

# THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL FULFILLED

*A verse by verse fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27*

*by the year A.D. 34-35.*

**T**his prophecy of the coming of Messiah by Daniel is one of the most clear of all prophecies that was fulfilled in the arrival of Jesus Christ and his ministry of atonement for sins. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most misinterpreted by Christians. Because of the dominance and monolithic hegemony of Premillennialism and End-times Futurism in Christian circles, this prophecy that links up with Matthew 24 and Revelation has been commonly misunderstood to be a reference to the coming of Christ 2000 years ago AND the coming of an individual person called the Anti-Christ thousands of years in the future from Christ. In other words, the big misinterpretation has been based on the monumentally erroneous belief of a “Gap” of unknown time to exist between the 69th week and the 70th week in this prophecy. So the second half of the prophecy, according to this futurist view, is yet to be fulfilled. Instead of taking the prophecy literally and naturally to read what it says, namely *70 weeks straight in a row*, the Futurist must, because of his theological prejudice, **IMPORT** a gap of undetermined time commonly called, **The Great Parenthesis.** There is no indication in the text that there is a great parenthesis of time. As we will show below, every aspect of the 70 weeks was fulfilled by the year 34-35 AD. What was once considered a wonderful prophecy of the new covenant inaugurated and the old covenant abolished has become another futuristic end-times scenario for Christians to sensationalize and exploit millions of dollars, fleecing the flock with fictional novels of doom and gloom for our generation. Shame on you, you storytellers, for creating a legacy of false hope that ruins the reputation of Christian teachings as each decade goes by and your fictional myths and fallacious date settings for the coming Antichrist continue to remain unfulfilled.

## THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL 9

*Dan. 9:24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy {One} . 25 “So you are to know and discern {that} from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince {there will be} seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. 26 “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end {will come} with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 27 “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations {will come} one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”*

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## DANIEL VERSE

*Dan. 9:24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression,*

## FULFILLMENT

### WEEKS = YEARS

Gen 29:27 “Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years.” ...and [Jacob] served with Laban for another seven years.

Ezekial 4:6 I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year.

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DANIEL VERSE

***Dan. 9:24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression,***

FULFILLMENT

**ISRAEL FINISHING IT’S TRANSGRESSION AGAINST GOD BY REJECTING THE MESSIAH AND THEREFORE BEING REJECTED BY GOD THEMSELVES**

Matt. 23:29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had been {living} in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in {shedding} the blood of the prophets.’ 31 “Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 “Fill up then the measure {of the guilt} of your fathers. 33 “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell? 34 “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 that upon you may fall {the guilt of} all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 “Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. 37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her... 38 “Behold, your house [the Temple] is being left to you desolate!... 24:1 And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He answered and said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” (The finishing of the transgression, the final consummation of the guilt of the Jewish nation, was linked to the destruction of it’s Temple)

Matt. 21:33 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey. 34 “And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 “And the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 “Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 “But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 “But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and seize his inheritance.’ 39 “And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 “Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?” 41 They said to Him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him the proceeds at the {proper} seasons.” 42 Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER {stone;} THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES’? 43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it. 44 “And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.” 45 And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them.

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DANIEL VERSE

***to make an end of sin,***

FULFILLMENT

**THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS “MAKES AN END OF SIN” OR TAKES AWAY OUR SIN**

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Matt 1:21 “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”

Act 10:43 “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Heb 9:26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

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DANIEL VERSE

***to make atonement [“reconciliation”] for iniquity,***

## FULFILLMENT

### **CHRIST'S SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS ATONES FOR OUR INIQUITY**

2Cor 5:18 Now all {these} things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Heb 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Col 1:20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, {I say} , whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Rom 5:10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

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## DANIEL VERSE

*to bring in everlasting righteousness,*

## FULFILLMENT

### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD THAT CHRIST INAUGURATED IN HIS FIRST COMING WAS THE EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT WAS BROUGHT IN.**

Rom. 3:21 But now apart from the Law {the} righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even {the} righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;...25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. {This was} to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, {I say,} of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Heb 9:12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

2Cor 9:9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ABIDES FOREVER."

