

## The End Times

### 3. Prophecies to People Groups

# People Groups

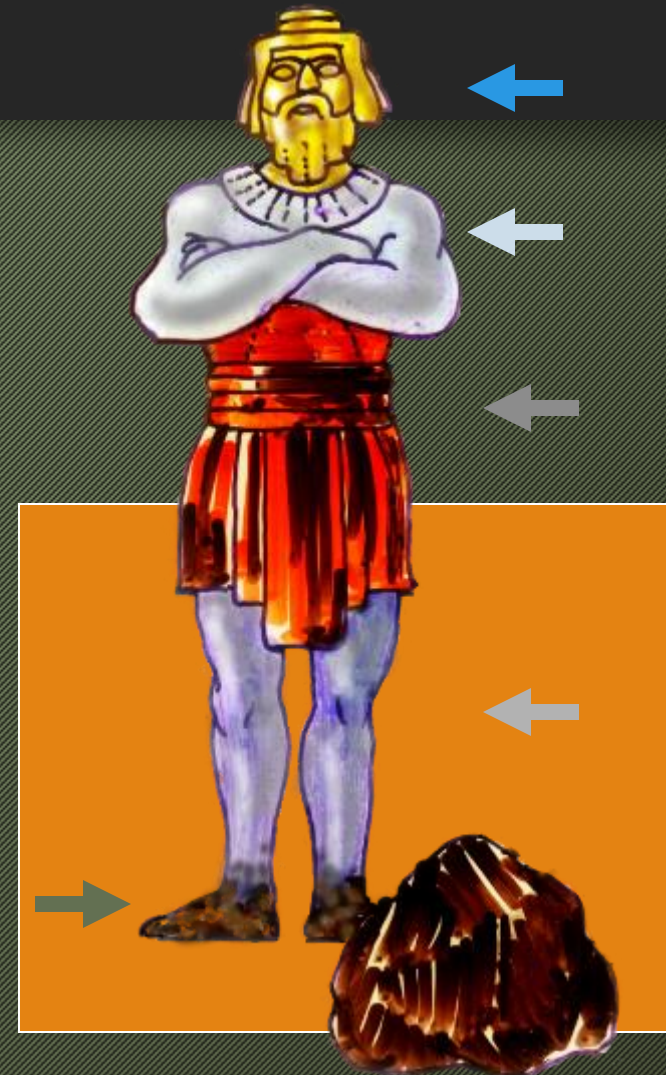
- The Gentiles
  - The Jews
  - The Church
- 
- We must be careful to identify which group the prophecy is directed to



# The Gentiles

# Two views of Gentile Empires

- Man's View - focuses on the **power** of the empires
  - Daniel 2:31-45
  - The multi-metal image
    - **Gold**
    - Silver
    - Bronze
    - Iron
    - Iron and clay





# Two views of Gentile Empires

- God's View - focuses on the **character** of the empires
  - Daniel 7:1-14
  - Various animals
    - **Lion** with two wings of an eagle
    - **Bear** with three ribs in its mouth
    - **Leopard** with four heads and wings
    - **Terrible beast**





# Babylon - 626-539 BC

- Head of Gold and Lion with two wings of an eagle
- Gold
  - the highest value among the metals
- Lion
  - standing up on two legs
  - Wings stripped off - Nebuchadnezzar's period of madness. Daniel 4:25-27



# Medo Persia: 539-330 BC

- Chest and arms of silver and bear with three ribs in its mouth
- **Silver & Bear**
  - One shoulder higher than other. Persians stronger than Medes
  - Three ribs
    - Lydia, Babylon, Egypt





# Greece: 330-63 BC

- Belly and thighs of bronze, Leopard with four heads and wings
- **Bronze & Leopard**
  - Alexander emperor at 20 years - swift
  - At death 13 years later divided among 4 generals
    - Macedonia and Greece
    - Thrace and Asia Minor
    - Syria
    - Palestine and Egypt





# Rome: 63 BC onwards

- Legs of Iron, terrible beast
- **Iron**
  - Two legs
    - Western Empire
    - Eastern Empire
- **Terrible Beast**
  - Ten horns, with little horn uprooting three
    - Daniel 7:8



# Next Empire: Antichrist's Empire

- Feet with ten toes of Iron and Clay and ten horns on the beast
  - The hardness of iron and the weakness of clay
  - Comes out of the previous empire
    - Roman empire succeeded by Holy Roman Empire
    - Eastern Roman Empire overcome by Turks - Ottoman empire
- Confederation of ten countries at the end time
  - Europe or Ottoman Empire?







