begotten of the dead. He is the firstborn, and the firstfruits of the Resurrection, as we see by the following group of verses:

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body . . . For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

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"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

1 Corinthians 15:19-23, KJV

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who



hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

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"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"

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"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

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"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

Revelation 14:4, KJV

Jesus also made it very plain in His conversation with the Pharisee Nicodemus, that in order to become members of this new spiritual nation, we must be born of water -- meaning a physical birth in the womb, as Nicodemus already understood -- and of the Spirit, through faith in Jesus Christ. While Nicodemus understood the first part of what Jesus had said, where he became confused and fell into error was in thinking that Jesus was saying that he somehow had to do it again. He did not understand the second half of the Lord's words, or the necessity of being born again in a purely spiritual sense. Consider the Lord's words to Nicodemus:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily,

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

John 3:3-8, KJV

There is additional proof that the new nation of which both the Prophet Isaiah and Jesus spoke is actually the spiritual nation of worldwide believers in Jesus Christ. Now carefully consider what the Apostle Peter wrote to the First Century Christian brethren. Peter makes it rather plain that Jesus Christ is the rejected Cornerstone. He is the "head of the corner". He is "a living stone". He is likewise "a stone of stumbling". He's also "a rock of offense". Jesus Christ is the very foundation of our spiritual temple. Peter likewise explains that not only are we symbolic living stones in the Lord's new temple, but we are likewise members of His holy nation. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

1 Peter 2:4-10, KJV

Before continuing, I want to point out something important to you. While I am firmly convinced that we are members of God's new nation which was born through Jesus Christ, at the same time, I am NOT convinced that we are also a part of the "royal

priesthood" and the "chosen generation" of which Apostle Peter spoke. Are you shocked? You shouldn't be if you really stop to think about it. If a chosen generation is chosen, then there must be something special and unique about it which in some way sets it apart from all other generations. Well, in this case, there most certainly is.

You see, not only were the First Century Christians the very first members of God's new nation, but they also possess a particular badge of honor which none of us today possess. Do you know what that is? They went through something which none of us have had to endure. They went through the fires of the Great Tribulation. They endured mockery, persecution of all sorts, and in many cases even death in the most vile of ways. They proved themselves worthy of leadership responsibilities, because they were all willing to pay the price, and sacrifice everything for God's holy Kingdom, even unto death, precisely as we read in the Book of Revelation. Consider these sample verses which describe the "Tribulation Saints":

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of THEM THAT WERE SLAIN FOR THE WORD OF GOD, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, UNTIL THEIR FELLOWSERVANTS ALSO AND THEIR BRETHREN, THAT SHOULD BE KILLED AS THEY WERE, SHOULD BE FULFILLED."

Revelation 6:9-11, KJV

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands . . . And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, THESE ARE THEY WHICH CAME OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:9, 13-14, KJV

It is for that reason that I embrace the view that the reason why Peter calls them a chosen generation is because they were specifically chosen for leadership roles in God's Kingdom on

Earth. In the Book of Revelation, in the letters to the seven churches, it speaks about being made pillars in the temple of God. I believe that is talking about leadership structure in God's Kingdom. Not everyone is a pillar. In the same fashion, when the Apostle Peter refers to them as "a royal priesthood", I believe that it is for the very same reason. In other words, it was that first generation of born again Believers who were purged by the fires of great tribulation, who became the kings and priests of which the New Testament speaks.

