

A STUDY OF EVENTS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING AND SUBSEQUENT TO CHRIST'S RETURN

How we know it is the Latter Times

When we begin to study the Bible, at first it does not necessarily seem to follow any particular time frame. At first we may find this somewhat confusing and we find it difficult for example, to remember which kings belonged to Israel and which kings belonged to Judah. We do not necessarily find it easy to remember where and which of the prophets fit into the history of the two kingdoms. But the fact is that the Bible is an integrated record of the history of some the descendants of Adam following a particular genealogical line which is recorded in the Gospel account by Luke. A chronology of the earth's earliest inhabitants is to be found in the fifth chapter of Genesis following a particular line of descent from Adam to Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The genealogy is continued in Genesis 10 and following the descendants of Shem in chapter 11 to the birth of Abram, who was afterwards called Abraham. Abram had two sons when he was married to Sara, one with his wife's maidservant, at Sara's instigation because she was barren, and another by Sarah who had a child in her old age of 90. This child was Isaac who became heir to his father Abraham. The line of Abraham is followed through Isaac to Jacob who had twelve sons and a daughter. Abraham was informed by God his seed would be a stranger in a land that was not theirs and be afflicted 400 years and afterwards they would come out with great substance. Jacob and his sons went down into Egypt and there their descendants were enslaved. We find the genealogy of Abraham is taken down the line of Levi to Moses and Aaron who were directed by God to confront king of Egypt and subsequently to lead the Israelites out of that land, to go to the land God had promised to their fathers Abraham Isaac and Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, which subsequently became the name of the nation. 400 and 30 years after it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. (Exo 12:41). The sons of Judah whom Jacob predicted would become the royal tribe in Genesis 49, did in fact become so through Nahshon a chief captain over the tribe of Judah in the days of Moses. Nahshon's grandson was Boaz and his grandson was Jesse the Bethlehemite who was the father of David who became King of Israel. David became king and reigned for 40 years and it was his son Solomon who build the Temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem. And it came to pass in the **four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt**, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month that he began to build the house of the LORD. (1Ki 6:1 KJV)

The line of the Kings of Judah is traced from Rehoboam the son of Solomon to the destruction of the Temple in the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar. During this period, the northern tribes of Israel led by Ephraim apostatized from the law of Moses and turned to Idolatry, this northern kingdom was abolished by the Assyrians in the 6th year of the reign of

Hezekiah king of Judah. Particularly active in his reign was the prophet Isaiah who uttered many prophecies concerning the coming of the greater son of David, the promised seed of Abraham and the prophet like unto Moses

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14.)

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

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

Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isa 9:7 KJV)

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city." (Isa. 52:1.)

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace; that brings good tidings of good, that publishes salvation; that says unto Zion, Thy God reigns!" (Isa. 52:7.)

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.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (Isa 53:3-4 KJV)

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (Isa 53:10-11 KJV)

There are besides Isaiah's testimony many other prophecies concerning the Messiah Among the most notable are those of Zechariah:- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he *is* just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. Zechariah 9:9

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto Me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born." Zechariah 12:10

But more significant are the prophecies of Daniel, who although a Jewish prince and a Babylonian captive, rose to positions of great authority under Nebuchadnezzar and his successors, as well as the conquerors of Babylon, the Medes under Darius and the Persians under Cyrus.

The ninth chapter is particularly significant, because it contains a prediction of the coming of the Messiah, by the angel Gabriel. Daniel 9:21-27

Yea, whiles I *was* speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew *thee*; for thou *art* greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, ¹to finish the transgression, and ²to make an end of sins, and ³ to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to ⁴bring in everlasting righteousness, and ⁵to seal up the vision and the prophecy, and ⁶to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolater”.

This prophecy indicates the number of years that would elapse until the appearance of Messiah the Prince, specifically 70X7 or 490 years. The seventieth week of years was divided between John’s ministry and that of Jesus. John proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, baptizing the people. It was a baptism of repentance and remission of sins in the hope of the Messiah’s immediate manifestation. As John’s ministry was drawing to close Jesus came to him to be baptized and he was publicly recognized as the Son of God by a voice from the excellent glory. He was at the same time anointed with Holy Spirit and Power as the most Holy One of Israel. At the end of his ministry, his crucifixion and his resurrection, the offering of his body as one sacrifice for sins for ever he ascended to the right hand of God. As Messiah the prince to whom all power in heaven and on earth had been given, angels and authorities and powers were made subject unto Jesus. (1Pe 3:22)

Understanding the significance of Daniel’s Prophecy

Now Gabriel’s predictions did not end with the Crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah, what he actually said was, “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” (Dan 9:26-27)

Now Gabriel’s prophecy did not end with the death of Messiah the Prince, but with events which would follow the crucifixion of the Messiah. However it is evident that this prophecy was well known to the people who lived in the land of Israel contemporary with John and Jesus Luke reports that “the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;” (Luke 3:15).they were expecting the Messiah

to appear. Jesus as we have seen was baptised by John, but it was not until the latter was put in prison that Jesus began his ministry in the second half of the 70th week.

