


BIBLICAL TEACHING ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD ESTABLISHED FOR A MILLENNIUM UPON THE EARTH

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD

It is a principle of Christ that the "Kingdom of God" is **within** and is not to be expected from heaven. But the "Messianic or Theocratic Kingdom" which we might call the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of the God of Heaven as Daniel puts it shall indeed overrun all earthly government and become established in the final millennium of earth's history. Scripture warrant for this view is to be found in Daniel 4.3: 4.34: 6.26 and 7.14.

THE KINGDOM OF THE LAST AGE AND OF THE HEAVENS

I shall first establish the relationship between the AGE-LONG, AEONIC, CHRONON enduring kingdom of the Son of Man and the endless or eternal Kingdom of the Heavens. To do so I wish to use a device which the Hebrew language lends us for this very purpose. In the Hebrew text we often find such expressions as are translated **for ever** or **ever and ever** and they are based on the term מללא the meaning of which varies often by context also the term מן יום ליום "to perpetuity of perpetuities" (**Isaiah 33.15**). The word may mean "**for one's lifetime**" or "**perpetually**" while the sun endures. It may even mean "for ever" in a general sense. **Alexander CRUDEN** first emphasised that "Many believe the words **for ever** or **everlasting** are not to be taken as synonymous with **eternal**, as being without end, but to be understood merely as meaning for **a very long time**, to be indeterminate. There seems to be a considerable amount of argument in favour of this in many cases."

But when Daniel and Isaiah wished to express the ongoing and unending and eternal nature of the "Kingdom of the Heavens" they used the device מללא "for ever and still..." meaning that the Kingdom of which they spoke would last for a long age and then enter a new uninterrupted heavenly continuous mode. Let me give you the examples I have in mind.

(1) DANIEL 7.14-16

MESSIAH RECEIVES HIS KINGDOM

To HIM HE gave dominion and rare honour or dignity. [*רָצָה is the word for "precious life" -it is used in 1 Samuel 26.21 thus-"My life was precious to thee". The Father gave him absolute magnificence because he had spared not HIS precious life*] and rule or KINGSHIP and that all combined nations and peoples and tongues should set HIM apart or make HIM illustrious or "serve" HIM or "worship" HIM as God [*j/p*] His dominion is an age long dominion which shall not be abrogated [*through being deposed hd/*] and HIS kingdom one which shall not have been corrupted or destroyed or "be in vain" or be "overturned" [*l/bj*] I Daniel had been pained or grieved in my spirit and in the body or the carcase of the sheath *Daniel was thinking of himself as a "spiritual creature" watching spiritual creatures -but he was as we say "in this house of the body" like "a sword in a sheath".* And the visions of my head had agitated, amazed alarmed or hurried me on [*l/hb*] *The purpose of vision is to take man into the future. Daniel was taken in one night over a period of two and a half millennia. He was finding it hard going. He did not have the milestones that we have today. There was simply so much to digest and to think about. The finish was good but along the way there were deep dark sections in the night vision of revelation.* **I had kept coming near to ONE of those that had risen or stood fast or gone forth and stood as a conqueror** [*bxy*] I searched or requested a weighing up or a part of the whole wide sweep. *Daniel wanted to get a grasp of the gist of it all. The LORD had placed him close to the right informant (Whether angel or prophetic man)* So he spoke to me and interpreted the matters that he might enable me to grasp the meaning for myself.

THE VICTORIOUS ONE EXPOUNDS THE MYSTERY

These four great beasts-they are four kingdoms which four kingdoms will rise from the earth but the saints of the Most High **will have taken** the kingdom. *The victorious one is explaining that the whole number of the citizens of the four realms will one day rise to judgment but long before that "White Throne" event the saints of God will have received the kingdom. And they will be caused to possess the kingdom for an AION and for ages of ages* [d[w mlw[l]

(2) DANIEL 11 3-13

ETERNAL LIFE

And **the wise** or skilled to understand in the writings shall be caused to shine as the brightness of the sky and those who cause the vast numbers to (seek) righteousness as stars **for ever and still.** [d[w

mlw[l] **THE COMPARISON WITH STARS IS NOT TO BE TAKEN TO MEAN THAT THE PRESENT COSMOS STANDS AS OF NOW. NEVETHELESS THE STARS WHICH RESOLVE INTO GASEOUS WHITE DWARFS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO CONTINUE PERPETUALLY.**

But you Daniel stop hide or keep secret [mts] the words and seal up as a completed book the book until the time of the end. Many shall continue to "run or literally "whip" through (the book) [Pilel of fiv] and personal knowledge or experience shall become great. *This is one of those parts of the bible where one can see the Almighty watching over bible students of the latter days -bible colleges and individuals pouring over scripture-leafing from one book to another as they would seek to compare scriptures and understand these great matters more clearly in a way Daniel could hardly imagine.*

Then I Daniel looked and two different or other ones standing-one at this bank of the river and one at that bank. And he will say to the man dressed in linen garments who is from above the waters of the river -what is the stretch till the end of these marvellous things? *The question has to do with the independence of Israel-the saved or wise of that people-the judgment(s) of that time-the resurrection the widespread understanding of scripture and mighty evangelism.*

And I heard the man dressed in linen garments who was above the waters of the river and HE caused his left arm to be held high towards the heavens and swore by HIMSELF [Niphal of [bv]by the living One of everlasting that it shall be for a time or yearly festival-two times and half of a time and according to the accomplishments of the continual "**breaking down**" (Hebrew xpn -a word used for "incessant rain") the power of the holy people all these things shall be completed.

And I heard but I did not comprehend and I said "My Lord (ADONI) what is the aftermath of these things? And he said "Daniel you must go for the words have been stopped or closed or remain secret and are sealed until the time of the end. Many will have been chosen and separated and cleansed -the Hithpael of rrb means "(many will have) cleansed themselves"; many will have constantly purged themselves of sin [nbl -"made white" like bricks ready for building] and many will be purified as gold is refined [prx] but the wicked shall do wicked things and none of the wicked shall understand but those skilled (in the book) or wise shall understand. *The word understand [Hebrew nyb has at its root the notion of an "umpire"-there is about the concept the idea of a divine umpire or guide]*

From the time the daily sacrifice or offering has been turned aside or caused to withdraw or been removed to the abomination or contamination that destroys is a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who continues to wait [Hebrew Piel of hkj] or "tie himself to" and causes himself to touch or reach one thousand three hundred and thirty five days.

But you go -you will rest even to the end and you will stand in your inheritance that belongs to the last days or the end times.

(3) THE PSALM45 7-9

The throne of God

Your throne O God is for eternity *The absolute Hebrew term for eternity is employed-* [d[w

mlw[l] A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom *The Christ would rule and respond to prayer in righteousness and His would be a deep love of righteousness and hatred o f the tumultuous.*

Because of this God Your God (*what we would call "God the Father"*) has *Messiah-ed* you with oil of joy above those who join you (*Hebrew rbj meaning "those in fellowship with You" or "those associated with You"*) This "joy" and anointing is in another category as compared with the joy of heaven's angels and clearly excels any on earth besides. All your robes are myrrh (*for death*) and aloes (*for passion*) and aromatic cinnamon (*a spice from Ceylon for holy oil-so "holiness"*) from the palaces of ivory (*wounding*). Music makes you radiant with joy. Daughters of kings are among your precious ones. At your right hand is the queen standing (*the bride of Christ has received both standing and ministry as a result of His atoning death*) in gold of Ophir. God's people are destined for the throne where they give to the LORD very great joy.

NOR SECULAR PRINCE NOR CHURCH SAINTS CAN ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM ON EARTH

So called *Chiliasts* of the sub apostolic era were summarily dismissed by Christians who were fast becoming content with the presents of the world around them. They thought they began to see the Kingdom emerging under worldly leadership.

Jesus said, "Pray after this manner...Thy Kingdom come-thy will be done as in heaven so on earth!" Our LORD envisaged HIS return and his rule in the context of world-wide submission thereto. If it is not world leaders who bring in the kingdom in cahoots with the church is it the church herself? The proposition is self evidently impossible if the church is the "ecclesia" and subject to the home-call of Christ according to **1 Thessalonians 4.17**

CHRIST'S RULE ON EARTH MUST BE SUPREME

When the Jerusalem church ventured into the wider world tentatively at first Paul brought it come challenges and a council was convened to study the matter of how the future was perceived according to scripture. At that council Peter made a statement about God called out "a Gentile people for Himself" and James stood to confirm this by a citation from the prophecy of **Amos Chapter 9 11-12** which is written down by Luke as confirming the overall position as foreseen and prophesied.

After this **I will return (Jeremiah 15)**
and **rebuild David's fallen tent.**

Its ruins I will rebuild
and I will restore it,

that **the remnant** of men may seek **THE LORD**

[the NT quote includes "the LORD" but the Hebrew has at least a missing letter of YAH or perhaps the text never had the name of the LORD included but simply assumed it]

and **all the Gentiles** who bear my name,
says the LORD, who does these things"

that have been known for ages. (**Isaiah 45.21**)

The comments of Marshall quoting Bruce on the passage apply the "fallen tent of David" to the Christian church. This form of replacement leaves one aghast! James was not into recasting scripture. James knew very well what "After this I will return" meant. It meant that the LORD would return and at HIS return rebuild the theocratic empire of God over Israel through the lineage of the house of David and the instrumentality of Christ.

The New Schofield makes 3 useful comments to which I add my observations on the remainder of the quotation.