My friends, I do not believe that those two terms -- "chosen generation" and "royal priesthood" -- apply to Christians in our present day. Please think about this. We are informed in the Book of Revelation that only the nations of those who are saved are allowed to enter the Heavenly City. That is to say, New Jerusalem. Consider the following verse as proof:

"And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it."  
Revelation 21:24, KJV

Please notice that by the time we read that verse in the Book of Revelation, Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, and all wicked and incorrigible nonbelievers have been cast into the Lake of Fire. The new heavens and the new Earth have already been created, and the Heavenly City has come down to the new Earth. Thus, everyone on the planet is a part of the saved nations. There are no unsaved people left. So please tell me something. If we are ALL kings and priests as so many of us have been led to believe by misguided Bible teachers, then pray tell, who exactly are we ruling over? Ourselves? Each other? So, you see, there has to be regular, saved citizens in God's Kingdom too. I believe that is you and me. We can't all be leaders. And quite frankly, I don't want to be. In fact, I will be quite happy with this job, as long as I get in Heaven's doors:

"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."  
Psalm 84:10, KJV

As we have already seen, Jesus clearly stated that the Kingdom would be taken from the unbelieving Jews who had rejected Him, and would be given to another more worthy nation. That is to say, to a nation of Believers in Christ Jesus, who truly do

demonstrate the fruits of repentance. Is there any additional Scriptural evidence which mentions this transfer of power and spiritual anointing and authority? Actually, there certainly is, and it is directly tied to the previous verses written by Peter. The reason why Peter could write with such authority, is because Jesus Himself gave Peter this authority, as we can determine by the following group of verses which are found in the Gospel of Matthew:

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:16-19, KJV

In spite of his own shortcomings -- his cowardice, and his own betrayal of Christ, for example -- Peter firmly believed that Jesus was the long-prophesied Messiah, the Christ, and Jesus obviously recognized this quality in Peter. Thus, the Lord chose Peter to lead the followers of the fledging First Century Church, once He had returned to His Father in Heaven. However, please realize that while the Lord gave Peter this special blessing, this is a far cry from the Roman Catholic doctrine which promotes the false belief that Peter was the first Bishop of Rome, and thus, the first Pope. As you may know, the Roman Catholic Church uses this false doctrine to try to validate their supposed spiritual superiority, and authority, over other Christian churches.

As I have pointed out before, while Jesus gave Peter certain authority, the Gospels, as well as the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, seem to indicate that Peter may not have fully embraced it. These Books suggest that leadership within the First Century Church was shared by Peter, James and John, and later by Paul as well. This structure would be in agreement with the Scriptural admonition which teaches us that in the multiple of counselors there is safety. It is also important to realize that in the previous verses, Jesus is referring to Himself when He says to Peter "upon this rock I will build my church". I do not share the opinion that the Lord is calling Peter the rock, even though Jesus did name him Cephas, which

means "a rock". Peter himself seems to confirm that Jesus was actually referring to Himself as the Rock in the verses which I shared with you just a moment ago where Peter calls Jesus the Cornerstone. The Apostle Paul also wrote the following:

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

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

So while Peter may have been nicknamed Cephas by Jesus, you need to understand that the Lord is the only true Rock that there is. He is not only the symbolic Cornerstone of God's spiritual temple, but He is also the High Priest who serves in it as our Advocate and Intercessor before the Father as well. So the Lord basically wears multiple hats as they say. By the way, the names Peter and Cephas mean the same thing in both Aramaic and Greek. That is to say, a stone or rock.

But the main point that I wish for you to grasp, is that the unbelieving Jews did in fact lose the Kingdom, precisely as Jesus stated that they would. Furthermore, this Kingdom was given to a new spiritual nation, which is comprised of born again Believers in Jesus Christ. As we learned earlier, the birth of this new nation is directly linked to the birth of the man child, Jesus Christ Himself, precisely as Isaiah had prophesied in the two Scriptures we examined earlier. You may recall that Isaiah seems to convey the idea that the birth of this new nation would be accompanied by a certain degree of surprise and astonishment. It would be something unique and out of the ordinary. Well, one rising from the dead and then becoming the Founder of a new spiritual nation is certainly extraordinary and surprising, wouldn't you agree?

