ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

MINI APOCALYPSES-A THREEFOLD CORD IS NOT EASILY BROKEN

All three synoptic writers carry "Parousia" and eschatological truth for the church which our Lord explored with his disciples in His final days of ministry. John the divine wrote the Apocalypse which is by far more detailed as to the events of the interim between the "Parousia" and the "Glorious Kingdom" of Christ. His work promoted by our Lord in a special visit to Patmos highlights the extension of that historical nexus referred to briefly by the other gospel writers.

(A)MATTHEW 24

Jesus was asked for "the signal" of the PAROUSIA and the completion of the AION. He discounted Antichrists and Wars as commonplace but would have us pay attention to

(1)BIRTH-PANGS- POLITICAL SIGNS NATIONS AT ODDS WITH THEMSELVES-CIVIL UNREST IN KINGDOMS FAMINES EARTHQUAKES *IM QUAKES & SHAKES*.

(2) RELIGIOUS HATRED

PERSECUTION & HATRED AMONG ALL NATIONS

(3) GOODNEWS FOR THE WORLD GETS TO THE WHOLE WORLD

SCANDAL BETRAYALS MASSFALSE RELIGION LOVE GROWS COLD -GOOD NEWS WORLDWIDE (4) CRISIS NUCLEAR SIGN (fire Ezekiel- atoma discovered Peter-third mankind John)

TROUBLE SUCH AS NEVER WAS BEFORE & NEVER SHALL BE AGAIN-N FLESH SAVED EXCEPT IT BE CUT SHORT--PAROUSIA VISIT **AS LIGHTNING EAST –WEST**-SWEEPS AWAY THE FAITHFUL **(5) ECONOMIC SIGN** &PAROUSIA SIGN-CLOUDS OF PEOPLE LEAVE

WITH parousia a Volpone world-PEOPLE AS VULTURES ON SPOIL a sad world ALL TRIBES MOURN THEIR LOSS- A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO YAHWEH THAT <u>DISPLEASES GOD AND BRINGS NO HOPE TO MAN ESTABLISHED IN JERUSALEM-THE BDELUGMA DIERESIS</u>

(6) THE COSMOLOGICAL SIGN The darkening of the sun and the blood-red moon and the star fall. (7) A ROOTLESS AND BLOSSOMING NATION

A TREE THAT DIES FROM THE ROOT BLOSSOMS AGAIN MIRACULOUSLY 1948 HAD TO BE AS A SEQUEL TO THE HOLCAUST AND 2000 YEARS OF STATELESSNESS-ALL THE PROPHETS PREDICT MESSIAH WILL RULE FORM JERUSALEM AND A JEWISH TEMPLE WILL STAND THERE.

(B) MARK 13

Peter James and John enquire concerning the fall of Jerusalem and the "completion of all things" Jesus said (1) WARS

Wars and rumours of wars should not in themselves frighten disciples or make them proclaim the end. They have to be. They do not bring about the end.

(2) BIRTHPANGS

Nation rises against nation, kingdom against kingdom, there will be earthquakes and famines-the beginning of birth-pangs

(3) JESUS' GOODNEWS

First Christians would be persecuted locally-then in the empire and by kings and yet thirdly in ever expanding power the gospel would be heralded among all nations. World-wide hatred –BE FAITHFUL

(4) THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

That which brings desolation to many hearts and gives God great displeasure would stand where it is not necessary or ought not to be. Jerusalem and its environs will be evacuated.

(5) THE GREAT TRIBULATION

In those days there will be **THLIPSIS** or affliction oppression and distress beyond anything since creation and it will not be repeated. (*Nuclear?*) The days will be truncated lest no man should survive. The term means "shortening of the horn" and suggests the curtailing of a war. The "elect" or the Jewish nation of that time will be protected by the LORD. The LORD adds a warning about latter day false Christs and false prophets and stated I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING. *IE Jesus has spoken beforehand to the apostles about everything!*

(6) THE SUN MOON AND STARS

Jesus adds that "alongside" that tribulation there will be a darkened sun, a blood-red moon and a fall of the stars and fourthly a two and fro action in the dynamics of the heavens.