(1) The taking out of a people from the Gentiles for HIS name is the distinctive work of the present Church Age. *This long historical period is not world conversion-but "calling out"*

(2) After this calling out "I will return". *The cogency of James' application is seen in the sequel which describes the re-gathering of Israel and the fulfilment of the Davidic Covenant.*

(3) "And rebuild David's fallen tent". Christ took the title to David's throne back to heaven with Him, assuring that David will never lack a man to sit upon his throne (**2Samuel 8 7-8**) -looking forward to the re-establishment of Davidic rule over Israel

(4) "That the remnant *of men and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called may earnestly seek (me)*" [LXX] *This phrase in the Hebrew text makes the remnant "Edom" and associates them with the remaining unresponsive Gentile world.*

From the plain reading of Amos' text it is clear that Christ is returning at a time when Israel is rebuilding in their country. Those that I have planted will not be expelled or overthrown [Ct] by another kingdom. *Thus the Davidic dynasty will survive the millennium and be subsumed into the heavenly kingdom according to 1Corinthians 15.28*

CHRIST SHALL REIGN FOR A MILLENNIUM

Many dispute this fact because they can see but one reference to such rule in scripture. The famous text quoted is in the Apocalypse Chapter 20 and there are 5 references.

(1) "I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon that is the devil and bound him for a thousand years."

(2) "I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They lived once for all and reigned with Christ a thousand years. "

(3) "The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended."

(4) "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years"

(5) "When the thousand years are over Satan will be released from his prison"

There can be no doubt but that the time spoken of is established and emphatic.

THE MILLENNIUM ELSEWHERE

APOSTOLIC CHURCH FATHERS

Early church fathers were clear on the pre-millennial return of Christ. The names are Clement of Rome 90-100AD; Papias 60-150; Polycarp 70-155; Ignatius 98-117.

Papias for instance writes **"There will be a period of some thousand years after the resurrection of the dead, and that the kingdom of Christ will be set up in material form on this very earth"**.

("Exposition of the oracles of the LORD" -a set of 5 books written by Papias AD 110-of which fragments remain)

SECOND CENTURY FATHERS

In the second century Justin Martyr and Irenaeus made distinct reference to this period of time as did Hippolytus Tertullian Melito Hegesippus and Tatian.

Justin Martyr writes, **"I and others who are right-minded (Greek ορθογνώμονες) Christians on all points are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be built, adorned and enlarged (as) the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare"**. ("Dispute with Trypho")

Tertullian writes, **"We do confess that a kingdom is promised to us upon the earth, although before heaven, only in another state of existence; inasmuch as it will be after the resurrection for a thousand years in the divinely built city of Jerusalem, "Let down from heaven"** (Contra Marcion 3.25) *This important statement shows that former saints rule from the New Jerusalem. It also clarifies that the millennium is without prejudice to the subsequent continuing heavenly kingdom of God.*

THIRD CENTURY LEADERS

In the third century Cyprian Lactantius Victorinus of Petau Methodius and Julius Africanus can be quoted in support of the validity of the literal view.

Lactantius who was a gifted apologist and historian and an effective quarry of Origen writes in his 72nd chapter of his EPITOME he follows Revelation 13 and writes, **"Christ will deliver all nations into subjection to the righteous who are alive and will raise the righteous dead to eternal life, and will HIMSELF reign with them on earth, and will build the holy city, and this kingdom of the righteous shall be for a thousand years"**.

It fell to DIADORE of Tarsus in 391AD to challenge the allegorical method of Alexandria. **He believed its origins to be pagan and its purpose to suppress the literal sense of the text of scripture.** He opposed Julian the Apostate -a firm allegorical interpreter.

THE MISCHIEF OF ORIGEN & AUGUSTINE (4TH -5TH CENTURIES)

Augustine who saw the Jews as earthly minded and over-indulged in the long prophesied Millennium came to believe that the church hierarchy might "reign" over the kingdom of God and the transfer was virtually made to replace the Kingdom of Christ in the millennium with a then current millennium and the imminence of the Advent of Christ was lost in the consolidation of Gregory the Great who popularised Augustine and hailed the reign of the Pope. This in the light of time is totally disingenuous. The Reformers who dug us out of the enormities of mother church's sacraments and her doctrine of works did nothing to restore the original concept of the Kingdom of Christ but rather repeated the foibles of Alexandria and joined Plato to their thinking once again. The thought of a "mille"(Latin) "thousand golden years" way in the distance crumbled when the Constantinian era created its own substitute for the future Jewish theocratic prophecy and Augustine 354-430 taught instead that Satan was **bound at the first advent of Christ** and that the millennium was now associated with the Roman church and **would end in 650AD**. When **this date failed 1000AD was chosen** and **that was in turn spiritualised** and made to run till this day and the promises of the Kingdom are transferred to the Church. All this retrenchment gives the lie to a fundamental error in post Constantinian and Medievalist thinking. It was simply self-invalidating. Origen of Alexandria who allegorised scripture played havoc with the honest line of first second and third century literalists who stood in the stead of those the first Apostles and redrafted what is taught in the Apocalypse-despite the threat that his part in the Holy City would be forfeit through an attempt to redraft this book. **Apocalypse 22.19**. Origen's method was to conserve and re-interpret. He kept every word but the words no longer meant what they said. He changed the meaning of the whole book and made it a house of symbols to fit the whim of any and every future scholar.

THE MILLENNIUM IN THE PSALMS AND PROPHETS

The contexts I give below are selected because I have done exhaustive studies in the Psalms Isaiah Jeremiah and Daniel within the last few years. I am very conversant with the material and will give considerable sections and up to twenty references. This should be quite sufficient to dissuade those who hark on about there being little evidence for the "millennium"-largely because few have taken in hand to study the magnificent and manifold context of millennial truth available in the Hebrew Scriptures with which our LORD and the Apostles were most familiar.. These could possibly be doubled by reference to the Minor Prophets whose oracles I am currently working through and the great prophecy of Ezekiel which presents a solid mass of material on the Millennium

(1) PSALM 9

Calvin's antithesis

Any reading of psalm nine cannot evade the contest between the LORD and earthly power. The setting has to be the latter days-especially in the light of God's second work -following the work of redemption-i.e the work of judgement.

The challenge will be overcome 1-6

David begins "I will sing wholeheartedly" and writes of miracles with a difference. "I will write of all your self enacted miracles, I will sing and exult over You, I will make music to YOUR name O Elyon." David rehearses his experience of the past, **"By turning back of my enemies were stumbling and being destroyed before YOUR face. The Lord not David won the battle. "You laboured for my right and cause. You are sitting on the throne judging righteousness. You rebuke nations. You destroy the wicked. You wipe nations away for ever "For an age and still" [d[w m l w [l] like**

wiping a dish. "O Enemy, ruins created by war are finished" David prophesies the power of God's throne which easily clears adversaries and will end war in his Messianic and Eternal kingdom.

(2) PSALM 24 7-9

Lift up your heads you Gates and age-long doors lift yourselves up and the King of Glory will come in.

The millennial age of the Lord's rule is the subject of the psalm. It is notable that the first gate was the "eastern or old gate". (Hebrew מַעַר) The word gate (Hebrew רָצַח has the root "a fissure" "an aperture" "a crack" so there will be a shuddering, a cleavage, a breaking open that heralds this age. This is clearly the case as one studies the words of Zechariah which herald an earthquake that divides Olivet north-south as harbinger of this era. The word "doors" (Hebrew יָדָה) means house doors -so they appear to belong to the temple which will later stand in readiness for the King of kings. It is now known that the eastern gate stood right opposite the entrance to the Holy Place. In the first instance these doors (of the temple) are to "lift themselves up". The Niphal suggests "automatic doors" which are introduced to public buildings in modern times but were unknown to David. How appropriate for the King's coming

Who is this king of Glory? The Life-giver, the strong one (Hebrew מַצִּיחַ "one strengthened" by wisdom or by victory, one who is robust) -a warrior, the living Lord mighty in battle. **Lift up your heads you Gates and lift up you age-long doors.** As to the gates we have the same expression, which is also associated with being cheery, wealthy and being freed from prison. So with the Lord's coming Israel is once and for all out of bondage and will rejoice. As to the doors here we have the Perfect imperative. The Lord's command has gone forth. Great doors last long-these doors which are to last out the millennium. **And the King of Glory will come in.** This is a promise a fact and of course the beginning of a millennial rule. (The Hebrew מְלָכָה is indicative of the long age or millennium or aeon of Christ's Messianic rule)

(3) PSALM 45 7-17

The throne of God

Your **throne O God** is for eternity (The absolute Hebrew term for eternity is employed [דָּוָם

מְלִיכָה]) A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom The Christ would rule and respond to prayer in righteousness and His would be a deep love of righteousness and hatred of the tumultuous. Because of this God Your God (what we would call "God the Father") has Messiah-ed you with oil of joy above those who join you (Hebrew רֵבִי meaning "those in fellowship with You" or "those associated with You" This "joy" and anointing is in another category as compared with the joy of heaven's angels and clearly excels any on earth besides. All your robes are myrrh (for death) and aloes (for passion) and aromatic cinnamon (a spice from Ceylon for holy oil-so "holiness") from the palaces of ivory (wounding). Music makes you radiant with joy. Daughters of kings are among your precious ones. At your right hand is the queen standing (the bride of Christ has received both standing and ministry as a result of His atoning death) in gold of Ophir. God's people are destined for the throne where they give to the LORD very great joy.