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it {the} righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS {man} SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Rom 5:21 that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1cor 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

2Cor 3:9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory.

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## DANIEL VERSE

*to seal up vision and prophecy,*

### **JESUS IS THE LAST AND FINAL PROPHET OF REVELATION**

Hebr. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

## THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM MARKED THE END OF FULFILLING ALL THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Luke 21: 20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

## FULFILLMENT

### "DO NOT SEAL UP" AS SPOKEN OF IN REVELATION MEANS THAT THE PROPHECY BEING FULFILLED IS NEAR IN TIME (AS JESUS SAID, WITHIN THE GENERATION OF THOSE PEOPLE HE SPOKE TO)

Hebr. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

2Pet 1:19 And {so} we have the prophetic word {made} more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

Dan 12:4 "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

Rev. 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. [written before 70AD and the destruction of the Temple]

### "LAST DAYS" AND "END OF THE AGE" ARE PHRASES THAT REFER NOT TO THE END OF TIME, BUT TO THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT.

***Matt. 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what {will be} the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"***

## THE WORD FOR "AGE" IS "AEON" WHICH MEANS AN ERA, AS OPPOSED TO "KOSMOS" WHICH MEANS THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Hebr. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son....Hebr. 8:13 When He said, "A new {covenant} ." He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Hebrews 9:26 but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1Corinthians 3:God, 6 who also made us adequate {as} servants of a new covenant, ... 7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading {as} it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? ...10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory.

1Peter 1:20 For [Jesus] was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

Jude "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not {really} of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but {they went out,} in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us....

1John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the {spirit} of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2Tim. 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.... 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. [these men were around at THAT time] 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the

truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith.

Acts 2:16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel [SPEAKING IN TONGUES ON PENTECOST]: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN UPON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE, AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BENEATH, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 20 'THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD [see above for collapsing universe imagery as fulfilled prophecy of Israel falling in AD70], BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21 'AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.' [SO...] 40 "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

1 Cor 7:26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is...But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ... for the form of this world is passing away.

1Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Jude 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

#### **"LATTER DAYS" IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS SIMPLY A HEBREW REFERENCE TO "THE FUTURE", NOT THE "END-TIMES" OF ALL THINGS.**

Deut 31:29 "For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger..

THIS WAS FULFILLED IN JUDGES 2:20:

Judges 2:20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY PROPHESED BY JEREMIAH FOR THE "LATTER DAYS" OCCURED IN THEIR TIME

Jer. 30:23 Behold, the tempest of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, A sweeping tempest; It will burst on the head of the wicked. 24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back, Until He has performed, and until He has accomplished The intent of His heart; In the latter days you will understand this.

GOD PROPHESES THAT AFTER THE BABYONIAN CAPTIVITY, HE WILL RESTORE MOAB & EDOM IN "THE LATTER DAYS" WHICH OCCURED WITHIN 70 YEARS

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

Jer 48:46 For your sons have been taken away captive, And your daughters into captivity. 47 "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab In the latter days," declares the LORD.

Jer 49:39 'But it will come about in the last days That I shall restore the fortunes of Elam,'" Declares the LORD.

ISRAEL IS PROPHESED TO BE SCATTERED AND THEN GATHERED TOGETHER IN "THE LATTER YEARS" WHICH HAPPENED AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE OF 70 YEARS.

Ezek 12:15 "So they will know that I am the LORD when I scatter them among the nations, and spread them among the countries.

Ezek. 6:8 "However, I shall leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries. 9 "Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive.

Ezek 38:8 "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, {whose inhabitants} have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

## DANIEL VERSE

*and to anoint the most holy {One} .*

### FULFILLMENT

#### **JESUS WAS ANOINTED AS THE HOLY ONE**

Matt 3:15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit {it} at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. 16 And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, {and} coming upon Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Luke 4:17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." 25 who by the Holy Spirit, {through} the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? 26 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD, AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST [annointed one].'