John had taught The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Mar 1:15) then when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; (Mat 4:12) so the apostle Paul teaches But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, Gal 4:4 The fullness of time was the ending of the 70 weeks, the last 3 ½ years in which the Lord Jesus fulfilled his ministry. So Gabriel foresees the events which followed the crucifixion, namely the people of the prince that should come. This cannot be the Jews because they had no prince but were in thrall to Caesar whom they acknowledged as their only king. But after the early appeals of the apostles, when many Jews acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, their Saviour and Redeemer, the majority of the Jews turned against the Christians and as Paul declared on a number of occasions, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing you put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. (Act 13:45-46) Peter tells us that all control over angels, authorities and powers has been given to Jesus. And the Romans intentions were overruled by him and they were made the people of (messiah) the Prince, and so the Romans came to Judaea and overthrew the cities of the Jews, then laid siege to Jerusalem ending with the destruction of the Temple and the city and the Jews who survived were sold into slavery and became wanderers among the nations ever since. But these events were foretold by Jesus himself as you may understand if you read Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 19;41-44 and chapter 19 where it is specifically related to Gabriel's prophecy in the book of Daniel.

Many people who have written about the Bible have described the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament as the missing years. But the truth is there are no missing years, they are recorded in the 11th chapter of the book of Daniel. The majority of of this chapter is a record of fulfilled prophecy.

Verses 1&2 refer to four kings of Persia, Cambyses, Smerdis, Darius and Xerxes. Xerxes is represented by the Ram in chapter 8 and he extended the Persian Empire westward and invaded Greece 483 – 486 BC.

Verses 3 &4 refer to Alexander the Great represented by the Goat in chapter 8. He defeated the Persians in 333 B.C. and extended his dominion from Greece to India. Alexander died in 323 B.C. in Babylon and his empire was divided between his four generals.

Verses 5 to 21 refer to the two of them, who controlled territories north and south of the Holy Land. These are referred to as the king of the north and the king of the south. Seleucus ruled the territory known as Syria and Iraq today. The king of the South, Ptolemy Soter ruled the territory known as Egypt, which was ruled by 14 successive kings by the same name until Ptolemy Caesar otherwise known as Julius Caesar.

Verses 21-31 refer to the Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanies who invaded the Holy Land on his way to campaign against Egypt. He attempted, verses 32-35 to suppress the Jewish religion and this led to the Maccabean revolt when a priest named Mattathias and his five sons, fought for Jewish independence which was obtained by 160 B.C.

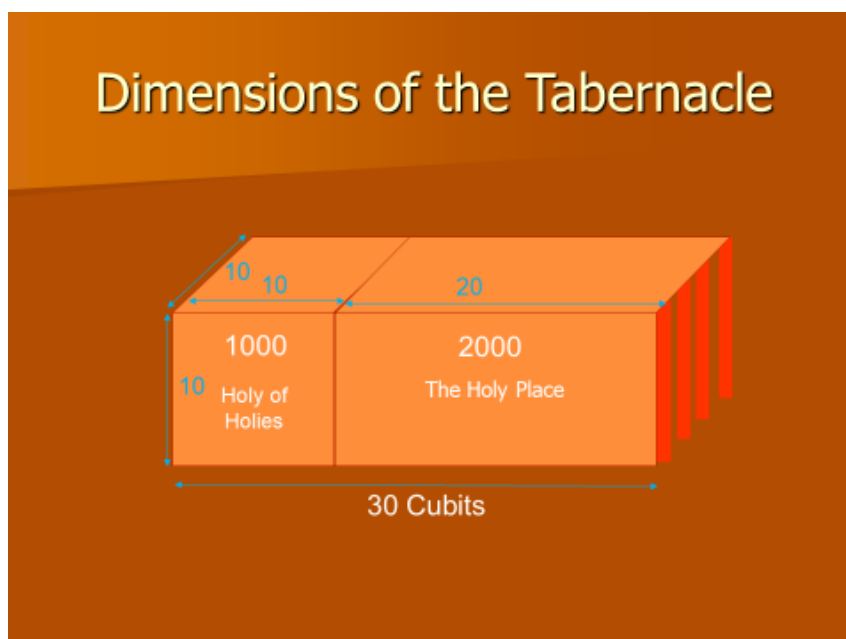
Verse 36 states that the king shall do according to his will and refers to the Roman emperor Octavian later changed to Augustus and we have reached the period in which the events of the New Testament took place (see Luke 2:1)

Verses 37 to 39 refer to the fact that the Roman empire changed its religion from the worship of Jupiter, the Greek Zeus, to the worship of God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, which religion they utterly corrupted.