The daughter of the King and the day of the trumpet

Listen O daughter (to scripture) and look prophetically. Incline your ear. Forget your people and your father's house. *This statement encourages the church to look with expectation to her heavenly destiny and home call.* The king will come to your beauty; because He is your Adonai; worship him. By a gift the daughter of Tyre will come expectantly and the rich (or "prosperous") of the people look expectantly to your face or favour. *Such is the testimony of the Christian Church at the time of the coming of Christ that those who have wealth and prosperity will not be happy without the inner renewal and the future assurance of the king's daughter-His church.* The daughter of the king is all glorious inside. (Hebrew מְרִיפָה) The inner spiritual beauty of character is what wealth cannot buy-it is the work of

Christ by the Spirit. Her glorious clothing is woven with jewels of gold embroidered in clothing of diverse coloured thread she runs at the trumpet (Hebrew l bwt) to the King. Companions described as virgins-as in the NT parable of the "wise & foolish virgins" follow her to the company of the King. They flow in at the trumpet with joy and gladness. Instead of your patriarchs you will constitute your sons rulers in all the land (or earth) I will cause your name to be remembered in all coming ages; for this reason nations will eternally praise YOU. The church participation in the rule of the earth is divinely designed and Christ's name has indeed been remembered age-long in the church's communion and further His praise will be lifted by nations in the millennium

(4) PSALM 72

Whereas Calvin is exceedingly cautious to prevent this psalm being interpreted as Messianic he believes it is the "dying prayer" of David for his son Solomon. Delitzsch notes the distich style and connects that to Solomon himself-and the stylistic point he makes is cogent. Perowne however cites the Jewish targum which reads, "O God, give Your judgements to the King Messiah and thy justice to the Son of King David" The Midrash Tehillim states, "This is the King Messiah for it is said, "A stem shall go forth out of the root of Jesse" The Yeshu'a concept turns up too frequently in the psalm to doubt its Messianic import. Calmet has the lovely comment, "Composed by David in his last days when he had set his beloved son on the throne. He addresses this psalm to God, in which he prays Him to pour out His blessing on the young king...then, wrapped up in a divine enthusiasm, he ascends to a higher subject and sings the glory of the Messiah and the magnificence of His reign

A VISION OF SOLOMON AS A RIGHTEOUS MONARCH

O God, give you justice to the king and your righteousness to the son of the king. He will administer judgement to your people in righteousness and decide for you're afflicted in justice. The mountains will bear prosperity or peace for the people and the hills will bear fruit in righteousness He will administer right judgment to the afflicted and be a **Yeshu'a Saviour** to the deeply impoverished. He will break the oppressor [*Hebrew akd meaning "to trample" and so "humble" the oppressor*]

MESSIANIC OVERTONES SUPPLANTS SOLOMON'S PAEON

You will be revered or awesome as long as the sun endures and from generation to generation according to the months of the moon *In the morning and at evening David would seek the LORD (cf Psalm 5.3) and during the festivals which fell on their appointed months God was worshipped by the nation. He will flow as gentle rain upon new mown grass; (The LXX has "the shorn fleece" as if God would favour his people with special miracles-whereas this shall undoubtedly be so it is the immediate response to the king's reign that is in mind) as plentiful rain in showers flowing like tears on earth In applying the psalm to Messiah His reign shall spring forth suddenly and his passion and piteous eye will bring fruit world-wide. In His day the righteous will flourish and great peace till the destruction of the moon.[Literally "till there be no moon"The absence of the moon Hebrew j ry ylb seems a strange feature to introduce but the symbol of peace will fail whereas in the Father's kingdom Christ's peace will endure in the hearts of his children.]*

(5) ISAIAH 4

the glory of GOD returns to Jerusalem

And the LORD will create **over the "establishment" of the mountain of Zion -over the people "called together"** A CLOUD VEIL and vapour or smoke by day and glittering licking fire and morning light shining at night because rushing from above or over all the glory is the nuptial bed-the bridal chamber. *The Glory of God covers the people so renewed as it travelled with the desert pilgrims. This time it shields and enjoys the intimate relationship with all the LORD'S people in the city who have been cleansed and prepared for a long relationship with Him And there will be a booth-tabernacle for a shadow daily from the heat and protection or "hiding place" from the hail storm shower and from the rain There may well be a temple but besides there is a construction which houses all comers from occasional elements of hail and rain which will not cease during the period of Christ's rule. The Lord is immensely practical towards those who seek His face and whereas there is normal weather there is extraordinary presence and protection of the Glory Cloud over the holy city. The lesson is*

that we can always expect the Lord to nurture the most exquisite spirituality in His people and equally to protect and care for them in every practical manner.

(6) ISAIAH 14

Israel's PRE-MILLENNIAL settlement and union with other believers

For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob and still delight in Israel and make them rest finally (Hebrew *mj ymh* Hiphil of execution) **on fertile soil. And the stranger will join himself to them** (cf joining Yahweh Isaiah 56.3- Hebrew *hwl* meaning "to serve" much as the prodigal "joined himself" to a man of the far country) **and join himself to the house of Jacob** (Hebrew *j ps* which as Gesenius points out is used just once in the Qal-and that is here in Isaiah 14.1-I think meaning "pour out over himself"[the second and spiritual meaning of the root "join" has to do with pouring water and its Niphal suggests personal spiritual decision] perhaps not as a proselyte so much as a baptised believer among Meshiachim of the latter days so emphasising the intimacy of a yet "mysterious connection and turnabout) **And nations shall take them for protection and bring them to their place and the house of Israel will have caused them to receive possession or inheritance upon the fertile land of the LORD as servants and family members and so it shall be that the captives who belong to their captives shall walk by the side** (Hebrew *hdr*) **of those to whom they have joined themselves.** This is an especially beautiful and now historically enacted prophecy reading as history. Israel was received by western nations and in time conducted to her "homeland". She took with her wives and friends from the nations and they naturalised and became Israeli citizens and even practicing Jews or they together as today join branches of the church of the Meshiachim. Please note: the translators have added the words "take captive" which are not in the text-but are interpretative-so they have arrived at a meaning which states that the Jews will take slaves-which they never did and never will do!

(7) ISAIAH 28 20-22 MILLENNIUM AND DESTRUCTION

The bed is inadequate for rest-the earth will be destroyed
For the bed is short for him that stretches on it and the woven tent covering cut narrow as to the one wrapped in it.

For as at Mt PERAZIM the LORD will rise up as in the valley of GIBEON He will be moved or disturbed to effect His sacrificial work (Hebrew *hv* [has the connotation of doing or preparing or making a sacrifice) **of a stranger and to serve his servant work His service(or servile work) as an outsider. And now** (Hebrew *ht* [-at the time of the "strange" actor "servant" act and even now when it is prophesied) **do not mock or deride**(Hebrew *xwl*) **for I have heard from Adonai Yahweh of hosts that destruction or perishing has been decreed. There can be no doubt this old world is subject to a decree of "passing away" or "finishing" or "consumption"(by fire) or "wasting away" (Hebrew *hl k*)over the whole earth**

(8)ISAIAH 29 PRE-MILLENNIAL RAPTURE

REVERSAL and the RAPTURE

And the noisy multitude will be as pounded dust and the overwhelming multitude as chaff.

"Unexpectedly"(Pithom -cf. Mal3.1-the Lord will come as to the temple in his first advent-where there were two cleansings). The word is twice used-once with the LE of the possessor and once simply as PATHA-"the' opening of the eyes" or the "loosing of the warrior's girdle". The next word MEIM means "hidden" or "gathering". The Hebrew runs **The Lord of Hosts will visit or Lord of Hosts you will visit** (Heb can be either person) **in the house of the sea roaring and the earth quaking-and a great voice QOL GADHOL of snatching away SUPHAH** (fem. to agree with the bride's journey to the Bridegroom's house) **and in the house of disturbing the people like chaff.** The concept is one of "harvest"-which has both elements-the home going wain of grain and the scattering of the chaff. **Also "there is glittering steel devouring fire"** a prophecy precise enough to speak of rocketry and war missiles

(9)ISAIAH 40

The promised coming of the Lord as the Shepherd of Israel
cf Genesis 49.24)

The call is to "Look at the Christ". It comes three times. **First** He is the promised Messiah and Israel's God-the very same which initiated "good news" and who now comes to establish His rule.

Second(v10a) He is Adonai Yahweh-the one they revered so much as not to pronounce His name-and now they find He is the "Lord" Jesus with the strong arm(Hebrew *lwrz* speaks of military authority) first evidenced in the release from Egyptian bondage. Now the Lord ensures His peoples' final liberty and peace. The second identification mark to which our attention is called is the "ruler"(Hebrew *hl cm* which means that He is able to bring opinions under His judgement or order the state of the earth aright) **The third** "Behold" (v10B) **His reward is with Him** -suggests He brings His saints and his great undertaking is before His face (Hebrew *l p* express an undertaking not a result-so the preparing of the kingdom on earth is ahead. **As a shepherd feeds his flock so he will care intimately for His own. He will kibbutz the lambs in the house of His arm** (often used of Military/supreme power) **He will lift the little ones into His bosom and gently lead or protect the mothers who give suck.** (This picture of Jesus is consistent with Matthew 19.13-15-only it is to be more widely experienced in the good kingdom of the age to come)

(10) ISAIAH 49 9-26

The age of gold

They shall pasture upon the pathways the paths of biblical truth are compared to paths along which the Shepherd leads his flock **and in all the prominent or elevated fellowship pastures.** The word *h[r* carries the notions of "food"(spiritual) and "fellowship" too **They shall neither hunger or thirst nor shall the mirage nor the sun strike them** Like a flock well cared for the LORD'S people will not be persecuted nor be deceived any more **for He who has mercy on them will constantly lead them panting** Hebrew *Piel of ghn* **to the fountains of water and care for and protect them. I will make all of my mountains belong to a path and my public highways shall be raised high.** There will be no doubt about the way and the highest things will become accessible. Just as the LORD promised to make way for his people over the mountains so He will open a way we cannot see till as we near the dreaded obstacle His path becomes clear. **Behold these from the North and the West and these from the land of China** The two huge realms which have stood afar from the doctrines of the gospel-the one-time communist north and the communist east will revel in the truth of Christ and they will mingle with those from the West in His kingdom. The huge numbers of the faithful will be a glory to the lamb.

