Prophesy: What Lies Ahead

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Third Address: Proof the Bible is from God – The Jews

One of Satan's greatest deceptions is to cast doubt in the minds of people that the Bible is the Word of God. Most people in this generation have never read even a single verse from the Bible, and they assume that its just an old book written by men. It's incredible to think of how ignorant people have become. Who would be foolish enough to seek Spiritual guidance from any source other than the most widely read book in all of history, having had over 5 billion copies printed and having completely changed history, defining much of culture, art, music, Christmas, Easter, Laws and constitutions, moral standards and even the calendar itself. All of these things are all defined by Jesus Christ and the Bible. Before this current generation, even those who did not believe the truths contained in the Bible, still felt that it was unintelligent to remain in ignorance of the most famous of all writings.

As Christian believers, we know without a shadow of doubt that the Bible is God's Word because we have been completely transformed by the supernatural teachings and power it contains, however, most people refuse to even consider looking at it. That is because Satan hates the Bible and is afraid of the Bible, since it is one of the only things that has the power to defeat him.

God calls the Words in the Bible "the Sword of the Spirit" (Eph.6:17), and the declares that all Scripture is "God breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and is like a "hammer" and a "fire" (Jeremiah 23:29). Jesus says that "heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will be no means pass away" (Mark 13:31). Hebrews 4:12 says: For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Down through the ages, people have always asked the question, "can you prove the Bible is actually God's very words"? One of the most famous quotations of this question came from Frederick the Great of Prussia when he asked the court preacher for an unanswerable proof in one word of the inspiration of the Bible. His top adviser answered "Yes your majesty, the Jew".

Over 4,000 years ago God made a covenant with Abraham that He would make him the father of a great nation, He would give Abraham a land, and his descendants would be blessed. God gave Abraham's grandson Jacob the benefit of the promises that he had made to Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 28:13-14) and God changed Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:28). The people who came from the families of Jacob's 12 sons are called the **12 tribes of Israel**. Today, we call them the Jewish people. Therefore, the Jewish people are God's special people, (Deut. 7:6-8; Romans 11:26-27) and Abraham's descendants became proclaimers of the one true God. God commanded the Israelites to live apart from the other nations (God's principle of "be ye separate" – 2 Cor. 6:17), and called the Jews His chosen people who would bless the nations of the world (Genesis 12:3). The fact the nation of Israel exists today is evidence of God's unbreakable covenant with Abraham. The Almighty God declared that Israel "is the apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8) and "the eyes of the LORD your God *are* always on it" Deuteronomy 11:12.

Satan has always tried to destroy the Jewish people, since God's plan of redemption depended on a Messiah who would come through them to save the world from the devil's bondage. Persecutions of the Jews began with the 400-year enslavement of the Hebrews by Pharaoh in Egypt and continued throughout history ever since. No nation has suffered as much as the Jews.

Since 70AD the Jews were driven out of their promised land and scattered among the nations of the world, exactly as Jesus said would happen. Over the centuries, there have been numerous attempts to exterminate the entire Jewish race for no explainable reason other than the fact that this is a spiritual war between Jesus and Satan.

As we discussed at length in the first class of this prophesy series, the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70AD was one of the most important battles in world history, resulting in over 1 million Jews slaughtered, starved and crucified by Roman Emperor Nero, and the complete destruction of the sacred temple. But even after that event when the Jews were scattered among the nations of the world, the persecution did not stop. Only 65 years after 70AD another 580,000 Jews were slain by Hadrian. Then between 1000 – 1272 AD, England killed, robbed and eventually banished all Jews, culminating in the York Castle massacre and resulting in the banishment of Jews from England for the next 400 years.

In the 1300's, France and Germany were even more cruel, robbing and expelling over 100,000 Jews from the land and committing unspeakable torture to thousands of Jews. In Strasburg, 2,000 Jews were fastened to an immense scaffold and the whole thing was set on fire. Then there was the Spanish Inquisition in 1400 which saw mass anti-Semitism and persecution.