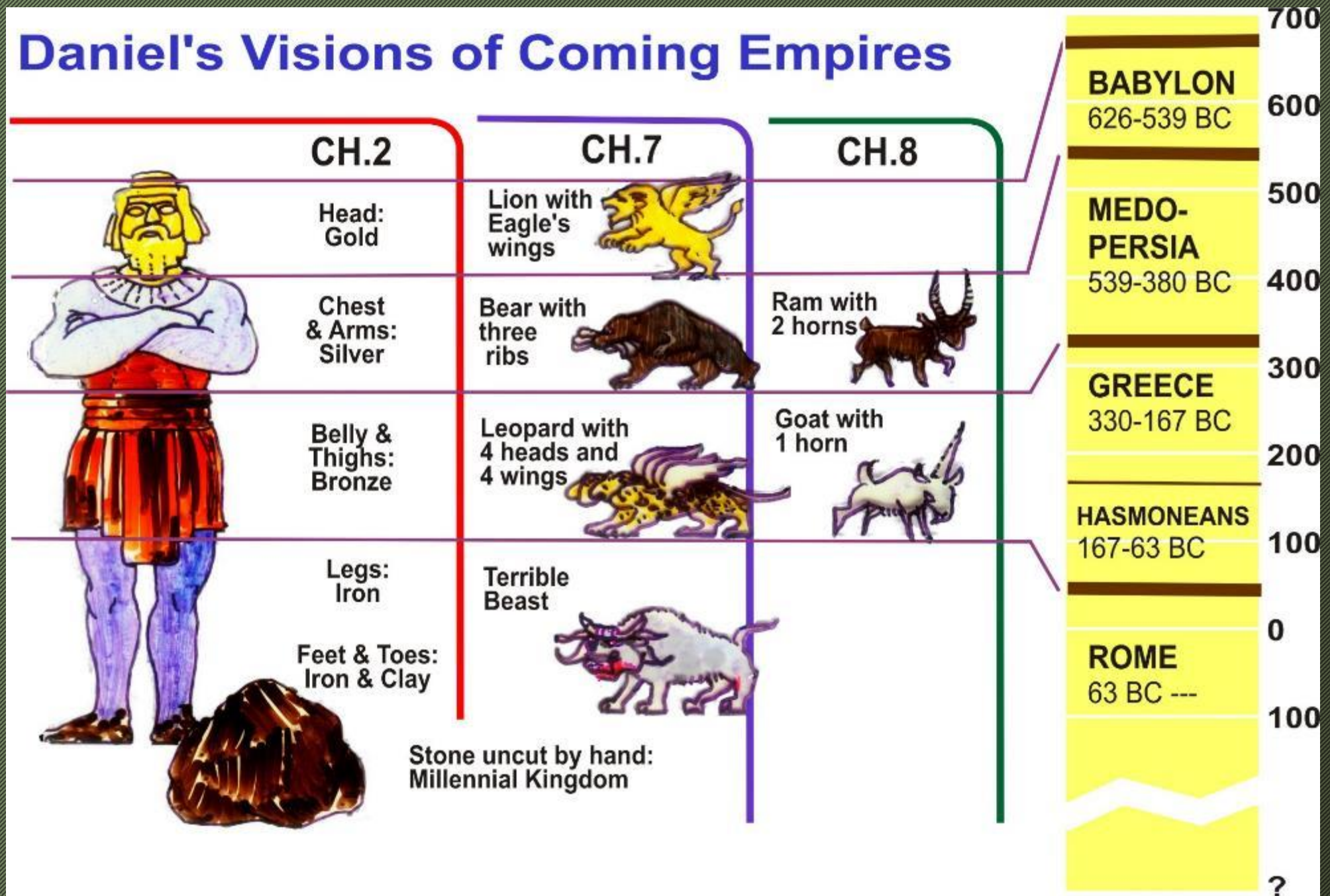
Holy Roman Empire



Ottoman Empire



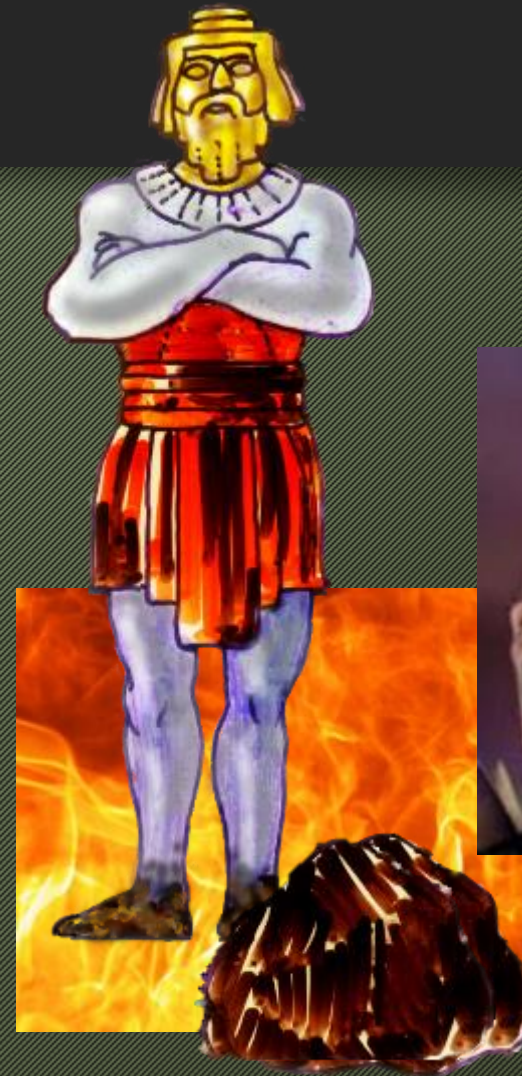
# Daniel's Visions of Coming Empires





# Millennial Kingdom

- Stone uncut by human hands strikes image at the feet and turns it to dust
- The stone grows into a large mountain
- The little horn and its beast are judged
  - Dan 7:11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.





# Millennial Kingdom

- End time picture of the Beast of Revelation 13
  - **Rev 19:20** But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.





# Millennial Kingdom

- Subjects of the Kingdom are from nations and include those who have been faithful to Christ in Anti-Christ's kingdom
  - Rev 20:4** I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

# The Jews



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- **Daniel 9:20-27**
- What was Daniel talking about?
- What were the “weeks” (KJV)
- The famous British archaeologist and Bible Expositor, who was also head of Scotland Yard, Sir Robert Anderson, provided the key in 1895.



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- To whom was this prophecy directed?
  - **Daniel 9:20,21**
  - While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of **my people Israel** and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill-- while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.
- This prophecy is then for the Jewish people.



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- A clear sequence of action is given
- **Daniel 9:20-27**
  - "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy."
- Seventy sevens = 490 years

# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- Jeremiah had already prophesied that the captivity would end in seventy years
- **Jeremiah 25:11**
  - This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon **seventy years**.
- Daniel was aware that the seventy years would draw to a close in two years in 536 BC.



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- This prophecy foretells that Israel would 'cut off' their Messiah
- It then looks forward to the Messiah's second coming and the setting up of His everlasting kingdom. A span of more than 2000 years.
- Using the key provided, we find a very precise schedule of events.



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- Using March 14, 445 BC as the starting point, the 69 years (173,880 days) takes us to April 6, AD 32 as the day on which the the “Anointed One [Messiah], the ruler, comes.”
- This was the Palm Sunday on which Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey:
- **Luke 19:38**
  - “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”





# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- **Daniel 9:26**

- After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.
- 'Cut off' means 'removal of regal rights.'