This being so there are no missing years in Bible chronology, what remains of the progress of both the False Christianity and the True Christianity is to be found in the Book of Revelation the last book of the Bible.

Now the Scriptures indicate that God is working to a plan. This plan is hinted at in Genesis where it is recorded, "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Gen 2:2-3) in Exodus 31:12-17 the children of Israel were commanded to remember and keep the Sabbath day to keep it Holy, as a sign throughout your generations, for it was a sign between them and God for ever. The reward for a faithful observance of the Sabbath was for those before the flood and after it, a "delight in the Lord, riding on the high places of the earth and feeding on the heritage of Jacob." This was nothing more than a promise to inherit the Kingdom of God. This what the unfolding of God's plan for the history of the world is based upon. Peter in his second letter states "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (2Pe 3:8) Thus in the days of creation we have the basis of human history according to the divine plan. Six thousand years of human history, followed by a thousand years of the Kingdom of God on earth, a kingdom of peace, security and love, over which as Lord of the Sabbath the Lord Jesus Christ will reign. The Lord Jesus asserted "For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day". (Mat 12:8) There remains therefore a rest to the people of God. (Heb 4:9)

This pattern can also be detected in the tabernacle.



The dimension of the Tabernacle show that the Holy Place is 2000 cubic cubits and the Most Holy place is 1000 cubic cubits in capacity. Here is an added dimension. The court is measured in two dimensions as only a shadow can be in our experience, but the Ecclesia of the living God, has an added dimension, '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 grows unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom you also are built together for an habitation of God **through the Spirit.**' (Eph. 2:20-22) So it is of note that the Lord Jesus laid the foundation for the Ecclesia, and as the volume of the Holy place is 2000 c.cubits the witness for Christ seems limited to 2000 years measured not from his birth but from his ascension to glory in c. AD29. +/- . which from our point of view leaves only 9 more years to the Kingdom. The Most Holy Place stands for the Kingdom, and the immortality of those who are approved at the Judgement Seat of Christ. May we all be found worthy.

Also in the feasts celebrated by Israel throughout the year, we have the out working of the purpose of God.

The Passover stands for the emancipation of Israel from the slavery of Egypt which is typical of the burden of sin endured by mankind. The most essential aspect of the exodus or way out, was the provision of a lamb for a house, the shedding of its blood, and the eating of its flesh. Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God, and his blood was shed for the remission of sins, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. (Joh 6:53)" The Passover accomplished Jesus remained in the tomb, but thence the morrow after the Sabbath and therefore the first day of the week, under the law the priest was required to receive a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest And the priest was to wave the sheaf before the LORD, (symbolizing an energy imparted new life) on the morrow after the sabbath and on that day a he-lamb without blemish of the first year was offered as burnt offering unto the LORD. (Lev 23:10-12)

Fifty days later came the feast of Pentecost, (or weeks Heb. Shavuot) when two loaves baked with leaven were offered as a new meal offering to the Lord. So Jesus was crucified at the time of Passover, he arose from the dead on the morrow after the Sabbath and fifty days later the feast of Pentecost was celebrated where those two loaves representing Jews and Gentiles together, were offered to God, and this was the re-enacted fulfilment in the apostles great appeal to the Jews on the day of Pentecost concerning Jesus Christ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Act 2:36 KJV)

After the offering of the wave sheaf and its associated sacrifices, further interesting instructions were given concerning the Israelites reaping of their fields. "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reap, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I *am* the LORD your God." (Lev 23:22) When Peter made his proclamation 3000 Jews were baptized into the saving name of Jesus Christ, but in Acts 10 Peter was instrumental in bringing believing gentiles to salvation through the Lord Jesus, and it was acknowledged, "Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. (Act 11:18) Eventually the Jews as a nation rejected the truth as it is in Jesus and in the meantime when the Jews were scattered among all nations, Gentiles gleaned in

Israel's spiritual fields, in the sense that they became diligent readers of the oracles of God, the Holy Scriptures designed by God for spiritual food.

