

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 3:7-13

“Philadelphia - The Faithful Church!” (Part 2)

> The seven churches and their historical reference:

(2:1-7) *Ephesus*- The Apostolic Church (1st Century)

(2:8-11) *Smyrna*- The Martyr Church (A.D. 100 – A.D. 314)

(2:12-17) *Pergamum* - The Worldly Church (A.D. 314 – A.D. 590)

(2:18-29) *Thyatira*- Church of the Dark Ages, “Romanism” (A.D. 590 – A.D. 1000- continues today)

(3:1-6) *Sardis*- The Protestant Church, “Reformation” (A.D. 1517 – A.D. 1800)

(3:7-13) *Philadelphia*- The Revived or Faithful Church (A.D. 1800 to Rapture)

(3:14-22) *Laodicea*- The Apostate Church (Last Days & into the Great Tribulation)

“PALM SUNDAY / KEY OF DAVID!”

(Happy 32ND Anniversary!)

- Let us read and learn from Matthew Ch. 21:1-17; Luke 19:28-44

> PROPHECY FOR MESSIAH’S FIRST COMING! (Daniel Ch. 9:20-27)

- Daniel 9:24 - *SEVENTY WEEKS* - “Weeks” in Hebrew “*shabua*” – which speaks specifically of *years*, 1 week = 7 years (ref.- Gen. 29:26-28 - *And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years." Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week.*)

- 70 weeks (Hebrew *shabua*) (70 x 7) = 490 years are *determined (to decree)*. This prophecy is for Daniel’s people, “your people” (Israel); “your holy city” (Jerusalem).

- In Daniel 9:25-26 - "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the COMMAND to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

"And after the sixty-two weeks (that is the 7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks; one week equals 7 years, so we have 69 x 7 = 483 years) Messiah shall be cut off (that is, Messiah, Jesus, is crucified), but not for Himself (for all who will believe in Him for salvation); and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; in 70 A.D. the Roman General Titus along with the Roman army slaughtered over a million Jews, destroyed the city, the temple, and dispersed the Jewish people throughout the world.

- **Jesus spoke prophetically of this event in Matthew 24:1-2** - *Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

- Daniel 9:26 tells us, *The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations (Hebrew – *shamem* - to stun, grow numb, devastate) are determined.*

- When was Daniel 9:25 fulfilled, that is "**the COMMAND**" given to **restore and rebuild Jerusalem**? In other words, when does the clock start ticking until "**Messiah the Prince**" appears?

- **Nehemiah 2:1-8** reveals the **COMMAND** given to Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem from Babylon to rebuild and restore Jerusalem, the date is **March 14, 445B.C.** Daniel 9:25 (This begins the first 7 weeks = 49 years (Dan 9:25). During this period, the Jews will rebuild the city of Jerusalem in troubled times.)

- We discover Jesus (*Messiah the Prince*) riding into Jerusalem on April 6th, 32A.D. on the foal of a donkey fulfilling the prophecy of the Jewish prophet Zechariah 9:9, this was spoken of 520 years before Christ's birth, *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

- **Donkey insight**: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he signaled his peaceful intentions by riding a young donkey rather than a prancing war-horse. The Jerusalem donkey has cross on its back, dark hair from its mane to its tail and across the front torso. Amazing how the donkey carries the Savior while revealing the cross of salvation!



- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

- The people hail JESUS as King, (Messiah the Prince), and then just a few days later they crucify Him (Daniel said Messiah would be cut off – Hebrew *Yikaareet* – sudden, violent death).

- Here are FACTS to our FAITH: From March 14th, 445BC to April 6th, 32AD is exactly 483 years, in fact it is to the day according to the Babylonian Calendar (360-day calendar), which Daniel was using, 483 years equals 173,880 days.

- Dr. Alva J. McClain writes the following regarding this amazing fulfillment of Bible prophecy, "Thus the 173,880 days of the first Sixty-nine Weeks ran their course to the very day – deep and abiding encouragement to all who love the Lord and His precious Word of Prophecy. And I close this discussion with

but one remark: The exact fulfillment of this prophecy is sufficient to demonstrate the accuracy of Daniel and also by implication the inspiration of the Bible and the truth of Christianity. Only God can “*declare the end from the beginning*” and forecast to the very day “*things that are not yet done*” (Isa. 46:10)

> *Let us look at the PROPHECY OF MESSIAH’S SECOND COMING!*

- Remember Daniel 9:24, “70 weeks” (490 years) were *determined upon Israel* according to Daniel chapter 9:25; “69 weeks” (483 years) have been fulfilled by the first coming of Christ (Palm Sunday and the crucifixion), now one 7-year period is left for Israel. But wait, there’s more! The nation Israel and Jerusalem have not been in Jewish existence or control since 70 A.D., however, by God’s providential hand Israel became a nation once again on May 14th, 1948. Israel gained control of Jerusalem in 1967, in the six-day war.

- The last seven-year period will take place after the “*rapture of the church*” (1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 3:10) and is known as the “*time of Jacob’s (Israel) trouble*” (Jer. 30:7), commonly called “*the tribulation, inclusive of the Great Tribulation*” (Mt. 24:15-31; Rev. Ch. 6 – 19, this time period equals 7 years).

> *What is the greatest sign that we are in the LAST DAYS?*

- Let us turn to Matthew 24:32-35 - “*Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*”

We are called to “LEARN” the parable of the fig tree (Israel is the fig tree, ref. Hosea 9:10; Jer. Ch. 24). Jesus speaks of returning in one generation, a Bible generation is estimated to be 40 or possibly 70 years, we are not positive, but we know Christ’s return is soon!