Acts 4:27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

Act 10:38 " {You know of} Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power,

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## DANIEL VERSE

*25 "So you are to know and discern {that} from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince {there will be} seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;*

### FULFILLMENT

#### **THE DECREE OF CYRUS IN 457 BC (PHILIP MAURO)**

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also {put it} in writing, saying, 2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. (Also 2 Chr 36:22-23)

Isaiah 44:28 "It is I [God] who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' And of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"

**Josephus Antiq. 11:1:3** (3) for he stirred up the mind of Cyrus, and made him write this throughout all Asia: — "Thus saith Cyrus the King: — Since God Almighty hath appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that he is that God which the nation of the Israelites worship; (4) for indeed he foretold my name by the prophets; and that I should build him a house at Jerusalem, in the country of Judea." 2. (5) This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his prophecies; for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision: — "My will is, that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple." 657 (6) This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this, and admired the divine power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was so written; so he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said to them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city Jerusalem, f350 and the temple of God,

#### **STANDARD PERSIAN CHRONOLOGY PLACING CYRUS' DECREE 80 YEARS EARLIER, IN 537 BC, IS NOT RELIABLE**

**1) Persian chronology is incomplete.** Prior to Alexander's conquest of Persia, all we know of the Persian chronology is scattered pieces from the Greeks. "It is clear from earlier periods that even the best evidence on the Greek side, quite apart from its bias and its focus of interest, is factually unreliable where it can be checked." (E. Badian, "Alexander in Iran," in Ilya Gershevitch, ed., The Cambridge History of Iran, 2: Median and Achaemenian Periods [Cambridge University Press, 1985, p. 420]

**2) Ptolemy's Kings List is the usual source used, but it is unreliable.** "Thus, Cambyses reigned, according to some, twenty years, and according to others, only seven; because the crown was placed on his head during his father's lifetime. Besides this, there was another reason. The people of the East are notoriously very restless, easily excited, and always desiring a change of rulers. Hence, contentions frequently arose among near relatives, of which we have ample narratives in the works of Herodotus. I mention him among others, as the fact is sufficiently known. When fathers saw the danger of their sons mutually destroying each other, they usually created one of them a king; and if they wished to prefer the younger brother to the elder, they called him "king"

with the concurrence of their council. Hence, the years of their reigns became intermingled, without any fixed method of reckoning them. [Calvin, Lectures on Daniel, B o o k s F o r T h e A g e s, AGES Software • Albany, OR USA, Version 1.0 © 1998, p. 571]

**3) Eclipse data used to substantiate Ptolemy's dating is also unreliable** due to the scientifically documented shifts in the earth's motion. These irregular accelerations are not accounted for in such dating schemes. (*Ancient Astronomical Observations and the Accelerations of the Earth and Moon* by Robert R. Newton of Johns Hopkins University)

**4) The Jews were looking for the Messiah in the first century based on their own familiarity with ancient dating.** (Matt 11:3; Mark 15:43; Luke 1:76-79; 2:25, 26, 38; 3:15) The Wise men from Babylon, who knew Daniel's prophecy, figured the dating correctly. (Matt 2) Also, many Jews were also looking for Messiah around that period as well because they knew the dating. The Essene community of the Dead Sea Scrolls were also expecting the end of all things with Messiah in the first century.

**IN THE BIBLE A YEAR IS 360 DAYS (GEN 7:11; 8:3-4)  
FROM 457 BC TO 26 AD IS 483 YEARS (OF 360 DAYS EACH) OR 69 WEEKS OF YEARS**

**THE JEWS WERE EXPECTING MESSIAH IN THE FIRST CENTURY BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY CLAIMING TO BE PROPHETS WITH MESSIANIC PRETENSIONS. THIS WAS A MAJOR REASON FOR THE UNREST IN JERUSALEM THAT CAUSED THE REVOLT THAT BROUGHT VESPASIAN'S ARMY TO CONQUER JERUSALEM**

**(JOSEPHUS, WARS, 6:5:4)**

(312) But now, what did most elevate them in undertaking this war, was an ambiguous oracle that was also found in their sacred writings, how, "about that time, one from their country should become governor of the habitable earth." (313) The Jews took this prediction to belong to themselves in particular and many of the wise men were thereby deceived in their determination. Now, this oracle certainly denoted the government of Vespasian, who was appointed emperor in Judea. (314) However, it is not possible for men to avoid fate, although they see it beforehand. (315) But these men interpreted some of these signals according to their own pleasure; and some of them they utterly despised, until their madness was demonstrated, both by the taking of their city, and their own destruction.