The next Feast of Israel occur in the 7th Month known as Tishri. There are two methods of reckoning in the Jewish Calendar, the first is the religious reckoning which begins in the month Nissan celebrating Moses and the giving of the Law, the second is the civil year which begins on the first day of the seventh month which is known as Rosh Hashanah meaning the head of the year. This day is considered to be the day on which in which Adam and Eve were created, the biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah, literally "day of shouting or blasting". It is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days specified and is associated with the sounding of trumpets which were Ram's horns, known as the Shofar. It is a feast of remembrance, and is the first of the 10 days of awe leading up to the 10th day which is the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, day of coverings. It is the one day in which the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, into the presence of Yahweh, having offered first for himself and then for the people. It also typifies the judgement seat of Christ which will determine who and who will not obtain eternal life and enter the Kingdom of God. Also every 50th year on the Day of Atonement the trumpet of the jubilee was sounded "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family." (Lev 25:10 KJV) This foreshadows the great return of the Jews from every country of the world, which will take place after Armageddon, the defeat of Russia's grand coalition, when:-

"God will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; ²⁶ After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made *them* afraid. ²⁷ When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;

²⁸ Then shall they know that I *am* the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them anymore there. ²⁹ Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says Yahweh Adonai. (Ezek. 39:25-29)

Regarding Israel's Dispersion, Yahweh declared four times in Leviticus 26, I will punish seven times for your sins. This may have a dual characteristic, not only referring to the calamities that fell upon Israel but the time period involved. In other prophecies such as in Daniel and Revelation, a time is shown to equivalent to a year of 360 days, making seven times a period of 2520 years. The fall of the Kingdom of Judah occurred c. 586 BC. 2520 years brings us to 1934. Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933 and when on to create the Holocaust, probably the greatest tragedy in the history of the Jews. But astonishingly just 15 years later saw the rebirth of the State of Israel and the immigration of Jews to their ancient homeland in unprecedented numbers from all over the world.

In the prophecy of Daniel chapter 8 we find the rise and fall of the Persian Empire symbolized by a Ram, we also see its defeat by the Greeks under Alexander the Great symbolized by a Goat. Upon this decisive victory in the Battle of Issus in 333B.C. Daniel

heard (in the vision) two saints speaking:- “Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spoke, How long *shall be* the vision *concerning* the daily *sacrifice*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said to me, Until two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. (Dan 8:13-14) 2,300 years brings us to the Six Day War in 1967 when Syria, Jordan and Egypt simultaneously invaded the State of Israel. These invaders were routed by the Israelis in 6 days, as they seized 4 times the territory they had occupied since 1948. Not only so they also seized the Holy City Jerusalem and it became wholly governed by the State of Israel and was declared to be its undivided and eternal capital. This period of time was recognized as long ago as 1825 with an anticipated fulfilment in 1966, one year out! See Clarke’s Commentary.

Nebuchadnezzar’s madness in Daniel Chapter 4 is also associated with a time period of 7 times passing over him, during which he would behave as a beast, even to eating grass like an ox. At the end of 7 years Nebuchadnezzar’s sanity and understanding returned to him and he acknowledged the God of Heaven as having all power, “I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.” (Dan 4:37)

Taking the seven years to represent a prophetic period of madness over the nations, Nebuchadnezzar’s madness occurred in 569 – 562 B.C. and 2520 years terminated in 1948 - 1958.

The return of the Jews from Babylonian Captivity began in 536 B.C. under Zerubbabel, the second Temple was finished in 515 B.C. Nehemiah was recalled to Susa in 433, Malachi the last of the Old Testament prophets was active from 397 – 327 when Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem (suddenly to his Temple) Corresponding dated run from 1944 -2087.

Bible Chronology and particularly Prophetic Chronology are important subjects to investigate, insofar as they alert us to the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ from Heaven. However keener minds than mine have attempted to discover the future developments surrounding His return, but in the main, time has proven all most all wrong.

One of the most diligent students of Times and Seasons, was the author W.H.Carter, and he states in his study of the Jubilees up until 1996, “that the years of the immediate future will be recognized by the diligent student of the Word, as pregnant with great possibilities for all the saints of God whilst by the time these Jubilees have passed through the most momentous period of its long history, and all its appointed prophetic time, with one exception, will have completed their divinely allotted span. The Millennial reign of Christ, which will open as the A.M. year 6000 reaches its close, will be the grand “dispensation of the fullness of times’ in which all things are to be gathered under the direction of God’s appointed world ruler, at the end of which sin and death shall be finally eliminated from the earth, and the great eighth day shall dawn in which God shall be all in all.

So we search the scripture to learn where we are in the prophetic scheme, but we must not forget that our Master the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us, “But of that day and *that* hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is”. (Mark 13:32-33) Let us always behave ourselves as though it is the day, when we will be summoned to meet him.

DHH

Where are we in the Prophetic Scheme?

In the 10th chapter of the Book of Revelation we read in verses 5-7 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that lives for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **that there should be time no longer:** But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. (Rev 10:5-7)

This is an announcement that the time periods announced to Daniel and other prophets would be completed. This is an answer to the prayers of the saints recorded in Rev.6:10. The effect of those prayers is seen in the opening of the 6th and 7th seals and the sounding of the Seven Trumpets and the Seven Vials of the wrath of God.