Israel comforted

Sing O heavens and dance around O earth and You Mountains break out into song for the LORD has comforted His people and shown mercy to His afflicted. But Zion said, the LORD has forsaken me and Adonai has forgotten me. Can a woman forget to show mercy to the child she breast feeds, the son of her own womb? Yes, she will forget, but I alone will not forget you! I have inscribed or fixed you upon the palms of my hands. With oriental henna easterners tattooed the names of friends on their hands. Here our names are "graven" on His hands by the tool of Roman nailings. **Your walls are before my face continually.** The ancient walls before they fell into the debris of which Nehemiah writes were in God's mind. He speaks of the walls and watchmen of the great past and yes why not-the significant future. The LORD who died outside the city has ever since watched the walled city of Jerusalem and the 60 year cycle of prayer beside the walls may not be perfect but the elements Solomon spoke of must be there in good measure, "When they return to You with all their heart and pray to You then hear in heaven and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You" 1Kgs 8.48. Watchmen from the Jews and watchmen from the Gentiles are again today God's remembrancers on the walls.

Your sons shall be prompt or diligent (even precipitate) and those who pulled down your walls or corrupted you and those who desolated you will go far from you.

Lift up your eyes and see all those who quibbutz coming to you. As I live says the LORD you will clothe yourself with them all as with an ornament and you will constantly or again and again bind them to you as bridal perfection. Because of your waste desolate places and the land of your destruction, for that reason hitherto you will be straitened for habitation (though) those who swallowed you up are far away. The precise situation currently developing is one where new settlements are prevented by Palestinian "swallowing up" of land. Areas held by the Israeli people remain uninhabitable and may well become more so by unforeseen calamity. **Still the sons of your lost children will say in your ears, " The place is distressful, small, stony**

Hebrew *rx* offer us a place o dwell" This is currently happening even in the first decade of the 21st century The sons of the first settlers or the generation now in its seniority is speaking in exactly these words to the current government of Israel.. You will say in your heart, "Who has borne these for me? Since I am bereaved or have aborted and am famished or sterile. A captive, driven out-and these, who caused them to be educated or grow and behold I made myself a remnant alone and whence are these? This long section is a quite remarkable prophecy in which the people of 700 BC seem to speak to the people returned from the nations. The Jews of ancient time along with Isaiah are confounded at the thought of the land which their faithlessness to covenant destroyed being re-inhabited.

The Aliyah of the latter days and the millennial knowledge of Yahweh

Thus says Adonai Yahweh "Behold I will lift my hand to the Gentiles and I will perform the lifting up of my flag or sign to the nations and they will bring your sons in their bosoms and lift your daughters on their shoulders. Kings shall foster you faithfully and queens suckle you. Angry faces Hebrew *pna* to the ground they shall bow to you and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. They who wait on me will not be ashamed. The national flag of Israel is a prayer shawl with a Star of David. So it is unique among flags-it is a sign of prayer which God inspired-no other nation has such an emblem. Great nations in the wake of Cyrus have in the latter days helped Israel and to this very day returnees are being brought home by Christian agencies. The other prophecies about "angry faces in the dust" are even now not unfamiliar in Arab/Israeli conflict spats. Faithful rulers and their wives have cosseted the Jews. This process is set to continue and in the days of the kingdom yet to be to become marked. **Shall the booty be taken from the soldier? Will the captives of righteousness be delivered? For thus says the LORD even the booty of the warrior shall be taken back and the prey in the jaws of the violent tyrant will be taken for I alone will strive with him who strives with you and will save your sons. And I will make your oppressor eat their flesh and drink their blood as sweet wine and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am your Saviour and Redeemer the mighty One of Israel.**

(11)ISAIAH 51.4-8

Beyond the abolished earth salvation stands

Listen to me O my people and hear me O my nation for law will arise from me and my justice will restore rest and quiet for the light of peoples. My righteousness is near. My salvation has gone forth and my arm will judge the peoples. The coastland will wait or twist them around me and on my arm they will rest in hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth for as smoke the heavens will glide away and vanish and the earth will waste away or tear consume or go into nothing as a garment and those who dwell in it like their base will die but my salvation will be for an age and my righteousness will not be destroyed broken or ruined. Clear testimony is given to the disappearance of the heavens and the destruction of the earth. and by contras the righteousness and salvation of the LORD will continue both age-long and then eternally.

Listen :fear not persecuting reproach

Listen to me you who have experience of my righteousness, people with my law in your hearts, do not fear the fleshly men who reproach you and do not be terrified by their blasphemy. Hebrew *pdg* for at this time a moth larvae will eat a garment and a moth maggot will eat them as wool but my righteousness will remain for an age and my salvation belong from generation to generation.

Disciples are re-assured twice that despite what ecological and indeed geophysical changes hit the world righteousness and salvation are unaffected and despite the destruction of earthly possessions they last for all the generations-indeed the last age witnesses to them rolling on through waves of people who are born in that time.

(12) ISAIAH 52.7-10

The beautiful feet and strong arm of the LORD

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one who brings good news People of eminent rank or of holiness would be denoted anciently by their feet. So in the NT in Romans 10.15 preachers are commended by this

ancient encomium, who causes Shalom to be heard, who published goodness Hebrew *bṛf* God's "kindness" who causes salvation to be heard, saying to Zion, "Your God is king. Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, they will sing with united voice for they will see prophetically eye to eye in the LORD returning Zion." This was a joyful time when the captives who had traversed the long desert first looked the watchmen of the holy city in the eye. They would doubtless lift up united voices and sing. What then will it be when we meet together in the place the Lord has prepared for us in glory? **Break forth into singing unitedly all you waste places of Jerusalem for the LORD Himself has comforted Zion, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has uncovered his holy arm before the eyes of all nations and all the ends of the earth will see as prophets see the salvation of our God.** Here we continue to watch as the LORD reveals His glory-it will be explored in the next chapter fully -and it will become common knowledge among all nations. All the remote places would see with the clarity of prophetic vision because preachers would proclaim the very truths spelt out in the bible over many years and in all lands.

(13) ISAIAH 54:9-12

Messiah teaches Israel

For a little moment of "one little moment" of Ex 33.5 I have forsaken you, with great mercies I have gathered you literally *kibbutzed* **In an overflow of altercation or strife I hid my face for a moment from you but in everlasting covenant love I had mercy on you says the LORD your redeemer.** This is high encouragement. Twice the LORD says that for "a moment" He forsook His bride to be but she should not doubt His love despite her failure. For this is like the waters of Noah to me, when I swore that the waters of Noah would not pass over the earth again; thus I have sworn that I will not strive or rebuke you. For the mountains will remove and the hills will totter but my covenant love will not remove or my covenant of peace itself totter says the LORD who constantly has mercy on you Hebrew *Piel of mj r* **O you afflicted one, shaken (by adversity) and not comforted. Behold me setting your stones in colour (or) hues and your foundations in sapphires. I will make your battlements ruby (or) red like the setting sun and your gates of carbuncle or crystal and all your walls of precious delightful stones** The "colour" of Jerusalem's civic and also its domestic buildings and walls is in mind. In the era of Messiah is to surpass that of any city. Coloured stones are now in vogue-in Leicester city centres early summer 2008 various coloured stones were being laid as paving. Jerusalem's sapphire foundations and crystal walls far exceed anything yet attempted in architecture. **The oriental story of Aladdin** instructs that his palace be of "porphyry jasper agate lapis lazuli and the finest marble of various colours with a large hall of mass gold and silver bricks alternating enriched with diamonds rubies emeralds to exceed everything of the kind ever seen in the world". The difference is, this is not fable and the Almighty keeps his promises. The investment of detail will be worth it as the city will last for an aeon. **All your sons will be taught of the LORD and great will be the peace of your children** The education of Jerusalem in that aeon will be taught NT truth and it would seem by the LORD Himself. **In righteousness you will be established or constituted and you shall be far from injustice or violence for you will not fear terror for it will not come near you. Behold assembling they will assemble but without me. Whoever assembles against you will fall on account of you Behold I have created the blacksmith who blows on the burning coal or charcoal of the fire and brings forth instruments for his work, and I have created the desolator to lay waste. Any weapon formed against you shall not descend upon you or prosper and every tongue that rises in judgement against you, you shall declare guilty. This is the heritage of the LORD'S servants and their righteousness is from me, whispers the LORD** The encouragement here is that though nations develop arms against Israel they shall not afflict this nation in that aeon. Today this promise lies in scripture but the nation has not yet fully received its heritage and righteousness from Christ. The nation has the right to rebuke claimants to the land of Israel because here the LORD says, "Every tongue that litigates against you (as to heritage), you shall declare guilty" Hebrew *y[yvr t*

(14) ISAIAH 60 18-22

Things "no longer" to be known

(1)"Hamas"(violence) shall no longer be heard of in your land. This word trips us again and again in the psalms and in Isaiah. God knew about the last opposition to his rule and He says the word will not even be heard in Israel.