- Here’s another amazing prophecy for when Israel was to become a nation on May 14th, 1948 fulfilling Ezekiel 4:3-6 - *Then take an iron pan (Ezekiel), place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face toward it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel. “Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. “After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.”*

- This prophecy, according to Bible scholar Grant Jeffrey, puts 1948 as the rebirth of Israel. Jeffrey’s writes: Ezekiel said the Jews were to be punished for 430 years because they had turned away from God. As part of the

punishment, the Jews lost control of their homeland to Babylon. Many Jews were taken as captives to Babylon.

- Babylon was later conquered by Cyrus in 539 BC. Cyrus allowed the Jews to leave Babylon and to return to their homeland. But only a small number returned. The return had taken place sometime around 536 BC, about 70 years after Judah lost independence to Babylon.

- Because most of the exiles chose to stay in pagan Babylon rather than return to the Holy Land, the remaining 360 years of their punishment was multiplied by 7. The reason is explained in Bible's book of Leviticus. (Leviticus 26:18, Leviticus 26:21, Leviticus 26:24 and Leviticus 26:28). In Leviticus, it says that if the people did not repent while being punished, the punishment would be multiplied by 7. And, by staying in pagan Babylon, most exiles were refusing to repent.

- Let's read Leviticus 26:18-28 - 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power;

I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit. 'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. 'And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied. 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

- So, if you take the remaining 360 years of punishment and multiply by 7, you get 2,520 years. But Jeffrey says those years are based on an ancient 360-day lunar calendar. If those years are adjusted to the modern solar calendar, the result is 2,484 years.

- And there were exactly 2,484 years from 536 BC to 1948, which is the year that Israel regained independence.

~ TEN SIGNS THAT ISRAEL RETURNS TO THE LAND!

> Sign #1: The Diaspora!

The Bible prophesied the Jewish diaspora, this took place in A.D. 70 through the Roman government. The Nation of Israel would dwell for many years outside of their country and promised land. After this time had elapsed, they would return to their ancient possession. The predictions were exact and complete, making the nation's return a supernatural happening of our age. A modern miracle. They were dispersed for over 1,900 years. They are there again today.

- Hosea 3:4-5 - "For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days."

- Hosea 6:1 - "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds."

To see the rest of the passage fulfilled, Israel needs only to turn to God. For David to become their king once again, there will be a resurrection from the dead.

> Sign #2: The Return!

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Bible passages predict the return of Israel to the land of Palestine. Here are only two.

- Ezekiel 20:34 - "I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath."

- Isaiah 11:11-12 NIV - "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."

> Sign #3: Buying back the land!

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. just as the nation of Judah was being destroyed and the people taken captive into the land of Babylon. He spoke of a day when Jews would once again purchase land within the ancient territory. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting nearly a century ago - they bought back the land.

- Jeremiah 32:44 NIV - "Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around

Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD."

> Sign #4: Israel - Reborn in a day!

Israel, a nation that had not really existed as a separate nation for nearly 2,500 years, was declared a new sovereign state by an act of the United Nations on May 14, 1948. The nation was born in a day.

- Isaiah 66:8 NIV - "Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children."

> Sign #5: The order of the return!

The first returning Jews to Palestine came primarily from eastern Arab countries. The next major movement came from the western countries of Europe, especially Germany. Then they came in great numbers from Russia (north) during the end of the 1980's. The last great migrations of Jews returning to Israel came from Ethiopia in the south. This precise order of return was predicted by Isaiah the prophet. (In 1948 the population of Israel was 806,000; today it is 9.6 million!)

- Isaiah 43:5-6,21 - "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..." "... the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

- Psalm 107:2-3 NIV - "Let the redeemed of the LORD say this -- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

> Sign #6: A pure language!

With the return of the nation, the ancient Hebrew language has been revived and become the official language of the state. Prior to this happening, the Jews spoke an impure form of the language called Yiddish. The return to a pure common language was again predicted by the prophets.

- Zephaniah 3:8-10 KJV - "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, [even] the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering".

> Sign #7: The shekel!

After nearly 2,000 years the shekel has been reinstated as the common monetary unit in Israel, again, just as predicted.

- Ezekiel 45:12-16 NIV - "The shekel is to consist of twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels equal one mina.... All the people of the land will participate in this special gift for the use of the prince in Israel."

> Sign #8: Named cities of Israel!

There are many cities in Israel that bear the ancient names of previous Jewish cities. Some of these that bear their Biblical identification include: Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron, Gaza, etc. Again, as the ancient nation was in the process of being destroyed, Ezekiel the prophet predicted that many of the ancient cities would, in fact, be re-inhabited and settled in the exact locations.

- Ezekiel 36:11; 24 KJV - "And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better [unto you] than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."

> Sign #9: Cities excepted - never to be inhabited

Jesus pronounced a curse on at least three cities within the land. These remain in ruins today.

- Matthew 11:21-23 NIV - "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day."

> Sign #10: From desolation to productivity

The restoration of the agriculture and of the trees and forests of Israel has been another remarkable miracle. Scarcely 75 years ago, the land was a desolate waste, full of malarial swamps and deserts. Today the replanted forests are flourishing and the Israeli agricultural production is one of the great wonders of the world. This tiny country exports quality produce around the world. Should we say, "Again, just as predicted!"

- Isaiah 26:6 NIV - "In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit."

- Isaiah 35:1-2 NIV - "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy..."

- At the second coming of Christ, JESUS will not be riding a donkey, but horse of war and victory! Let us conclude in VICTORY in Revelation chapter 19!

- Revelation 19:10 - For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

GO4GOD!!!