Exactly when this new nation was born is a matter of personal conjecture. Whether we establish it as the moment that Jesus died on the Cross, or three days later when He rose from the dead, one thing is absolutely certain: If we stop to examine the events which transpired during that entire period, and the things that were said by some of the participants, it is obvious that there was plenty of surprise, astonishment, and fear going around. Consider the following verses that we find in Matthew chapter twenty-seven:

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did

quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

Matthew 27:50-54, KJV

One problem with reading the Bible, is that sometimes it can be difficult to recognize when time gaps exist between some of the events. At first glance, one might erroneously assume that the events described in the previous verses all occurred shortly after Jesus died on the Cross. However, it seems to me that a careful reading of the above verses indicates that Matthew is describing things which occurred, not right after Jesus died on the Cross, but rather three days later when He miraculously rose from the dead.

In other words, contrary to what we see in certain Hollywood movies, the centurion did not say "Truly this was the Son of God" as he gazed upon Jesus dying on the Cross. The soldiers were undoubtedly desensitized, having already witnessed many such crucifixions of criminals. Jesus' Crucifixion was just another one and a part of their job. Jesus did nothing while hanging on the Cross, which would give the centurion reason to make such a remark. However, the remark makes more sense if we realize that it was said three days later when a great earthquake occurred, and Jesus rose from the dead. When it states that they were "watching Jesus", it doesn't mean that they were watching Him die on the Cross. It means that they were watching His grave, as they had been instructed to do by the unbelieving Jewish religious elders, who feared that the Lord might actually rise from the dead, as we see here:

"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch."

Matthew 27:62-66, KJV

So consider the facts which surrounded the birth of this new nation. We have a great earthquake which must have surprised and unsettled a lot of people, and caused them to fear. We can also easily imagine the shock and horror that the Jewish religious leaders must have felt after having gone through a great earthquake, and then discovering that the temple veil had been fully ripped from top to bottom, possibly revealing the Holy of Holies, which was the holiest part of the temple, where the Ark of the Covenant had been formerly placed. Maybe they realized that it was a sign from God, that their days as the ruling religious elders of Israel were numbered. As we saw in part three, the high priest Caiaphas certainly seemed aware of the danger. And, now, in the words of the Patriarch Job, what Caiaphas had greatly feared had in one single day, and quite suddenly, come upon them. Consider what Job said:

"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me."

Job 3:25, KJV

Then we have these hardened -- presumably Roman -- soldiers witnessing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Matthew informs us that "they feared greatly" having been observers of these events. As if the Lord's own Resurrection was not enough, it is not difficult to imagine the astonishment, shock and fear which must have permeated and engulfed all of Jerusalem, as all of a sudden and without warning, her inhabitants found themselves being visited by many of the Old Testament Saints. In light of these events, and the people's reactions to them, it makes perfect sense that God would inspire Isaiah to write "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things?". By comparison, in my opinion, the political events that occurred in 1948 don't even come close in magnitude, and certainly do not warrant this kind of a statement from the Prophet Isaiah.

Clearly then, the prophesied birth of this new nation was fulfilled to the letter. It was fulfilled "in one day", and "at once", precisely at the moment that Jesus rose from the dead, followed by all of the other Old Testament Saints. It resulted in such shock and awe as this world has never seen before, and won't see again. As we saw earlier, Jesus became the first begotten of the dead, and the Founder of our New Nation, as described by Peter. As I said earlier, Jesus was the Firstborn, and the Firstfruits of the Resurrection, and all of the Old Testament Saints who followed Him out of the grave were the very first inhabitants of this New Nation. We



also know that some day, we will follow them into Glory. For as we are told at the end of chapter eleven of the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Hebrews 11:40, KJV

Please note that in the previous verse, that word "perfect" does not mean what some of you may think it means. You see, according to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the original Koine Greek word which is used in that verse is "teleioo". In our modern English, we understand the word "perfect" to mean something that is without flaw, error or blemish. But one of the primary meanings of this Koine Greek word is to complete something, or to finish something. Thus, what the verse is actually saying is that the number of Saints will not be complete, until everyone who has been ordained by God, and predestinated to Salvation, is indeed saved and resurrected to Eternal Life. In short, God's eternal Plan of Redemption extends from the first page of Genesis, to the final page of the Book of Revelation. Thus, in God's perfect time, we too shall partake of these wonders, and there is absolutely nothing which can hinder God's plans.