The fulfilling of these time periods in history from the Diocletian Persecution (5th Seal A.D.303 - 313) were as follows:-

The Constantine Revolution (6th Seal) symbolised as a great Earthquake A.D.312 – A.D.324.

Followed by the Barbarian Invasions against Rome:-

1st Trumpet: - Alaric A.D.395;

2nd Trumpet: - Genseric A.D.420;

3rd Trumpet: - Attila the Hun A.D.450:

4th Trumpet: - Odoacer and the end of Imperial Rome in the west. AD476;

5th Trumpet: - The Arab conquests of Palestine, Egypt and North Africa, Asia Minor and Persia from, A.D.632 – 932.

6th Trumpet:-**East European theatre** the Turkish Invasion in four waves:- Seljuks, Moguls, Tartars and Ottomans from A.D.1057 to 1453 leading to the fall of Constantinople; seizing Syria, Arabia, Palestine, Byzantium and the Balkan states including Greece.

6th trumpet:- **the West European theatre**, A.D. 1572 – 1792 includes the Catholic persecution of Protestant Christian in France to the French Revolution, this is also delineated the Second Woe (Rev 11:14)

We are now living under the seventh Trumpet or Third Woe and the period is designated as the seven Vials of the wrath of God.

The first vial 1795 – 1815 has reference to the beginning of the Napoleonic wars, particularly the smashing of Austrian domination over northern Italy, which transformed Europe and brought it into the modern era.

The second vial 1793 – 1997 sees the rise of British Naval Power blockading Europe and laying the foundations of the British Empire, (which came to an end with the relinquishing of Hong Kong.)

The third vial refers to Napoleon's 26 battles in northern Italy, the area where in the past thousands of Protestant Christians had suffered persecution by the Catholic Church.

The fourth vial sees Napoleon's extinguishing of the 'sun', the supreme power of a political system. In this case the Holy Roman Empire held by the Emperor of Austria. The Battle of Austerlitz saw Napoleon triumph over the forces of Austria and Russia and the subsequent Battle of Jena saw the defeat of the Prussians in 1806.

The fifth vial 1808 – 1870 poured out on the throne of the Beast witnesses the dissolution of the Papal States and the struggle for Italian independence under the aptly named Victor Emmanuel. Aided by Giuseppe Garibaldi, an Italian general, patriot, and republican, he obtained Italian unification and established the Kingdom of Italy on 17th March 1861. The Papal States being absorbed into the new kingdom, Rome becoming the capital of Italy and the Pope in 1870 was restricted to the Vatican and was referred to as the “Prisoner in the Vatican”. It did not prevent the Pope from issuing the Doctrine of Papal Infallibility, such were his Blasphemies against the God of Heaven. (Rev 16:11)

The Sixth Vial refers (Rev.16:12) to the drying up of the great river Euphrates, not the physical river but the political power of the Euphratian territory. (See for example Isaiah 8:7-9) Drying up the river symbolises the decline of the Ottoman or Turkish Empire, once the most powerful in the world. Failing to take Vienna in 1683 Turkey began a slow decline:- In 1827 Greece gained its independence; in 1828 the Moldavia, Wallachia and Serbia were liberated; In 1832 Egypt revolted; In 1853 Algiers was annexed by France; In 1853 and 1871 War with Russia in the Crimea seriously weakened Turkey; In 1881 France annexed Tunis; In 1882 Britain occupied Egypt; In 1887 the Greek-Turkish war erupted; in 1908 Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina while Bulgaria; In 1911 Italy occupied Tripoli; In 1912-13 the Balkan war broke out reducing Turkey's European territory to a zone around Constantinople. In 1914 – 18 Turkey lost all its territories in the Middle East, Arabia, Palestine, Syria and Iraq. British forces occupied Egypt, Palestine, Iraq and Kuwait. On the 29th October 1923 Turkey became a Republic under the presidency of Kemal Ataturk.

So from 1918 The British Empire attained to its largest extent, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 18 of an island nation and maritime power who would bring a scattered people and trodden down nation to mount Zion. In 1917, Britain not only drove the Turks out of Palestine and captured Jerusalem, but laid the foundation of a Jewish State with the publication of the Balfour Declaration. In 1922 Britain was given the mandate over Palestine and in 1948 it was relinquished without the promise of a homeland being fulfilled. However the Jews went on to establish the State of Israel on the 14th of May 1948.

Subsequent to the First World War the French revolutionary doctrine of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, the “unclean spirits like frogs” (Rev 16:14) swept through the nations, leading to Revolution in Russia, civil wars as in Spain and nationalism as in Germany. During the 20th century this political discontent affected nations everywhere, empires disappeared and regime changes were frequent.