**(JOSEPHUS ANTIQUITIES 20:5:1)**

1. NOW it came to pass, while Fadus was procurator of Judea, that a certain magician, whose name was Theudas, (9) persuaded a great part of the people to take their effects with them, and follow him to the river Jordan; for he told them he was a prophet, and that he would, by his own command, divide the river, and afford them an easy passage over it; and many were deluded by his words.

**(JOSEPHUS, WARS, 2:8:4-6)**

4. There was also another body of wicked men gotten together, not so impure in their actions, but more wicked in their intentions, who laid waste the happy state of the city no less than did these murderers. These were such men as deceived and deluded the people under pretence of divine inspiration, but were for procuring innovations and changes of the government, and these prevailed with the multitude to act like madmen, and went before them into the wilderness, as pretending that God would there show them the signals of liberty; but Felix thought this procedure was to be the beginning of a revolt; so he sent some horsemen and footmen, both armed, who destroyed a great number of them.

5. But there was an Egyptian false prophet that did the Jews more mischief than the former; for he was a cheat, and pretended to be a prophet also, and got together thirty thousand men that were deluded by him; these he led round about from the wilderness to the mount which was called the Mount of Olives, and was ready to break into Jerusalem by force from that place; and if he could but once conquer the Roman garrison and the people, he intended to domineer over them by the assistance of those guards of his that were to break into the city with him, but Felix prevented his attempt, and met him with his Roman soldiers, while all the people assisted him in his attack upon them, insomuch that, when it came to a battle, the Egyptian ran away, with a few others, while the greatest part of those that were with him were either destroyed or taken alive; but the rest of the multitude were dispersed every one to their own homes and there concealed themselves.

**THE ESSENES, (DEAD SEA COMMUNITY) WHO WROTE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS BELIEVED THAT THE DANIELIC PROPHECIES WERE TO BE FULFILLED IN THEIR COMMUNITY AT THAT TIME, WHICH MEANS THEY HAD CALCULATED THE YEARS TO THAT ERA AS WELL**

Dead Sea Scrolls 4Q246: [based on Daniel 7:13-14] He will be called son of God, and they will call him son of the Most High. Like the sparks of a vision, so will their kingdom be; they will rule several years over the earth and crush everything; a people will crush another people, and a city another city. Until the people of God arises and makes everyone rest from the sword. His kingdom will be an eternal kingdom, and all his paths in truth and uprightness. The earth will be in truth and all will make peace. The sword will cease in the earth, and all cities will pay him homage. He is great among the gods. He will make war with him' he will place the peoples in his hand and cast away everyone before him. His kingdom will be an eternal kingdom and all the abysses. [Dead Sea Scrolls Danielic passage]]

**The Dead Sea Scriptures, Third Edition Revised, notes by Theodore H. Gaster**

**The War Scroll, titled, "The War of the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness" was the community's eschatological belief that they were in the end times and they (the Essenes) were the Sons of Light, the true Zadokite priesthood, and the priesthood in Jerusalem was corrupt. The Essenes would end up ruling in the Temple when the end came.**

...and when the Sons of Light who are now in exile [The Essenes in the desert community of Qumran] return from the desert of the nations to pitch camp in the desert of Jerusalem, the children of Levi, Judah and Benjamin, who are now among those exiles, shall wage war against these peoples....

"By Sons of Zadok is meant is meant those elect of Israel that hve been designated by name and that shall go on functioning in the last days." (Zadokite Document iii 15,16 (page 70)

I give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast granted a remnant unto Thy people and a revival unto Thine inheritance. Thou hast raised up among them men of truth and sons of light [the Essenes, themselves]. [Book of the Hymns XIV:1]

There shall be great tribulation and mighty carnage in the presence of God, for that is the day which He appointed to the final battle against the Sons of Darkness. [War Scroll i, 1-17, pg 400]