If you are not yet fully convinced of everything I have been sharing with you in this series, allow me to share one final profound truth with you. While some American preachers, as well as some Jews, have tried to convince the world that the Prophet Isaiah was prophesying the birth of the modern state of Israel in 1948, there is strong evidence which suggests to me that Isaiah was not only talking about the birth of a spiritual nation, but also that this new spiritual nation would in large part be comprised of Gentile believers. Are you surprised? Allow me to explain.

In the Scriptures from Isaiah that we examined earlier, the word "nation" is translated from the Hebrew word "goy". This word, and its plural form, "goyim", almost always refers to people of non-Hebrew -- or non-Jewish -- stock. In short, it means Gentiles, or heathen. Just as many Muslims view all non-Muslims as "infidels", Orthodox Jews also view non-Jews in a somewhat similar fashion. That is to say, as heathen. It may surprise some of you to know that the term "goy" is often used by such Jews in a disrespectful and derogatory manner. Many Gentiles simply are not aware of this fact.

So is there more Biblical evidence to support my contention that Isaiah was prophesying about the birth of a spiritual nation of Gentile believers in Christ, and not really about the birth of the modern Jewish nation of Israel in 1948? Yes, there most certainly is, I am happy to say. In the twelfth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, after watching Jesus heal a man with a crippled hand on the sabbath day, the Jewish religious leaders -- that is to say, the Pharisees -- took counsel in order to determine how to destroy Jesus. Yet in spite of their wicked intentions, the Lord kept on healing people anyway. Then, a few verses later, Matthew in fact quotes from the Prophet Isaiah when he writes the following. Please notice carefully that Isaiah is very clearly stating that Jesus would minister to the Gentiles, and NOT just to the Jews. Furthermore, Isaiah concludes with "And in his name shall the Gentiles trust":

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."

Matthew 12:17-21, KJV

This is such a very important point -- that is, that the Jews would lose the Kingdom, and that Jesus would primarily populate His new spiritual nation with Gentile believers -- that the Apostle Paul likewise mentions this same prophecy in his Epistle to the brethren at Rome. Please take note of how Paul informs them that he has become the Apostle to the Gentiles:

"And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness,

filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

Romans 15:9-16, KJV

In the previous sets of verses from the Gospel of Matthew and the Epistle to the Romans, the word "Gentiles" is translated from the Koine Greek word "ethnos". This word is basically used in the same way that "goy" is used in the Old Testament to refer to people of non-Hebrew stock. In fact, in Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, it plainly states "Paul uses the term for Gentile Christians". In other words, as opposed to Jewish Christians, such as the original Twelve Apostles, and other early Jewish Christians who helped to jump start the First Century Church.

The Prophet Isaiah was obviously in tune to the fact that God had plans to raise up a new spiritual nation. Isaiah realized that Jesus would be the Founder of this New Nation, and that this New Nation would in large part be comprised of Gentiles who had embraced Christ. Further evidence that this is so can be clearly seen in the following verses, where God the Father is laying out His plans for Jesus, His Son:

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

Isaiah 42:5-7, KJV

If you're a sharp student of God's Word, you may realize that this is precisely the prophecy that Jesus Himself read in the synagogue at Nazareth, right before the Jews tried to throw Him over a cliff, as we discussed in part three of this same series. Here again are those verses for your consideration:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed

me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."  
Luke 4:18-21, KJV

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

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Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment! : Part 7

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Published On : Nov. 5, 2007

Last Updated : Jul. 8, 2025

Isaiah 66:8 - A Prophecy About A Nation Of Gentile Believers, Goyim And Infidels, "In His Name Shall The Gentiles Trust", Apostle To The Gentiles, Light Of The Gentiles, Peter Writes To Gentile Believers, God Instructs Peter To Accept Gentiles, Paul Writes To Gentiles - Works Circumcision Uncircumcision, There Is Neither Jew Nor Gentile In Jesus Christ - We're All One, Summary Of This Series' Primary Points, Closing Remarks