(2) Devastation and breaking will no longer be within Israel's boundaries. You will call your walls "salvation" and your gates "praise" Clearly *intifada* ends and the Saviour rules with unanimous acclaim

(3)The sun will no longer be the chief light or the moon govern at night-but the LORD will be your age-long light and your God your glorious teacher. *Here there is a pun on the original heavenly lights in favour of the creator who continually gives rays of light and wisdom.*

(4)No longer shall your Sun come (& go) and your moon add to its light (by quarters) for the Lord will be your light for an age(or ever) and the days of mourning are finished.(cf No.5)

Entire salvation

Your people shall in their entirety be righteous (by faith) and for an age they shall dwell in the land-a branch of my planting; a work of my hand belonging to my glory or my teaching through all history
(Hebrew passive of rap)

A small one-so young will become a thousand (during the age of Christ's rule) and a mean or despised one (like the place Zoar)a strong nation- I the LORD will hasten it in its time. There will be a tremendous acceleration in the growth of Israel numerically and in strength in the time of Messiah.

(15) ISAIAH 61 1-11

The gospel message in its twin era ramifications

The Spirit of the Lord Yahweh is upon Me signifying*(Hebrew an "signifying" or "indicating by call" like a bird e.g. ostrich or owl)***He has anointed me to preach** *(Hebrew rvb -the Hebrew for "preach" has twin roots- (a) "to make joyful" rvb (b) "to cool by torrent water" rwb -it is typically used in the Piel i.e. "to keep preaching")***to the poor; He has sent me to bind the wounds of those who have broken their own hearts.***(Hebrew rbv)***to herald** *(Hebrew arq to "call out" or call together" or "invite" or "summon"-even "to call by name" like the LXX κηρυσσω)***"being free as a bird" "spontaneous as a stream" to those who were driven to captivity; to herald the opening of the prison to those who are bound. To herald the year of the pleasure belonging to the LORD and the day of vengeance (cf Jer 51.36) of our God** *The idea of "pleasure" is everywhere in Isaiah-it describes the pleasure in God's family resulting from atonement. The cross does not end vengeance for God reserves judgement for the wicked.);***to comfort all who mourn. To make to stand up and re-constitute mourners of Zion; to give to them beauty adornment or teaching (to boast of) instead of ashes; oil of joy instead of mourning; a veil or garment of praise to wrap one in instead of a spirit of timidity or failing strength; to call or herald for their possession "terebinth of righteousness"-the planting of the LORD- belonging to His having been glorious or beautiful or taught** *(the verb rap is a favourite of Isaiah. It speaks of the "adornment of the atoning work" "the doctrine of the cross"-so this whole anointing is related to the work of Christ "having been beautiful" where the Hithpael verb stresses it will be long accomplished before it reaps its final harvest)*

The latter day rebuilding of national Israel

And they shall build age-long broken places and raise up former desolated places. They shall renew wasted cities-desolations of many generations. *Much needs doing in Bethshan, in Chorazin, Jerusalem is rebuilt beautifully within the Jewish quarter.Beersheba is a ruin as is Hamath and many other cities)***Enemies shall minister and sow seed or crops for your flocks and the sons of the alien shall be your ploughman and vinedresser. They shall call you, "Priests of Yahweh" and say that it belongs to you to be servants who wait on or call on God** *(Hebrew ihk hrv).***You shall eat/be sustained by the riches of the gentiles and for their brightness you shall be substituted.** *The idea here is that the kingdom of God shall become weighty glorious bright and substitute on earth for the place once filled by great gentile civilisations and powers***Instead of your shame double and instead of wounding or injuring they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall settle in double (the area) and age-long joy shall be theirs. Jews shall have twice as much of everything and so the portion of aliens shall also double**

The justice and joy of the latter day

For I the LORD love justice. I hate those who claim for themselves the burnt offering. I will cause them to receive by their deeds in faithfulness and cut for them an everlasting covenant. *Here the LORD speaks of the offering that is taken back as food and promises from His own heart to give an offering-cut a covenant and provide a lamb for a whole offering.***Their seed will make themselves known among the Gentiles and those**

who spring from them in the midst of the peoples. All who see them (prophetically) will care or be acquainted with them for these are seed blessed of the LORD *Here Gentile awareness of Messianic believers is forecast.* Rejoicing I will rejoice in the LORD-my soul will dance through my God for He has clothed me with the garments (*Hebrew dgb outer garment*) of salvation, the priestly or kingly robe (*Hebrew l j[m]*) of righteousness. As a bridegroom clothes himself continually /provides beauty or honour or a turban in a priestly manner and a bride keeps putting on her coronet. *The experience of being united is so wonderful the couple keep enjoying their turban and corona. Such joy belongs to the believer*

For as the earth brings forth its produce in bud and as the garden causes to sprout its herbs so the Lord THE LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout before all nations. *It will be a new springtime. It will be so manifest as to "explain the enigma" of history. That is the effect of "Before nations" (Hebrew dgm "in their sight" and "to declare evidently") These two similes are very beautiful and effective. The earth returns to a bride and bridegroom mode and a garden scene-it is paradise regained with the return of the Lord our Righteousness.*

(16) ISAIAH 62 3-12

Gentile illumination does not preclude the Lord's other great longing

And the Gentiles shall see (*Hebrew h[r]*) **prophetically your righteousness** (*Jerusalem has no innate righteousness only that centered on the purpose of God.* **And He will have called you by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will declare distinctly.** *The city is called "El Quts" by Arab citizens but Yahweh reserves the right to name the city*

You shall be an ornamental tiara in the hand of the Lord and a rolled kingly headpiece in the palm of your God. He will not still say of Himself about you "Forsaken" and He will not say still concerning your land, "waste desert" for concerning you He will say "Delighted in Her" and to the land "Wife"(Beulah) for the Lord delights in you and He has caused himself to be "married" to your land. For as a young man marries a virgin so your sons will marry you and as a groom rejoices over his bride so you're God will rejoice over you.

Watchmen -the role of prophets enfolds Christ crucified and triumphant

Upon or on account of your walls O Jerusalem I have performed commissioned or developed watchmen - all the day and all the night-never shall they be silent *The "watcher" is like a shepherd guarding a sheep-fold like a gardener keeping birds from the crops. Such watchers are a safety factor.* **You who remind the Lord -let no silence or rest be yours, and do not give Him the gift of silence until He constitutes or established Jerusalem "a praise" in the earth.**

The divine oath guarantees a banner in the latter days

The Lord has sworn by His right hand and the bare arm of his strength (*cf "To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed")* **that He will not give your grain for food to your enemies. And the sons of strangers shall not drink the new wine for which you laboured. But those who gather it shall eat it and continually praise the Lord** (*Hebrew Piel w/ l h*) **and drink it in the courts or villages of my holiness. Pass through pass through into the gates, prepare a way of the people, build up-build up the highway-lift up stones-raise aloft a banner over the nations.**

God has announced Messiah's coming and His care for Jerusalem

Behold the Lord has announced (*Hebrew Hiphil [ymvh "He has caused to hear"]*) **to the end of the earth - "Speak the promises to the daughter of Zion -"Behold your Yeshua (Jesus) is coming, His reward is with Him and His illustrious undertaking before His face. They shall call them "the holy people" "the redeemed ones of the Living Lord" and you shall call yourselves** (*Hebrew Niphal of arq*) **the persecuted ones of the Lord-"those He ran after till he got them"-**"The city that did not leave itself" (*Jerusalem did not forsake its original purpose-of being a Holy City-in the last days it becomes His city-and its citizens Jeshua's people-a holy people.*)

(17) ISAIAH 66 20-24

The Aliyah Jews come home: an analysis of the root meaning of the words used for modes of conveyance

Then they shall bring all your brethren from the Gentiles an offering to the Lord. Conveyances are then described in terms with current & futuristic values

On horses שוים By horse though the term depicts also of the cheerful flight of the swallow arriving after a season at its distant home

On Chariots בכר horse driven chariots or in its metaphorical usage -"the wings of the wind"

On Litters בבך -that is "Covered wagons or chariots"- assimilating to the modern car

On Mules דרפ noted for their speed of movement-the verb also means "to expand wings" and "to fly away"- agreeable to air transport

On camels/dromedaries רכר. The sound is "Car" and the meaning is "to go round". Dromedaries did "round trips" much like modern coaches, trains, and planes and were noted for their swiftness.

Unto Jerusalem the mountain (or kingdom) of my holiness promises the Lord-as when the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean or silver vessel to the house of the Life-giving Lord. And I will take some of them for priests and Levites promises the Lord.