Amidst all this the State of Israel in 1967 wrested control of Jerusalem out of the hands of the Arab coalition and not only survived five major wars, but flourished to become the regional super-power it is today. The political demonization of Israel by the world for its possession of Jerusalem will eventually lead to **a place called in the Hebrew Tongue, Armageddon.** (Rev 16 :16) Hebrew was a dead language for many centuries, the language of the synagogue, but remarkably the Hebrew language has been revived in Israel since its independence in 1948 and is now the language of the nation. The only instance of a dead language being revived or should it be **resurrected**? So here is a waymark indicating that we certainly are living in the “last days” when “the mystery of God should be finished, as He has declared to his servants the prophets”. (Rev 10:7) It is to these prophets we now must look to at this time, to determine the course of events taking place in the Middle East and the World.

Daniel and Ezekiel record that in the latter time of the Gentiles there is to be a time of trouble such as never was, a conflict in the Middle East is to take place involving a coalition of Russian,

European and Middle Eastern Nations and an opposing coalition of trading nations such as is developing among the members of the Commonwealth and the United States of America.

Britain has now relinquished its membership of the European Union in order to follow Free Trade with the United States and her former colonies, now become independent countries. What has been happening since the general election when Boris Johnson became Prime Minister backed by a large majority? The British Government went to work with a will, preparing to form a new relationship with the EU, and as many other trading partners as she could. The press and media were full of reports about the government's plans for the future prosperity, so that two months after the election there was considerable optimism about Britain's future.

On the 28th February the first patient in Britain was diagnosed as having the Corona virus. As of 30th March, there have been 22,141 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK with the entire country in Lock down. Virtually the whole world could be affected. Nothing has happened to this generation nor any other on this global scale. No longer was the concern about Britain's future prosperity, it was solely about Britain's survival and at what cost.

One thing will not be doubted by people who study the Bible and that is that God is in control; never has the maxim, "man proposes but God disposes" been more evident in the events that have overtaken the nation that has been dwelling carelessly in these islands. (Ezekiel 39:6)

The words of the Lord Jesus are very relevant to the situation that is developing at the present time, "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:25-28

Jesus here is referring not to natural phenomena, but to the Political Heavens where the Sun represents the worldly government and the moon, the ecclesiastical government. Stars represent the ministers of government and of religion .The Earth represents, ordinary people while those under the earth, represent slaves. "The sea and the waves roaring," has reference to agitated assemblies of the people, and the sea by itself, symbolizes the great mass of the people.

Now the word of God has on record, that plagues and epidemics have been used by God to humble those nations which go beyond the boundaries He has set for them. The prophet Jeremiah was shown a potter casting clay upon a wheel, making pots, (Jer.18:6) and God says, "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter?", says the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. **At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it** If that **nation**, against whom I have pronounced, **turn from their evil**, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; if it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."

The Bible relates in a number of instances how God has punished nations with epidemics. Perhaps the most well-known are the ten plagues brought upon Egypt under the Pharaohs. **Exodus 9:3,14 -16** "...look, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep-- a very severe pestilence. For I will at this time send **all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people**; that you may know that *there is* none like me in all the earth. For now I will stretch out my hand that I may smite you and your people with pestilence; and you shalt be cut off from the earth. And in very deed for this cause have I raised you up, to show in you my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

The nation of Israel was not exempt from such punishment by divine intervention. God warned the Israelites, that if they adopted the worship of the idolatrous nations around them and forsook his law then, "I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, **I will send the pestilence among you**; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. (Lev 26:25)

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses predicted that the Israelites would turn away from their God and as a result, "The LORD shall send upon you cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that you set your hand to do, until you be destroyed, and until you perish quickly; because of the wickedness of your doings, in forsaking me. The LORD shall make the **pestilence cleave to you**, until he have consumed you from off the land, where you go to possess it. (Deuteronomy 28:20-21)

In the record of King David's life because he had failed to keep the law of God we learn how, "**The LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel** from the morning even to the time appointed: and **there died** of the people from Dan even to Beersheba **seventy thousand men**. (2Sa 24:15)

The prophet Ezekiel however in the 36th to the 39th chapter speaks of the restoration of the nation of Israel, having been brought back from the lands of their exile and dispersion in the 'the latter years', will be living confidently in their ancient homeland, having become rich and increased in possessions and assets. However their country is to be subjected to a massive invasion led by a coalition of nations, identified by many studies over the last 200 years as Russia, Germany, France and the nations of the European Union; as well as Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria, Libya and others. There will be nations opposing this invasion, described in Ezekiel as the 'merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof. This refers to those with interests in the Middle East and includes members of the Commonwealth such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India, led by Britain and the USA; many of whom depend upon trade with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States.