Continuing our discussion from part six, let me emphasize again that the reason why God has taken this particular course of action, is because the majority of Jews have stubbornly refused to acknowledge Jesus Christ as God's chosen manner of Salvation, and their attitude hasn't changed in the last two thousand years. Being a well-versed Pharisee, taught by Gamaliel, Paul was obviously quite familiar with all of Isaiah's prophecies regarding the coming Messiah, and how the Gentiles would be won to the Kingdom of God. Thus, it is no surprise that when Paul and Barnabas are again rejected

by the antichrist Jews in Antioch, Paul simply turns his back on them, embraces the Gentiles, and again appears to make an indirect reference to the prophecies of Isaiah, as we see in these verses:

"And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium."

Acts 13:44-51, KJV

As I explain in other articles, the above scene is typical of the reaction that Paul and his companions received when they tried to share the Christian Gospel with their fellow Jews; and so again, precisely as Jesus prophesied, this is why God chose to take the Kingdom from them, and give it to another nation; a nation of Gentile believers founded upon the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Earlier, we discussed how the Apostle Peter told the brethren that in God's eyes, they were "an holy nation". Some people may be tempted to erroneously argue that being as Peter was a Jew himself, his words were addressed to his Jewish brethren, and that this "holy nation" of which he spoke was the Jewish nation. However, this is most definitely not the case. As we saw with the previous sets of verses, the Greek word that is used in Peter's Epistle is again "ethnos". Clearly then, this "holy nation" is comprised of Gentile believers. Perhaps you may recall how God very pointedly showed Peter that he must extend the Gift of Salvation to the Gentile world. In the Book of Acts, we find these particular incidents:

"On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven."

Acts 10:9-16, KJV

"And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven. And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me. And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and

glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

Acts 11:2-18, KJV

Let us return to my earlier comments regarding the Apostle Peter's letter. If it were true that these people to whom Peter was writing were Jews, I do not believe that it would make any sense that in verse ten, he would write to them, "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy"; because the Jews have always considered themselves to be the people of God, even to this very day. In fact, they've also craftily convinced a large part of modern Christendom, that they are still the Chosen People, in spite of the fact that most of them have rejected Christ for the past two thousand years. On the other hand, if the Apostle Peter was in fact writing to Gentile brethren, as I am convinced that he was, then it makes perfect sense that he would write in this manner.

To further validate this point, consider that the Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Ephesians, made the exact same point regarding how the Gentiles had become the people of God through their faith in Jesus Christ. Please carefully note how Paul too was addressing the Gentile Christians in Ephesus, and not his own Jewish brethren:

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ

himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles . . ."

Ephesians 2:11-3:1, KJV

To add some clarity to the previous verses, when Paul writes "the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands", he's referring to the Jews who have been circumcised as a matter of obeying the Mosaic Law. In fact, the Book of Acts informs us that at first, some of the Jewish Christians also believed that the Gentiles had to be circumcised in order to really be saved; but Paul strongly resisted this requirement. That's why only two verses earlier he wrote:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

As you may already know, it is those same two verses that got Martin Luther in trouble with the Roman Catholic hierarchy of his day. It seems clear that the "works" that Paul is talking about, is the act of being circumcised. That explains why he immediately begins discussing circumcision in the verses that immediately follow those two. He wants to assure the Gentile Christians that it isn't necessary to be circumcised in order to be saved. All that matters is faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Works of the flesh, such as circumcision, do not win us points with God, and we have no room to boast of our own supposed righteousness. As Paul also later wrote:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

With that last point, we have now covered a lot of territory. I have strived to present solid Scriptural evidence to prove to you, that certain things you may have learned from some of the popular pastors and preachers, or perhaps even from the Jews themselves, are not necessarily true, and in fact, may be a deliberate deception, in order to convince you that it is your unfailing duty and responsibility as a Christian to support the nation of Israel.