The New Heavens & Earth await in the wings-the Millennium proceeds-death & contamination persist

For just as the New heavens and the new earth which I am making are standing to minister before my face whispers the Lord (emphatic of a privy revelation) so your seed and your name will stand. And it shall happen that from one new moon to another and one Sabbath to another that all flesh shall come to worship before my face the Lord promises. And they shall go forth and look at the corpses of the men of flesh who have transgressed against me for their worm does not die and their fire is not quenched and they shall repel all flesh. (Hebrew [לִט] signifying "purification" or "rash speech"- so that as the judgement continues in a sort of radiation the words spoken in rash oath by these rebellious ones live on in their doom. This is a direct warning on what we would call "contamination") The abiding evidence of nuclear warfare and the embers of Rosh on the mountains of Israel will be a sober reminder to one and all of the cost of acting against the LORD. With the glory of Christ's kingdom the year to year memorial of this end time event will be established like the holocaust memorial. With such sobering thoughts that take the prophetic mind to the "Day of the Lord" in 2 Peter where we read of the "discovery" of atomic physics and its serious impact and to the Apocalypse and the outpouring of vials of wrath this hugely important prophetic masterpiece of the Holy Spirit comes to a conclusion not too different from the Apocalypse-with its instant call for allegiance to our LORD and Israel's Messiah in the light of forth-coming events

(18) JEREMIAH 31 38-40

JEREMIAH'S 215TH PROPHECY

Behold the days-declares the LORD-when the city shall be built for and to belong to the LORD from the watchtower of HANANEL to the gate of the corner and it goes on further by line of measure of my leader or overseer [דגן] over the hill of scurvy and it goes round the place of lowing of oxen [חג] The entire deep valley of carcasses and ashes and all the vineyards or cornfields to the brook KIDRON-to the corner of the horse gate-a GREAT SUNRISE OR A GREAT PLANTATION OF HOLINESS that will not be plucked up (or) torn down[בטן] nor noisily destroyed *Jeremiah was speaking of the earthly Jerusalem but not the city as reconstructed in OT time which was noisily destroyed by the Romans-nor the city as constructed now-its walls will extend wide to the Wadi en-Nar encompassing hundreds of acres to the east and south besides the current boundaries from the Damascus Gate to Zion.*

(19) JEREMIAH 33 4-9

JEREMIAH'S 225TH PROPHECY A MILLENNIAL PROMISE AND THE MURKY PRESENT PROSPECTS

For thus promises Jehovah Israel's strong Saviour & God on the topic of the city's housing stock and the house of the king of Judah (*God's "thus" hk expounds the hitherward" of situations-i.e. where it will end*) that have been voluntarily torn down against siege & sword in the war with Babylon-they are to be filled with the carcasses of men whom I will slay in wrath and anger-I who will hide my face from this city because of their evil.

"Behold me raising up for her long continued days of relaxation and restorative healing by "sowing seed" and not by "medicine"(*mytapr not twapr*) cf 30.14 "There is no medicine for your cause" and I will "make bare" (a pun on the bare bottoms of captives)-but here God says "I will reveal for them fragrance and **abundance of Shalom and truth-i.e peace and truth**. I will turn back Judah and Israel and their turning (*away*) and build them as in BERESHITH-like a new creation. I will cleanse them as rain washes from all their sin they have sinned & their rebellion against me. Then the city will belong to me for renown, for joy, for praise, for honour before all the gentiles of the earth and they will hear of all the good I am going them and they will fear and be ashamed (*djp*) and be in tumult and anger at all the peace which I make to belong to her. Cf "*I create Jerusalem a rejoicing*"!

(20) JEREMIAH 46 27-28

JEREMIAH'S 268th PROPHECY

THE LATTER DAY FUTURE OF THE JEWS-the future is JESUS MESHIACH

You are not to fear O my servant Jacob and do not be broken or confounded by terror [*ttj*] O Israel-when you **watch me your MESSIAH or anointed king (acting as) SAVIOUR from a distant place and saving your seed who return from the land of captivity and Jacob will dwell in undisturbed rest [*fqb*] and in peace or two resting places [*mav*] and none will cause him to tremble or terrorise him.**

You are not to fear O my servant Jacob says the LORD with quiet assurance though I make an utter end among all the nations-this is a reference to the end of the times of the Gentiles and a long distance warning of great judgments parallel to those on Egypt yet to come upon the world.

Though I make an utter end of the nations among whom I cause you to be thrust [*hjd* "to make to stumble" "to push"] -BUT AS TO YOU I WILL NOT MAKE AN END -I WILL CORRECT OR CHASTISE [LITERALLY "YASSER" YOU] IN A JUST MANNER AND I WILL NOT CONTINUALLY PARDON YOU TO KEEP PARDONING.

There is virtually a 70 times7 pardon in this double Piel- expression that means Pardon way into the future for the sake of going on and on pardoning. The LORD seeks repentance and a turning to MESSIAH-this is the only way for HIS people and Jeremiah states it in black and white.

(21) DANIEL 7 14-18

MESSIAH RECEIVES HIS KINGDOM

To HIM HE gave dominion and rare honour or dignity.[*rqy* is the word for "precious life" -it is used in 1 Samuel 26.21 thus-"My life was precious to thee". The Father gave him absolute magnificence because he had spared not HIS precious life]and rule or KINGSHIP and that all combined nations and peoples and tongues should set HIM apart or make HIM illustrious or "serve" HIM or "worship" HIM as God[*jlp*] His dominion is an age long dominion which shall not be abrogated [*through being deposed hd[]*] and HIS kingdom one which shall not have been corrupted or destroyed or "be in vain" or be "overturned" [*lhb*] I Daniel had been pained or grieved in my spirit and in the body or the carcass of the sheath *Daniel was thinking of himself as a "spiritual creature" watching spiritual creatures -but he was as we say "in this house of the body" like "a sword in a sheath".* And the visions of my head had agitated, amazed alarmed or hurried me on [*lhb*] *The purpose of vision is to take man into the future. Daniel was taken in one night over a period of two and a half millennia. He was finding it hard going. He did not have the milestones that we have today. There was simply so much to digest and to think about. The finish was good but along the way there were deep dark sections in the night vision of revelation. I had kept coming near to ONE of those had risen or stood fast or gone forth and stood as a conqueror [*bxy*] I searched or requested a weighing up or a part of the whole wide sweep. Daniel*

wanted to get a grasp of the gist of it all. The LORD had placed him close to the right informant (Whether angel or prophetic man) So he spoke to me and interpreted the matters that he might enable me to grasp the meaning for myself.

THE VICTORIOUS ONE EXPOUNDS THE MYSTERY

These four great beasts-they are four kingdoms which four kingdoms will rise from the earth but the saints of the Most High **will have taken** the kingdom. *The victorious one is explaining that the whole number of the citizens of the four realms will one day rise to judgment but long before that "Whit Throne" event the saints of God will have received the kingdom.* And they will be caused to possess the kingdom **for an AION and for ages of ages.**

(22) DANIEL 9.27

THE END OF THE MODERN HUMAN GOVERNMENT ERA AND THE DEVASTATION ENTAILED IN ISRAEL & THE WORLD

- (1) And he (ROME OR ROME REDIVIVUS shall confirm the covenant with many -or cause a covenant to prevail - [rbg "*strengthen the covenant*"] for a single week
- (2) And middle of the week he shall cause the interruption or cessation or restraint or end or removal of **sacrifice and evening incense offering** *The Antichrist will ban critical Jewish religious rites*
- (3) And until the removal to distant parts or **the hiding** [pnk. *The expression relates to "wings"*]. *This may refer to the Rapture and also to the departure of large swathes of Jewish population in face of war.*
- (4) Contaminations [xqv] will have laid waste or desolated or astonished [Poel of mmv] to the end or the finish or the languishing. [hl k]
- (5) And that determined or active and sharp [xrj carries the sense of "*something predetermined*" "*something bitter*" *something sharp and decisive*" "*something that will cut down a latter day harvest like a thresher*"] will be poured or "melt upon" [Jtn] the desolating or the one who continues to desolate. *This mighty warrior angel is speaking about vials from heaven and of terrible punishment for terrible crime. This latter day war which we may expect the in the lifetime of the rising generation could be little understood except in heaven. What is of interest is that the sanctuary of Israel is the primer and fuse for this great conflict and that because the international community and its latter day leader or "prince"*

(23) DANIEL 11 34-45

ANTI CHRIST AND THE END TIMES (Each "f" below represents a Hebrew Future tense of a distinct prophetic detail about Antichrist-of which there are 25 in all)

The prophecy transitions from the Desolator of Maccabean times to the Desolator of the End times. For NT material on this figure consult 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13 and 17

And **THE KING** shall do (f) according to his pleasure and **HE** will have constantly lifted him high (f) and **HE** will have made himself great (f) over or beyond every god and **HE** shall speak **impious things** (f) against the God of Gods and **HE** shall gain success (f) until the consummation of the wrath (of God)... *The obvious end-time wrath is better known to us as "the Tribulation" of Matthew 24...* for that which is decreed [Niphal] will take effect [Niphal] *The LORD is stating to Daniel that his decrees will naturally come into play and take their course. This course is set as sure as the path of the stars.* **HE** will not know (f) attend to or mark or teach or discern **the gods of his fathers** or know **the desire of women** and **HE** will not attend to (f) or teach any god but **HE** will constantly exalt or make him great. But on his base or appointed place [mk] **HE** will glorify (f) the god of forces and to the god whom his fathers did not know personally he will do honour (f) with gold and silver and precious stones and delights

HE shall enact this (f) in the strongholds of power with a strange [rk]-little known foreign or alien] god whom **HE** will cause to be regarded (f) or acknowledged and whose glory **HE** will increase (f) and **HE** will cause them to have dominion over very many and **HE** shall allot the good land for a sale price. And at the time of the end or cutting of **the king of the south (EGYPT-CUM-ARAB ALLIANCE)** will have

butted (f) or pushed with or against him *This feature may indicate animosity on the part of the Pan Arab alliance...and the king of the north (SYRIA-CUM-RUSSIA) will have come against him as a rushing tempest [r[v] The text is instancing Egypt and probably what is now known as the Pan Arab alliance led by Egypt. The king of the North defines in terms of Syria... with many vehicles and drivers and he shall come into the lands (other territories invaded or used as staging posts in an advance) and overflow and pass.*

And **HE** shall enter (f) into the pleasant land (Israel) and many (countries) shall sink together (f) or fall but these shall escape (f) his hand-Edom and Moab and the chiefs of the sons of AMMON. *This means that present day Jordan which spans all that territory shall not be overthrown or suffer from this movement against Israel. This may be because Jordan is "in the fold" of Anti Christ.*