This will be an international conflict in which the possession of Jerusalem will be the political and religious objective that brings about a declaration of war as Zechariah's prophecy predicts, "In that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." (Zec. 14:2-3)

Russia will take the leading role in this conflict but as Ezekiel predicts, Divine intervention will take place, and God declares "I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, says the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. **And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood**; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD. (Eze 38:21-23 KJV)

Zechariah also predicts the effects of the plague God will sent against all those who fight against Jerusalem, "**This shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite** all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.
¹³ And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold everyone on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. (Zec 14:12-13)

Now these events are clearly not occurring as yet, but they are not very far into the Future. In fact prophecy is becoming reality. Back in 1973 when Britain joined the European Union many were of the opinion that our interpretation that Britain was the "latter day Tyre" was wrong. But we believed

they were mistaken and that unforeseen political developments would yet arise to cause Britain to withdraw from the European Economic Community. It took 40 years for this to take place and the scriptures have been vindicated. What now is to happen?

Operation Faran is a plan to withdraw 20,000 British troops from Germany, as laid out by David Cameron in 2010. In August 2019 it was reported that the **British Army is moving more than 11,000 men, women and children back from Germany**. It was described as “the biggest relocation exercise in UK modern history”.

According to a report in the New York Times, Rosa Balfour, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the USA, stated that Britain’s leaving the European Union “...could have a devastating impact on Europe and where it stands in the world,” she continued. **“It could push Europe closer to Russia**, undermine Europe’s ability to pursue an independent foreign policy of and hurt Europe’s ability to shape the international world of multilateralism and the rule of law, the basics on which the E.U. was built.” The article continued:-

“Why does it matter so much if the bloc were to draw closer to Russia? Because the Eastern European giant does not play nicely on the world stage. The EU, if we remember, was formed to maintain cooperation and peace, whilst seeking to be inclusive and avoid combat discrimination. Considering Russia’s actions over the years — Crimea’s annexation, military intervention in Ukraine, the hacking of the 2016 US presidential elections — it’s no wonder that the EU is not keen to have it as a member. Britain’s departure is crucial, as it ‘changes the balance within the EU and creates a power vacuum’. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia now has a chance to fill Britain’s spot, infiltrate, and most likely disintegrate the very structure of the bloc. A NATO critic as well, Putin could also hit two birds with one stone by taking down the vast military alliance, which includes many members from, and ties with, the EU.”

Britain was the second largest contributor to the European economy, with its exit, where will the Union find the money to fill the hole in its budget? Inevitably, trade dictates, it must be drawn into a close association with Russia as the scripture prophecy demands.

So where in all this does the Coronavirus fit in? All nations are affected to some degree and these are early days yet and has proved to be a huge distraction to every nation. It is taking up a huge amount of government time in Britain and the USA and many other counties. Its effect will be to weaken economies, sending some countries back into recession, leaving them in no fit state to engage in war. Coronavirus will weaken the nations to the advantage of Russia, and so prepare the situation that will see the coming of Christ in power and great glory.

But as COVID-19 has spread across the globe, with Europe designated as the newest epicenter of the virus, the United States Army decided last week that it would scale back Defender Europe, (a large military exercise) according to a statement from U.S. Army Europe:-

“We have modified exercise Defender Europe 20 in size and scope,” a March 16 statement read. “As of March 13, all movement of personnel and equipment from the United States to Europe has ceased. The health, safety and readiness of our military, civilians and family members is our primary concern.”

So it is that the prophecy of Habakkuk comes to mind, “God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power. **Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.** He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting. (Hab 3:3-6)

This is a vision of the multitudinous Christ, as the Rain-bowed Angel of Revelation of chapter 10, the Warlike Christ who is to avenge his servants, the saints, defeat the aggressors of God’s land and people and establish God’s Kingdom on earth. **Before him went the pestilence** and this

Coronavirus **is** affecting all nations it has come **before him**, but it means that the actual coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is not far behind. Remember that the judgment of the Household of faith takes place **before** the Lord Jesus intervenes to overthrow the invaders of Israel, it then behoves every brother and every sister to prepare themselves, ensuring to the best of their ability that they are at one with God, at one with His Son, and at one with each and all, the brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the meantime Brothers and Sisters in England and Scotland have been restricted. Locked down (or up) in their own homes. We may feel it's something akin to being in prison. But we must remember that Joseph was in prison, Jeremiah was imprisoned, John the Baptist was in prison, Peter and John were in prison, Paul and Silas were put in prison and some of the Smyrnian believers were put into prison to whom the Lord Jesus gave a message of encouragement, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev 2:10 KJV) So in the words of the apostle Paul we must remember," For all things *are* for your sakes that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. (2Co 4:15-18 KJV)

Some of us may succumb to this infection, our lives are not guaranteed. But what is guaranteed is that, though we may die, if we have striven to be faithful to our calling, loving our brothers and sisters as Christ Jesus has loved us; ready to repent when we fail and asking to be forgiven; being ready ourselves to forgive those who offend us, we shall be raised from the dead to see the Lord Jesus in all his glory and receive an inheritance which will never pass away.