Let's recap some of the key points that we have discussed in this series. First, if you accept my arguments, there is no scriptural evidence to suggest that Jesus wanted us to think that the Parable of the Fig Tree was a cryptic message that, rightfully interpreted, was a reference to Israel becoming a nation in 1948. As far as I can tell, this is a fabrication of certain misguided American preachers and Bible teachers, who believe that it is our duty to support Israel.

Second, there is likewise no Scriptural evidence that we are supposed to interpret a Biblical generation as being a period of exactly fifty-two years. This again was a number dreamed up by American Christians who apparently thought that finding an average number of years would solve their problem for them and convince their followers that Jesus would be returning in the year 2,000.

Third, nowhere does the Bible exhort us to add 1948 and 52, so that we can determine that Jesus would return in the year 2,000. Obviously, this was a major error on the part of those same misguided American preachers, because Jesus certainly did not return in the year 2,000. Have you seen Him?

Fourth, there is convincing evidence in both the Old and New Testaments, which strongly suggests that Isaiah's prophecy was not about the birth of the nation of Israel in 1948, but rather, about Jesus' birth, and the new spiritual nation of believers which resulted from His Crucifixion on the Cross, and His subsequent Resurrection from the dead, almost two thousand years ago. This nation appears to have been born at the moment of Christ's Resurrection, and Jesus was in fact the Firstfruits, or firstborn, of this nation.

Allow me to add some clarification to that last point. While in my view the Old Testament Scriptures seem to be prophesying the birth of a new spiritual nation founded upon Jesus' Blood, and comprised mainly of Gentile believers, it is also important to realize, as we saw just a moment ago, that once a person does come to Christ, be they Jew or Gentile, their ethnicity is no longer any of importance. As Paul candidly wrote:

"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

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

Colossians 3:11, KJV

Fifth, contrary to the claims of the "at any moment" people, who expect Jesus to appear any day now without warning, the Bible seems to indicate that certain key Endtime political and religious events must occur, before the Lord will return. Until all of these events do occur, as prophesied, it is my personal belief, based upon my current understanding of the Scriptures, that we still have at least seven years before Jesus will return. The day may indeed arrive when we will be able to anticipate Jesus' Arrival "at any moment", but in my view, that day has not arrived yet. As such, it is harmful to our faith to promote the "at any moment" doctrine, as a number of preachers have done. Not only does it give people false hope, but it makes us look like idiots, and may even drive people away from our Christian faith when these false predictions fail to materialize.

Furthermore, contrary to the misguided views of a few, there is absolutely nothing that any of us can do, not even destroy the Dome of the Rock, in order to force God to speed up His plan. As we saw earlier, everything will occur in God's time, in His way, as He sees fit.

Before concluding this series, I would like to address my Christian brethren who still embrace Futurism.

For more details regarding why I embrace this belief, please refer to my two-part article entitled "As a Thief in the Night?: Not for Me".

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.

A Temple Veil, an Earthquake and a Centurion  
Abomination of Desolation: Explained!  
Are You Flexible?  
Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?  
He That Shall Endure Unto the End  
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word  
It Is Time to Wake Up!  
Jesus Christ's Return: Have We Been Deceived?  
Modern Deception: Shall a Nation Be Born at Once?  
Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation  
Modern False Prophets and Worldly Ecumenism  
My Evolving Theology  
Nuclear States and the Israel-Iran War  
Prophetic Comparisons: Moshiach, Mahdi and Messiah  
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth  
Seventy Weeks Prophecy: What It Means  
Study, Work, and Don't Be Ashamed!  
The Day I Am Waiting For  
The Fruits of Disobedience  
The Great Tribulation and the Rapture  
The Last Seven Years Chart  
The Misguided End of the World Predictions of Harold Camping  
The Office of Prophets and Teachers  
The Only Credentials You Need  
The Triumphant Touchdown of Jesus Christ  
The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men  
Understanding the Bible in Context  
When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven?  
Who Hindered the Antichrist?  
Who is Babylon the Great?  
Who is Moshiach ben David?

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