"TheAnointed One -- the same whom Daniel calls the Anointed Leader who will make his appearance at the end of the seven weeks of years -- that is, at the final Jubilee...The term Zion there denoting the total congregation of the sons of righteousness -- that is, those who maintain the covenant (the Essenes of the Dead Sea community) and turn away from the popular trend (as the Essenes did by going into the desert)... our text speaks also of sounding a loud trumpet blast throughout the land on teh tenth day of the seventh month -- as applied to the Last Days, this refers to the fanfare which will then be sounded bfeore the Messianic King." (The Last Jubilee 17-25)

### **JESUS' MINISTRY OFFICIALLY BEGAN IN ABOUT 26 AD WITH HIS BAPTISM BY JOHN AND HIS DECLARATION OF SONSHIP FROM HEAVEN**

Matt. 3:13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan {coming} to John, to be baptized by him....16 And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, {and} coming upon Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

### **THREE OTHER POSSIBILITIES IF THE PERSIAN DATING SCHEME IS ACCURATE:**

#### **1) THE DECREE OF ARTAXERES TO EZRA IN 457 OR 453 BC (KEN GENTRY)**

Ezra 7:11 Now this is the copy of the decree which King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, learned in the words of the commandments of the LORD and His statutes to Israel: ...13 I have issued a decree that any of the people of Israel and their priests and the Levites in my kingdom who are willing to go to Jerusalem, may go with you...17 with this money, therefore, you shall diligently buy bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their libations and offer them on the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem. 18 ,,,"And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God which is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges that they may judge all the people who are in {the province} beyond the River, {even} all those who know the laws of your God; and you may teach anyone who is ignorant {of them.} [Both city and Temple were already built, so this is more of a reference to reinstating the Temple worship]

#### **2) THE DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM BY ARTAXERXES IN 444 BC**

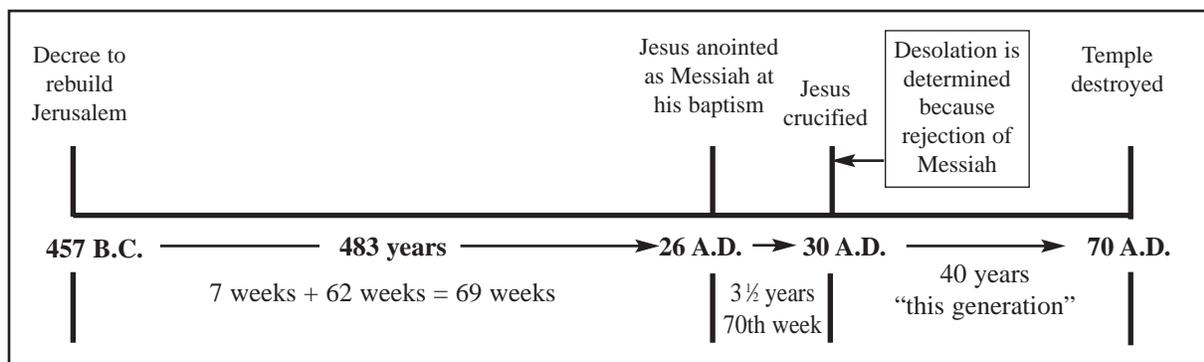
Neh. 2:1 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes,...4 Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." ... And the king granted {them} to me because the good hand of my God {was} on me. [This was more likely about fixing damage done to the city, already rebuilt: Neh 1:3 the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire." Also, Neh 3 uses "made repairs" over 20x. Wall repairs completed in 52 days Neh 6:15]

#### **3) THE DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD THE TEMPLE BY DARIUS 518-519 BC**

Ezra 6:1 Then King Darius issued a decree, and search was made in the archives, where the treasures were stored in Babylon. 2 And in Ecbatana in the fortress, which is in the province of Media, a scroll was found and there was written in it as follows: "Memorandum — 3 "In the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king issued a decree: ' {Concerning} the house of God at Jerusalem, let the temple, the place where sacrifices are offered, be rebuilt and let its foundations be retained, [Darius' decree based upon Cyrus' decree]

### **THE DECREE TO REBUILD THE CITY WAS IN SEED FORM IN PARTICULAR, A DIVINE COMMAND, NOT NECESSARILY LADEN TO HISTORY. SEVERAL POLITICAL COMMANDS, ONE DIVINE COMMAND**

Ezra 6:14 And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. 15 And this temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.