(7) THE SON OF MAN COMES WITH CLOUDS

Christ will come with power and glory and send angels to gather to a place from the four winds and from uttermost earth to the highest heaven.

(8) THE FIG TREE

The LORD gave something quite different-but awesome in its precision-probably intending it to be "the" sign for which the three disciples asked. He spoke of Israel "the fig tree". He spoke of its growth –its branches and fruit. He spoke of a "generation" of Jews that was the latter day fig tree which would see all these things develop. As in the Matthew Apocalypse we heed to be aware that the Jews are God's clock. Their return to Israel and development compares with the growth of a fig tree which within 20 years will bear fruit. Christ then portrayed Himself as a man leaving on a journey and promising to come back. Watch.

(3) LUKE 21

Jesus was specifically asked when the temple would be destroyed. BE WARE DECEIT

(1) BEWARE DECEIT

Many would come saying "The moment is near." There would be wars and revolutions. They will not portent the end. These are signs but do not signify any immediate end. **Nation will rise against nation** and great **earthquakes** and famines and deadly infectious disorders and great and fearful signs or signals from heaven

(2) PREPARE FOR HATRED-THINK NOT OF APOLOGIA NOT A HAIR PERISH-IE RISE WITH ALL HAIR-RESTORATION

(3) PROPHECIES ABOUT JERUSALEM'S WARS

Jerusalem will be encircled both by Romans and in the latter day. ALL THAT IS WRIT FULFILLED

(4) A TIME OF GREAT CONSTRAINT

There will be **great constraint leverage** and **necessity** over the earth ANAGKH and wrath against the Jewish people both under Rome when prisoners will be taken from Jerusalem and the city trodden down until the latter day (24) sees similar signs

(5) THE COSMOLOGICAL SIGN

There will be signs in sun moon and stars After Christ visits and before the resolution in last 7 years before He comes to rule.

(6) ECONOMIC SIGNS

Over the earth there will be **SUNOCHN and APORIA-"distress with belt-tightening"** and "difficulty to provide and want of resources" This is one of the so-called "footprints" of Messiah's coming in ancient rabbinic writing. (Sota 9.5 & Sanhedrin 98

(7) ECOLOGICAL SIGNS

Luke foresees the sea echoing (*Tsunami*) & waves swelling because there was to be deep rents in the ocean floor and huge wave displacements resulting. ECHOS SALOS A roaring of the sea & swelling or rising of its level.

(8) PHYSICAL HEART CONDITIONS & PSYCHOLOGICAL PHOBIAS INCREASE

Men will swoon and need to be revived because of fearful expectation of what is coming worldwide.

(9) NUCLEAR SIGN

The powers of heaven shall be shaken or will have been "shaken by repeated motion" or "reaction".

Our LORD adds that when these things begin to happen we should wake up and keep our head above water and await our "out-redemption".

(10) THE JEWISH NATION

Jesus warned us to watch Israel and the nations in her regard. Jesus spoke of the immanence of the "Kingdom of God" when Israel is planted and grows to be fruitful in her land. The nation was to be planted and branch out and its fruit-the first born generation in the land would see all these signs develop.

The LORD warns against drunkenness and hang-over to the next day and against life cares controlling us so that the day of His coming finds us in that state as it will trap those settled on the face of the whole earth. Watch and pray and have the strength of a practiced athlete to speed away from the things that will happen and to have been standing before the Son of Man. When Jesus taught these things he camped on the Mount of Olives at night and the people were restless and woke early in the morning to listen to him. Such is now the seriousness of the hour that twenty first century Christians should take a similar keen interest with those first century Jews in this solemn teaching.

Bob Coffey Aramaic Bible Companion