Psalm 91

He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler, **and from the noisome pestilence.**

He shall cover you with his feathers, and under his wings shalt you trust: his truth shall be your shield and buckler.

You shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flies by day;

Nor for the **pestilence that walks in darkness**; nor for the destruction that ravages at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come nigh you Only with your eyes shalt you behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the most High, your habitation;

There shall no evil befall you, **neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon you shall tread under feet.

Because he has set his love on me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he has known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

CHART NO. 1.

THE SEVEN-SEALED SCROLL

FIRST SIX EPISTOLARY STATES AND SEALS.

SEVENTH or LAODICEAN STATE OF APOSTASY and SEVENTH SEAL, from AD324 to MILLENNIUM;
Containing the Seven Trumpets, Seven Vials, and Seven Thunders of the Little Open Scroll.

REIGN OF SAINTS WITH CHRIST 1000 YEARS ON EARTH.									
FIRST SIX EPISTOLARY STATES AND SEALS. SEVENTH, or LAODICEAN STATE OF APOSTASY and SEVENTH SEAL, from AD324 to MILLENNIUM: Containing the Seven Trumpets, Seven Vials, and Seven Thunders of the Little Open Scroll.									
THE SEVEN-SEALED SCROLL									
SIXTH HEAD OF DRAGON — Roman Empire from AD68. The One Body in conflict with the Sixth Head.									
1	Roman Horse were with Peace to AD183.		6		Great Constantinian Earthquake, AD313. War in the Heaven. Dragon-Devil and Satan ejected. Great Day of Wrath to AD324.		Alter victims: TEN DAY Tribulation ARCHER VICTORIOUS; WREATHED.		
2	Horse RED with Civil Wars from AD183.		5		Dioctetian Persecution from AD303 to 312.		Horse PALE with civil strife, famine, pestilence and barbarian invasion, AD235.		
3	Horse BLACK with great war from AD212.		4		The Blood of the Lamb, and the Word of their Testimony; and Loved not their lives unto death."		Archer fights Paganism with		
4	Horse RED with Civil Wars from AD183.		3		Horse BLACK with great war from AD212.		Horse PALE with civil strife, famine, pestilence and barbarian invasion, AD235.		
5	Dioctetian Persecution from AD303 to 312.		2		Horse RED with Civil Wars from AD183.		Roman Horse were with Peace to AD183.		
6	Great Constantinian Earthquake, AD313. War in the Heaven. Dragon-Devil and Satan ejected. Great Day of Wrath to AD324.		1		Roman Horse were with Peace to AD183.		The One Body in conflict with the Sixth Head.		
SEVENTH SEAL: "Half-Hour Silence." Preparation for Sounding Wind Trumpets									
THE FOUR WIND TRUMPETS.									
1 Alaric Hail, AD395 2 Great Genseric Mountain burning with Fire, AD429 3 Great Blazing Attila-Star, from AD450 4 Third of the Roman Sun, Moon and Stars smitten by Herulian Goths									
Advent of the Three-Woe-Trumpets; Rise of Mahomedanism.									
The THREE WOE-TRUMPETS, from AD632 to the end of the 7 last Plagues.									
5 Sun and Air darkened. Saracens and Crusades, from AD632 to 932.									
6 EASTERN: Angels of Euphrates loosed for 391 years 30 days. Alp Arslan, Zingis, Timur and Ottoman. Constantinople falls AD1453. WESTERN: Witnessing finished and prophets ascend to power, AD1789. A tenth killed, AD1885. Resurrected and Reign of Terror.									
7 The Seven Vials.									
1 AD1789 2 AD1793 3 AD1796 4 AD1805 5 AD1809 6 AD1820. Poured upon Euphrates, gathering to Armageddon 7 Three Frog-like Spirits									
BABYLON FALLS. Conquest of Ten Horns. IT IS DONE.									
Woman-Remnant Finished 1260 Sackcloth Testimony, AD1572.									
Angel ascended from the East seats the servants of the Delly.									
The Ten Horns Diademed and Lion-Mouthed by Dragon.									
The Lamb-Horned Beast of the Earth and his Image, or Little Horn with Eyes and Mouth, comes up after the Ten, and is the Eighth.									
Two prophets in hand of Lion-Mouth from AD533 to 1793, when they abolish him in France.									
Holy City trodden under foot 42 months from AD607, to Advent and Resurrection.									
WINE PRESS TRODDEN WITHOUT THE CITY									

Progress of Time — from left to right