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DANIEL VERSE

*it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.*

FULFILLMENT

Neh 4:17 Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took {their} load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon. 18 As for the builders, each {wore} his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter {stood} near me. ... 20 "At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

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DANIEL VERSE

*26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing,*

FULFILLMENT

**ON THE CROSS, JESUS BORE OUR SINS AND THEREFORE HE TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE PENALTY OF SIN, WHICH IS A SEPARATION FROM GOD, OR A CUTTING OFF**

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"

ISAIAH 59:2 BUT YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE MADE A SEPARATION BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD,

Isa. 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being {fell} upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1Pet 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,

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DANIEL VERSE

*and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end {will come} with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.*

## FULFILLMENT

**THE PRINCE WHO IS TO COME IS PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO TITUS WHO SACKED JERUSALEM. OR IT COULD BE ANOTHER REFERENCE TO MESSIAH AND SO THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE ARE THE JEWS. THEIR REBELLION IN 70 AD BROUGHT ON THE DESOLATION OF JERUSALEM BY TITUS AND VESPASIAN.**

Matt. 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 "For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'" Matt. 24:1 And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

**THE JEWISH TEMPLE WAS THE HOUSE OF GOD AND WAS DESTROYED IN AD 70., WHICH IS WITHIN THE GENERATION OF THE PEOPLE TO WHOM JESUS WAS SPEAKING.**

Mark 13:1 And as He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" 2 And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another which will not be torn down."

Luke 21:5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6 " {As for} these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down."

Luke 19:41 And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 "For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, 44 and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

### **JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS (6:5:5-7) THE TEMPLE IS BURNED**

5. So Titus retired into the tower of Antonia, and resolved to storm the temple the next day, early in the morning, with his whole army, and to encamp round about the holy house; but, as for that house, God had for certain long ago doomed it to the fire; and now that fatal day was come, according to the revolution of ages: ... when those that guarded the holy house fought with those that quenched the fire that was burning in the inner [court of the] temple;...As for the seditious, they were in too great distress already to afford their assistance [towards quenching the fire]; they were everywhere slain, and everywhere beaten; and as for a great part of the people, they were weak and without arms, and had their throats cut wherever they were caught. Now, round about the altar lay dead bodies heaped one upon another; as at the steps going up to it ran a great quantity of their blood, whither also the dead bodies that were...and thus was the holy house burnt down, without Caesar's approbation.

### **(6:2:1) GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON JERUSALEM TO PURGE THE WICKEDNESS**

"And who is there that does not know what the writings of the ancient prophets contain in them, — and particularly that oracle which is just now going to be fulfilled upon this miserable city — for they foretold that this city should be then taken when somebody shall begin the slaughter of his own countrymen! and are not both the city and the entire temple now full of the dead bodies of your countrymen? It is God therefore, it is God himself who is bringing on this fire, to purge that city and temple by means of the Remans, and is going to pluck up this city, which is full of your pollutions."

### **6:5:1 THE BURNING OF JERUSALEM**

1. While the holy house was on fire,...and because this hill was high (3), and the works at the temple were very great, one would have thought that the whole city had been on fire.

### **6:6:3**

3 . . . So he gave orders to the soldiers both to burn and to plunder the city; who did nothing indeed that day; but on the next day they set fire to the repository of the archives, to Acra, to the council-house, and to the place called Ophlas; at which time the fire proceeded as far as the palace of queen Helena, which was in the middle of Acra: the lanes also were burnt down, as were also those houses that were full of the dead bodies of such as were destroyed by famine.

### **6:10:1**

1. And thus was Jerusalem taken, in the second year of the reign of Vespasian, on the eight day of the month Gorpheus [Elu]. It had been taken five\* (1) times before, though this was the second time of its desolation

### **7:1:1**

1. NOW as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be the objects of their fury, (for they would not have spared any, had there remained any other work to be done,) Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple, ...it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited. This was the end which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those that were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all

mankind.