HE shall extend his hand (f) over countries and the land of Egypt shall not be (f) for escape by flight. *There is something secret in this phrase. It seems that Egypt is compliant and becomes subservient - abandoned by their allies Ethiopia and Libya.*

HE shall become master (f) over the store of treasure of gold and silver and over all the precious things of **Egypt and the Libyans and the Ethiopians** shall be in the path (f) [d[x the march or chase] of his marching (army). **But reports from the east and the north (POSSIBLY CHINA AND RUSSIA)** will amaze hasten and terrify him (f) *The new difficulties in the North and what is taking place far to the East now dominates the strategy of the Northern forces.*

HE shall go forth (f) with great wrath to destroy [dmv] and to cause the devotion of hordes or great one to destruction *The word HARAM is the word for "ban" which was used in the wiping out of the entire population of cities in the days of Joshua. Thus some sort of mass destructive power comes into play at this stage of the conflict. This going forth may involve ships and perhaps nuclear weapons.*

And **HE** shall plant (f) his field tents [literally tents of the plain] between the seas...*Between the Mediterranean and the Jordan at the hill of the splendour of holiness but HE shall come to his end (f) and there will be (f) no strengthener for him. With the sudden acute interruption of the LORD this vexed and possibly merciless nuclear onslaught ends and Christ takes up his power to rule.*

(24) DANIEL 12.1-13

MICHAEL

But at that time (of the Anti-Christ) Michael will stand up to minister-the Great Prince who stands constantly above the sons of your people and there will be distress rivalry hostility or anguish as of a prurient woman which has not come about [Niphal of hyh] since there has been a nation until this time.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE & THE COMING JUDGMENT

But in that time your people will escape or deliver themselves. *The independence of Israel in the latter day is asserted. When in 1923 the Colonial Office issued the Balfour declaration its wording ran "Israel come to and lives in the country as of right and not on sufferance". The capacity of the nation to avoid entanglement in much of the international distress while remaining at the vortex may also be implied. Today Israel is not in financial distress-large finds of natural resources are available to strengthen her economy. She is not involved in international long term war as the USA and UK. She is not afflicted by natural disaster. But there is a further rider which suggests that the deliverance ultimately is good for those who are Christ's.*

Each (one) of **those found** written in the book. *The Niphal is again used-so the personal option of the gospel-which people must accept each for him will yield this deliverance. The singular is used in this case to stress the need for personal faith in Messiah.*

TWO RESURRECTIONS

And great numbers from those sleeping ones or those who fall asleep of the dust of the earth or "red earth mourning dust" [Literally the "earth dust sleepers"] **will be caused to awake**-some or these for **lives of an age** (the terms of these lives is determined by the verb of unending being) and these for exposure and abandonment of great shame [plural of prj] and some for **everlasting** or **age-long** contempt. *This condition described the persons who sin during the millennium in Isaiah 66.24. I have*

concluded that the Isaiah state which is experienced during the millennium to be a state where life remains but is disconnected-like suspended animation. The Arabic of *ard* means "to excite evil"- Theodore (Aramaic) and the LXX have "shame" *αἰσχύνῃ* which Greek expression is "shame experienced on account of shameful act(s) done." This latter "awaking" of either selection of the people is not apportioned a clear time frame. This "awaking" appears to encompass all nations- (cf Revelation 20 5 and 11-15)

ETERNAL LIFE & BIBLE STUDENTS

And **the wise** or skilled to understand in the writings shall be caused to shine as the brightness of the sky and those who cause the vast numbers to (seek) righteousness as stars **for ever and still** [d[w mlw[l] But you Daniel stop hide or keep secret [mts] the words and seal up as a completed book the book until the time of the end. Many shall continue to "run or literally "whip" through (the book) [Pile of fiv] and personal knowledge or experience shall become great. *This is one of those parts of the bible where one can see the Almighty watching over bible students of the latter days -bible colleges and individuals pouring over scripture-leaving from one book to another as they would seek to compare scriptures and understand these great matters more clearly in a way Daniel could hardly imagine.* Then I Daniel looked and two different or other ones standing-one at this bank of the river and one at that bank. And he will say to the man dressed in linen garments who is from above the waters of the river -what is the stretch till the end of these marvellous things? *The question has to do with the independence of Israel-the saved or wise of that people-the judgment(s) of that time-the resurrection the widespread understanding of scripture and mighty evangelism.* And I heard the man dressed in linen garments who was above the waters of the river and HE caused his left arm to be held high towards the heavens and swore by HIMSELF [Niphal of [bv]by the living One of everlasting that it shall be for a time or yearly festival-two times and half of a time and according to the accomplishments of the continual "**breaking down**" (Hebrew xpn -a word used for "ceaseless rain") the power of the holy people all these things shall be completed. And I heard but I did not comprehend and I said "My Lord (ADONI) what is the aftermath of these things? And he said "Daniel you must go for the words have been stopped or closed or remain secret and are sealed until the time of the end. Many will have been chosen and separated and cleansed -the Hithpael of rrb means "(many will have) cleansed themselves"; many will have constantly purged themselves of sin [nbl-"made white" like bricks ready for building] and many will be purified as gold is refined [prx] but the wicked shall do wicked things and none of the wicked shall understand but those skilled (in the book) or wise shall understand. *The word understand [Hebrew nyb has at its root the notion of an "umpire"-there is about the concept the idea of a divine umpire or guide]* From the time the daily sacrifice or offering has been turned aside or caused to withdraw or been removed to the abomination or contamination that destroys is a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who continues to wait [Hebrew Piel of hkj] or "tie himself to" and causes himself to touch or reach one thousand three hundred and thirty five days. But you go -you will rest even to the end and you will stand in your inheritance that belongs to the last days or the end times.

KEY TO APOCALYPIC

(1)UNAVOIDABLES

Of late many commentators have brought out material on the Apocalypse or as Reformed writers prefer it the book of Revelation. I find it sad that the great bulk of Reformed teachers defy the tide of prophetic scriptural evidence that pounds the shores of each successive generation ever more loudly as Messiah's coming nears to avoid giving Israel her place in the unravelling of the final stages of history. With something approaching stage fright **the sons of the Reformation flee from the idea of the rapture the tribulation and the Millennium**("unavoidables" taught in the Apocalypse) and vote en masse for a highly questionable continuity schema of Christian return from heaven to this old earth which they urge

in face of its scripturally prophesied demise will survive. To promote more serious reflection on this faulty theological or so-called "a-millennial" re-envisioning I am developing a CD trilogy to give prominence to these vital principia of the prophetic scriptures of which this is No.1.

(2)THE APOCALYPSE-NOT AN EASY BOOK

Another associated matter is the interpretative framework of the Apocalypse itself. Year ago when I taught R.E. in STRABANE Grammar School I asked the class which book of the bible they would like me to talk about. I was somewhat challenged when they said-"the book of Revelation". At that time-the late sixties- I was hardly equal to the task-but of all things weird and wonderful I had a little commentary by John Wesley and I gave them a taste of the Methodist Founder's eschatology. For what it's worth Wesley understood the bulk of the book to be like Chinese boxes-one revelation proceeding out of another-an idea to which the students took like ducks to water.

(3)THE KEY TO THE APOCALYPSE

There is a literary device that John uses both in the Gospel and in the Apocalypse. It is clearly a transferable device and it is used with intent. It is the Greek adverbial and temporal combination

μετὰ ταῦτα which you may check out for yourself in the following textual settings.

John 3.22, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 19.31, 21.1 and the Apocalypse (3.22)/4.1, 7.1, 7.9, 15.5, 18.1 and 19.1.

NB Apocalypse Prelude has **70** OT references The Tribulation period 528 & The Heavenly State**27** Observations:

(1) These are the major divisions of both books and the phrase has the sticcato signification-"**immediately** after these things". This is its exact linguistic signification.

(2) The first use is at an identical chapter division in both books which would have been written on scrolls of roughly the same length.

(3) The section prior to the first usage in John and the Apocalypse are in the nature of Prelude. The Prelude to the "trouble or trials" of the earthly ministry of Christ are His joyous commendation by the Father. His joyous appearance at the Wedding Feast as our heavenly Bridegroom and his joyous meeting with Nicodemus who of all the Jews that **might trouble him** though a master in Israel is his friend and ally thereafter; this prelude leads naturally into a maelstrom of trouble for our LORD from the Jews . The Apocalyptic Prelude is the Asia Minor church of the first century(which if you desire will work well as a picture of church development through the centuries). The prelude leads to a succession of deep troubles which we know as the "seven seals"; "seven trumpets" and "seven vials" all of which signal matters of high drama and **deep trouble**. In the midst of the trouble of the Gospel the LORD proceeds within a brief term to develop his ministry of **sovereign grace and revelation**. In the midst of the trouble for the world and Israel in especial the ministry of divine **sovereign judgment and revelation** proceed toward the final denouement with all haste.

(4) The whole of John's gospel moves inexorably onwards to the "hour " of Christ's death our LORD'S ministry carries within it the life of the "**eternal world**" form the opening up of the skies at the outset (**John 1.31**)understandably rendering this gospel in the mind of many commentators a "spiritual" gospel(though they seem not to give reason why!) and the whole of the Apocalypse moves inexorably onwards to the judgment of mankind and the "second death" which carries within it the death of the old groaning "**temporal world**."

(5) The time span of the gospel action following the prelude is in or around three and a half years in duration. The time span of the central developments of the seals trumpets and vials is again short-no

longer than 7 years. The effect of μετὰ ταῦτα as a device John uses is to convey this running immediacy of events in short order and to understand this swift kaleidoscopic movement of God's hand in completing the expeditious work of judgment in the earth is absolutely vital to the interpretation of the Apocalypse.