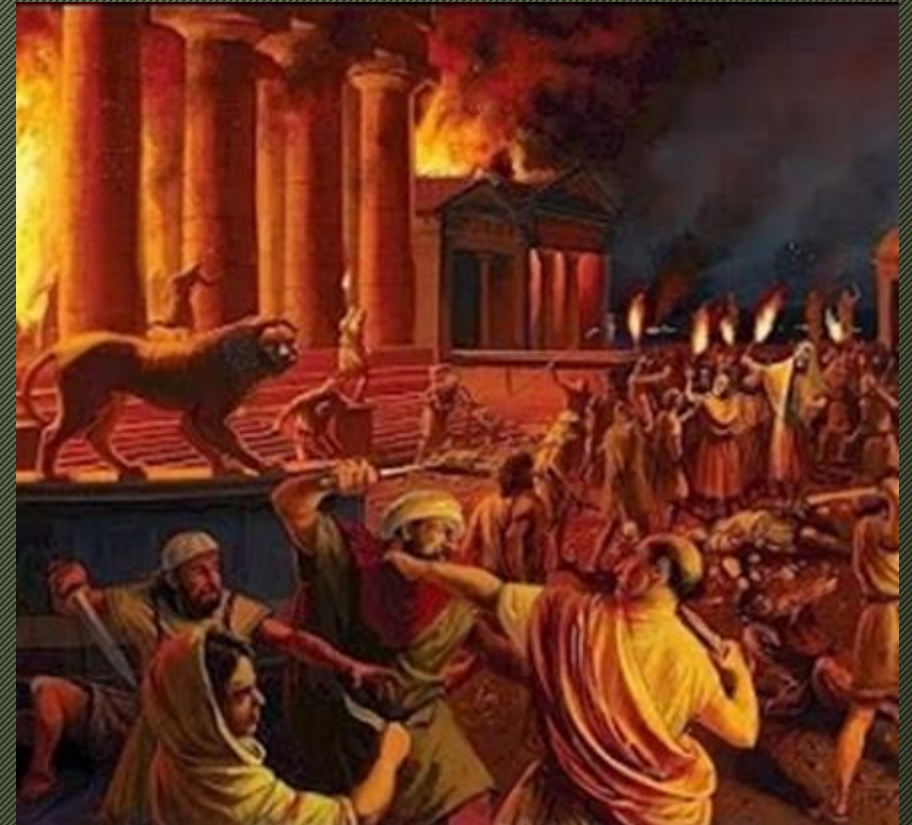




# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy


- **Daniel 9:25b**

- The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.
- Who is the ruler who will come?
  - Roman General Titus destroyed the city and sanctuary in AD 70.





# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

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- There is a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks.
  - At the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> week, the 'He' whom Daniel speaks of is another world ruler:
  - **Daniel 9:27**
    - He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him".




# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- Some liberal scholars have sought to link this to the Macabbean period (between the Old and New Testaments), where the Syrian ruler Antiochus IV Epiphanes attacked the Jews.
- But Jesus speaks of the same prophecy as in **the future**
- **Matthew 24:15**
  - "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- The prophetic clock of the Jews which had been silent for 2000 years ticks again 
- **Daniel 9:27**
- He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing [of the temple] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him".
- The Seventieth week is a week of pain and sorrow.
- **Jeremiah 30:7**
  - How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob [Israel], but he will be saved out of it.

# Daniel's Vision of Seventy 'Sevens'

Dan 9:20-27

Artaxerxes  
Decree:  
March 14,  
444 BC  
(v.25)

Jews return

Messiah  
enters  
Jerusalem:  
April 6,  
AD 32

Jerusalem  
destroyed:  
AD 70  
(v.26)

Covenant with  
Antichrist  
(v.27)

Antichrist  
stops sacrifice,  
installs image

Tribulation

<b>EXILE</b>	$7 \times 7 = 49$ yrs	$62 \times 7 = 434$ yrs		$3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs	$3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs	<b>MILLENNIAL KINGDOM</b>
	$69 \times 7 = 483$ yrs			$7$ yrs		
	$= 173,880$ days					



# The Seventy Weeks Prophecy

- Jesus spoke of the Antichrist who would be accepted by the Jews as their Messiah
- **John 5:43**
  - I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.
- In the middle of the Seventieth Week (i.e. after 3 ½ years) the Antichrist will stop the Jewish sacrifices and direct worship to himself.

# Intervening Church Age

- Paul explains that the Jews, with the rejection and crucifixion of Jesus, have been laid aside for a time:
- **Romans 11:25**
  - I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.



# Intervening Church Age

- After the Crucifixion of Jesus, the church was formed and commissioned to proclaim the gospel to the world.
- When the church (believing Jew and Gentile) are removed in the Rapture, the focus shifts again to the Jewish people

# Seventieth Week

- During the Seven-year period of the Seventieth Week, a sealed Jewish witness is used:
- **Revelation 7:2-4**
  - Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: **144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.**



# Rebirth of Israel

- God is setting the scene for the final week of years:
- Israel's rebirth as a nation has been prophesied in the Old Testament many times
- **Isaiah 14:1-2**
  - The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob. Nations will take them and bring them to their own place.