In the last century, Hitler's holocaust resulted in the murder of over 6 million Jews in WW2. But even the most cruel plot ever designed by Satan could not succeed against God's chosen people, in fact quite the contrary. Hitler, like Babylon, Egypt, Greece and the Roman empire who all massively persecuted the Jews, have passed into the ashes of history, while the end result of WW2 was the greatest fulfilment of Bible prophesy yet, being the reinstatement of the nation of Israel in 1948 after 2,000 years. Bible prophesy teachers prior to 100 years ago who taught in faith that Israel would be restored as predicted, were often ridiculed at the very idea, since it seemed impossible. But just as Jesus predicted would happen in the end times, the Fig Tree (a symbol of Israel) blossomed once again (Mark 13:28-30). The impossible has been realized because God's Word had to be fulfilled. What a privilege it is to be living in these last days to witness this fulfilled prophesy.

Never in recorded history has a nation group been banished from their homeland and continually persecuted to such an extent, only to return after 2,000 years. But even more miraculous is that somehow the Jews maintained their language, religion, culture, traditions, and even physical features and have now after only 72 years as a nation excelled beyond almost all others on a per capita basis. The Jews are leaders in business, education, technology, finance and military strength.

And remember, Jesus was a Jew. The Bible came from the Jews. The Apostles were Jews.

This my friends is why I say that anyone who wants evidence that the Bible is divine, need only look at the history of the Jews and Israel. How else, asides from God, can anyone explain the miraculous history and prosperity of the Jews despite all their social disadvantages?

Sadly, most people have no knowledge of history or the Bible, and incredibly, Israel is once again hated by most nations and antisemitism has grown to new heights once again as the Spiritual war rages on. President Trump, hailed by many Jews and Christians as the next King Cyrus, made history in 2017 when he moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, bringing the new Temple closer to being rebuilt, and he pledged military protection for the Jewish state.

Now if all this wasn't enough to prove God's Word is true, Jesus and the prophets foretold exactly all the things that have happened to both the Jews and their nation Israel: (1) that Jerusalem would be destroyed (Mark 13:1-2), (2) the Jews would be scattered among the nations of the world (Ezekiel 22:14-15; Hosea 3:4; Mark 13:2), (3) but most remarkably, the Jews would once again be regathered in the land God promised to Abraham in the end times, the nation of Israel (Luke 21:24; Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 23:3-8; Zechariah 10:8-10).

We as Christians should remember, when Jesus instituted the New Covenant at the Last Supper, this was the fulfilled prophesy of Jeremiah and Ezekiel of a new promise that God made with the Jewish people. Romans 11:11-27 explains that non-Jewish Christians (or Gentiles) are grafted into the olive tree (a symbol of Israel), but at the end of the Age, when the "time of the Gentiles is fulfilled", Israel will come to faith in Jesus as their Messiah and "all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:26). Then Jesus will return to the earth with his Holy Angels and all the believers of past generations, to rule on David's Throne and bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. What a glorious hope we have.

But what about the next phase of the end times and the relation of the Jews to the Antichrist? Will they receive him? Yes they will. The Bible tells us that one of the first things the Antichrist will do is make a covenant with Israel for 7 years. Isaiah 28:8 calls this "an agreement with hell". The Bible clearly tells us that at the end of three and a half years the Antichrist will break this peace agreement, and cause daily sacrifices to cease. Jesus states that the Antichrist will fulfill the prophet Daniel's "abomination of desolation", by claiming to be god in the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Jewish temple. He will demand to be worshiped and likely erect a statue of himself in the temple. Jesus says that this specific event will trigger the Great Tribulation and the last three and half years of earth's existence.

Thank God as believers that Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will empower us to withstand whatever is necessary and that He will rapture His followers to the air at some point during this period. Halleluiah, the King is coming back soon!

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