THE PARABLES OF CHRIST IN MATTHEW 13

The eight parables of this chapter each of itself and all in concert demonstrate the power of the word of the Kingdom which when it arrives is *all pervasive and dominates everything*.

There are 3 views of these parables. The first is that they were given to blind those who refused the truth. The second is that they are fulfilled in the church age. The third is that they are used to explain aspects of the millennial kingdom that had not yet been revealed.

Dwight Pentecost is correct to observe that the series of parables extends from Israel's rejection to its future reception of Messiah.

While the church has become familiar with using the term "Kingdom" of itself it is essentially the Ecclesia.. Our LORD quotes **Isaiah 6 .9-10.4** about the spiritual blindness of Israel and also **Daniel 12.3** with obvious reference to the future Jerusalem centred millennial kingdom. All the seed parables have one objective-the harvest of the end of the age.

The parable of the "Drag-net" brings us to the end of the Tribulation when the wicked will be cast into the fire and there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth".

These parables recorded by Matthew give hope of a thorough-going Kingdom emerging in all its grandeur despite the hardness of the hearts of the Jews of Jesus time. Christ is not giving the Jews "what for" but rather teaching them through the apostles that His kingdom will indeed emerge in the millennium in accordance with all the prophecies of the former testament.

The purpose of Matthew 13 is not to divulge the history of the Church but the mystery form of the Kingdom. What is removed in these parables is not the Church but the unbelievers-in the end of the age judgment of nations so that the Millennial Kingdom may open in unchallenged glory.

THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES YIELDS TO THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL

Covenants are fulfilled in the Millennium that can no otherwise be completed

The Millennium will fulfil all the promises of the Abrahamic covenant, the Davidic Covenant, the land promises of the Palestinian Covenant and the ultimate promises given in the New Covenant for the blessing of Israel(cf **Jeremiah 31.31; 32.35-39; Ezekiel 11. 18-20 16.60-63 and 37 26** along with that set out clearly by the Apostle Paul in **Romans 11 26-29**).

Satan is bound in the Millennium and cannot be so bound in the Church Age

And I saw an angel come down from heaven having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **Revelation 20 1-3**

That the "Branch of David" should rule the Millennium must ensue

The Branch is used of Christ as Immanuel and as Messiah (Seed of David) and as Jehovah's servant and fourthly of Christ as "Son of Man" or Priest King who has full title to reign on earth. At the outset of His rule He will do judgment of nations and be acknowledged as King of Righteousness King of Israel King of Kings and King over all the earth(**Isaiah 32.1 John 12.13 Rev 19.16 and Zech 14.9**)

The millennial kingdom is moral and spiritual

A-Millennialists follow Augustine in a critique the ancient biblical position as holding out simply a multitude of material blessings. Only the righteous are admitted to the kingdom(**Matthew 25.37**). Of Israel who stand at its centre it is said "Thy people also shall be righteous". "Unto those that fear His name "shall the sun of righteousness rise with healing in his wings"(**Malachi 4.2**)

The Millennial Kingdom shall be the first utterly peaceful kingdom since the beginning of the world

The keynotes of this glorious Kingdom are "Righteousness" and "Peace". In His days shall the righteous flourish and abundance of peace so long as the moon endures" (Please note that there are both Prophetic

and Gospel indicators of the temporality of the moon-one of which you will note in the above OT quotations)

The Millennial Kingdom will be one of health and healing

The animal creation will continue ad from the days of the ark of Noah but will lose its venom and ferocity (Isaiah 11. 6-9 35.9 and 65.25). Sickness will remove though death is retained as a penalty for overt sin.(Cf Isaiah 33.24 Jeremiah 30.17 Ezek 34.16 with Isaiah 66.24) .No deformity will continue (Isaiah 29 17-19 35.3-6 61.1-2 Jeremiah 31.8 Micah 4 6-7 and Zephaniah 3.19.

No immaturity of mind or dwarfism

Such tragedies are denied by Isaiah 65.20

Reproduction

The fact that earth's population will grow again after the decimation of the tribulation is due to the biblically predicted in Jeremiah 30.20, 31.29 Ezekiel 47.22 and Zechariah 10..8) This age cannot for this reason alone be mistaken for the eternal state.

Labour

There will be an industrialised society of a new sort (Isaiah 62.8-9 65 21-23 Jeremiah 31.5 and Ezekiel 48 18-19. With this special protections shall exist (Isaiah 41 8-14 62.8-9 Jeremiah 32.27 and 23.6 -see also Ezekiel 34.27 with Joel 3 16-17 Amos 9.15 and Zechariah 8 14-15 9.8 and 14 10-11.

Outbreak of summarily halted

He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of his lips shall He slay the wicked. The fullness of the Spirit, the universality of the knowledge of the LORD and the removal of Satan along with the manifestation of the presence of the King will impose inescapable and effective constraints on sin.

CALVIN'S PROBLEM

It would have somewhat helped the Pre-millennial cause amongst Reformed teachers today had John Calvin espoused this biblical truth. However we are not attached at the hip to the Reformer of Geneva. Why did this young thinker of the Reformation who knew about the position of the early church reject Pre-Millennialism? His statement anent the Millennium was "**their fiction is too puerile** to require or deserve refutation"(Institutes 2.250)

Calvin thought that this Chiliasm subscribed the Eternal. He was mistaken. The Apostle Paul writes, **Then cometh the end when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and authority and power. For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For He hath put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him. And when all things shall be subdued under him, then shall the Son Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him that God may be all in all.**

God's original purpose was to manifest his absolute sovereignty when Christ unites the earthly theocracy with the eternal kingdom of God. Nor should Calvin have needed or indeed any modern thinker suppose that Christ's reign is at an end. As **Van Falkenburg** corrected adduced "The Father was excepted when all things were put under the Son so also shall He(Christ) be excepted when all things are put under Him(the Father)." The dominion shall be rescued from His enemies and restored to the Godhead. Christ shall reign without end for "His dominion is an everlasting dominion and of His Kingdom there shall be no end" . It is most assuredly the case that when the dominion is fully Christ's it is fully God's. Thus the eternal and heavenly state is one in which "The kingdom or sovereignty of the world has become the kingdom of our LORD and of HIS Christ and HE will reign for ever and ever. Chafer puts it well, "**The distinction to be noted lies between the presentation to the Father of a restored authority and the supposed abrogation of a throne on the part of the Son. The latter is neither required nor intimated**" (Chafer Systematic Theology 5 373-4) Do we not read in Revelation 22.3 of the New Jerusalem in the eternal state that "the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it".

It is adequately clear that the dismissive remark of Calvin rather tarnishes that saintly theologian's record in a field where he is presumed to excel-that of defender of the sovereignty of God.

Closing remarks

As a commentator on the prophetic scriptures in company with others who pursue such matters with the greatest carefulness I am most thoroughly convinced that we are emerging into the final days of the Church age and that we should expect the coming of Him to whom the Kingdom belongs-Shiloh. Our **preachers** should unashamedly be preparing God's people through teaching the **Kingdom of God** and calling upon the people to hasten His coming by reaching **Jew and Gentile**, male and female, bond and free, rich and poor with the message of Jesus Christ our incarnate crucified risen and soon returning Lord and King of Kings.

The "**love of His appearing**" is the greatest spur to zeal for gospel witness and to personal devotion. If you are going to meet someone of huge importance to you very soon you must prepare most seriously for the event.

The incremental rise of confidence in culture and the continuance of the world in a steady state **must be changed**. It is not going to be so. One modern preacher explained a terrible dream God gave him of people edging nonchalantly towards a precipice unaware of their danger whilst those at the edge tried in vain to push back from disaster. That is the stark reality.

Away and beyond the mighty spiritual tensions of these **perilous times** lies the Peaceable Kingdom of Christ. We cannot get there without **the Rapture** and those who abide on earth cannot get there without **War** (and that in the nature of a nuclear exchange-**Ezekiel 38-39**) and **tribulation** (such as is described in the **Apocalypse 6-18**). At the very heart of the future provenance and governance of this world is **the Jewish people**. Why O why has Christianity so culpably forsaken their welfare and why has the Church now immersed in its Babylonian culture forsaken the mother church of Jerusalem and ceased to believe that **the tabernacle of David will be built again?** Augustine did not plant the church! Calvin is not its second founder! The LORD Himself will raise up men who truly believe the Spirit of Prophecy?" May the Spirit of God teach us to ask "Where is the God of Elijah?" and to understand that in these last days He **will send Elijah** lest He smite the earth with a curse and in order to **turn the hearts of the Fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers**. When He has filled up the number of his saints he will take His Gentile people away from the head of dozens of faithful prophets of Israel whom the LORD has counted worthy to suffer and to whom He has committed the task of turning the nations to the wisdom of the just and preparing the way for His Kingdom and Apocalypse.

Christ is coming let creation from its groans and travails cease
Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase

Earth can now but tell the story of Thy bitter cross and pain;
She shall yet behold thy glory, when Thou comest back to reign

Long Thine exiles have been pining far from rest and home and Thee
But in heavenly vestures shining they their living LORD shall see

With that blessed hope before us, let no harp remain unstrung;
Let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come Lord Jesus quickly come

(John Ross Macduff 1818-95)

THE END

This Study on the "Millennium" is the first of a trilogy of CD'S from Westgate Bible Commentaries and Studies by Bob Coffey. It will be followed by two further studies on The Rapture and The Tribulation