# Rebirth of Israel

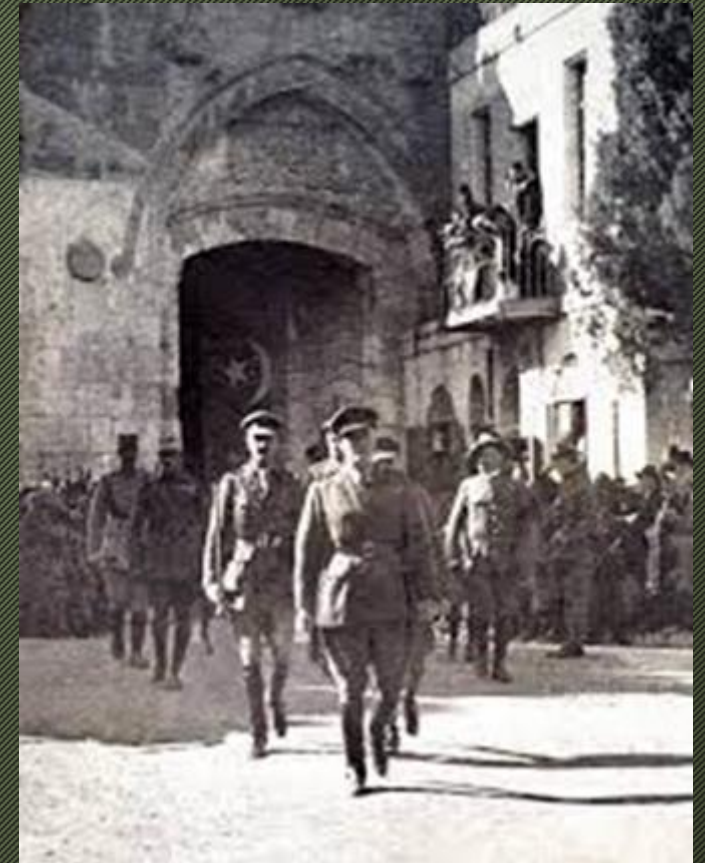
## •Ezekiel 11:17

- "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.'



# Rebirth of Israel

- On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1917, General Allenby wrested Jerusalem from the Turks without firing a shot.
- After the War the League of Nations gave Great Britain the mandate for controlling the land of Palestine.
- Jews began to return to the land of Palestine.





# Rebirth of Israel

- **1948:** Israel became a separate State on 14<sup>th</sup> May, and became a member of the United Nations
- One of the greatest people movements of all time took place as Jews left countries all over the world to get to Israel.
- Israel is surrounded by large hostile nations, and its survival is a miracle.





## From Unbelief to Belief

- Israel will recognise the Antichrist as Messiah
- Antichrist will renege on his treaty with them and seek to persecute them
- Israel will as a nation turn to God in truth as expected by the Apostle Paul
- God provides for their protection in the tribulation period

# The Church



# The Church

## •Ephesians 3:2-6

- Paul declares that the church
  - "is a mystery .... not made known to men in other generations ... revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ...
  - Through the gospel the gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body and sharers together in the promises of Christ Jesus."

# The Church

- **Ephesians 3:2-6**

- Paul declares Christ's purpose

- to "make her holy, cleansing her and washing her in the word, and to present her to himself a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle, or any other blemish but holy and blameless."



# The Church

- **Matthew 16:18**

- Jesus said,

- "...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

- He used the Greek word *ekklesia*. Meaning "Assembly" - a people called out and summoned together.

# When did the Church begin?

## CHURCH

- The church fills the gap between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel 9: 25-27.
- Jesus asks his disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they are empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) and
- He commissions them to take the gospel to the world (Matthew 28:18-20). See also Matt 24:14



# When did the Church begin?

- **Acts 2:4**

- All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- **1 Corinthians 12:13**

- For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.





# Who makes up the Church?

## •Ephesians 2:8-22

- Paul reveals that the body of Christ, which is the church, is composed of believing Jew and Gentile. "For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (2:18).
- He clarifies that "His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two" (2:15).





# Who makes up the Church?

- **Acts 10:11-16, 28, 47**
- Peter, saw a sheet containing animals impure to the Jews, and when he expressed his horror, God said, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."
- Peter later seeing that the Holy Spirit was given to the gentiles as well accepted them into the church by baptism.





# What is the Hope of the Church?

## • Titus 2:13, 14

- Paul speaks of "the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."





# Church in the book of Revelation

- It is significant that after chapter 3, there is no reference to the Church. Jesus' words to the church at Philadelphia are significant:
- **Revelation 3:10**
  - “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”



# Is the church Israel?

- Promises made to Israel are still going to be kept in the future.
- The Church does not replace Israel and we should not expect a symbolic fulfilment of the promises of the Old Covenant.
- As one reads Scripture, it is necessary to keep Israel and the Church separate.



# The focus of Prophecy ...