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DANIEL VERSE

*27 “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week,*

FULFILLMENT

**“HE” REFERS BACK TO THE DOMINANT NOUN, “MESSIAH” NOT THE SUBORDINATE NOUN, PRINCE WHO IS TO COME. JESUS ANNOUNCED THE NEW COVENANT WHICH IS THE “FIRM COVENANT” MADE WITH THE MANY**

**“MAKE A FIRM COVENANT” TRANSLATES AS “CONFIRM” OR “CAUSE TO PREVAIL” OR “STRENGTHEN” A COVENANT.**

Matt 26:27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave {it} to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Heb 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,

Luke 1:72 [of Jesus Messiah’s coming ] To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant,

Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first {covenant} had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He says, “BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; 9 NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS... Hebr. 8:13 When He said, “A new {covenant},” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Mal. 3:1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 53: 11 By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many. As He will bear their iniquities.

**THE NEW COVENANT WAS FIRST GIVEN TO ISRAEL, “THE MANY” BEFORE OFFERING IT TO THE GENTILES THIS LASTED FOR 3 1/2 YEARS DURING JESUS’ MINISTRY AND FOR ANOTHER 3 1/2 YEARS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION**

John 1:31 in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.”

Matt 15:24 But [Jesus] answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matt. 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in {the} way of {the} Gentiles, and do not enter {any} city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Acts 3:25 “It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ 26 “For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways.”

**ABOUT 3 1/2 YEARS AFTER THE RESURRECTION, PETER ENCOUNTERED CORNELIUS’ VISION WHICH THEN BROKE THE GOSPEL OUT TO THE GENTILES FROM THEN ON...**

Acts 11:1 Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God...13 “And [Cornelius] reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; 14 and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ 15 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as {He did} upon us at the beginning. 16 “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 “If God therefore gave to them the same gift as {He gave} to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” 18 And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance {that leads} to life.”

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DANIEL VERSE

*but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering;*

FULFILLMENT

## JESUS' MINISTRY LASTED ABOUT 3 1/2 YEARS AT WHICH POINT HE WAS CRUCIFIED, WHICH ENDED THE OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

### EUSEBIUS, ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY 10:13

Accordingly the whole time of our Saviour's ministry is shown to have been not quite four full years,

Hebr. 9:11 But when Christ appeared {as} a high priest of the good things to come, {He entered} through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption....15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were {committed} under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. ...26 but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ...Hebr. 10:8 After saying above, "SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND {sacrifices} FOR SIN THOU HAST NOT DESIRED, NOR HAST THOU TAKEN PLEASURE {in them} " (which are offered according to the Law), 9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO THY WILL." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. 10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,...Hebr. 10:18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer {any} offering for sin.

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DANIEL VERSE

*and on the wing of abominations {will come} one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*

FULFILLMENT

*Matt. 24:15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),*

FULFILLMENT:

**THIS SAME PASSAGE PARALLELS LUKE WHO EXPLAINS THE HISTORIC ASPECT CLEARER.:**

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Mark 13:14\* "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Dan 11:31 "And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, {there will be} 1,290 days.

**THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION STANDING IN THE HOLY PLACE WAS ONE OF THREE THINGS: 1) THE IRRELIGIOUS ZEALOTS ENTERING THE TEMPLE, 2) THE PAGAN EDMITES DESECRATING THE TEMPLE OR 3) THE PAGAN ROMAN LEADER, TITUS AND HIS ARMY SURROUNDING JERUSALEM.**

**JOSEPHUS, WARS, 4:3:6-10 (THE ZEALOTS DESECRATE THE TEMPLE WINTER OF AD 67-68)**

6. Now the people were come to that degree of meanness and fear, and these robbers to that degree of madness, that these last took upon them to appoint high priests. (4) So when they had disannulled the succession, according to those families out of which the high priests used to be made, they ordained certain unknown and ignoble persons for that office, that they might have their assistance in their wicked undertakings; for such as obtained this highest of all honors, without any desert, were forced to comply with those that bestowed it on them...., when they were satiated with the unjust actions they had done towards men, they transferred their contumelious behavior to God himself, and came into the sanctuary with polluted feet.

7. ...These men made the temple of God a strong hold for them, and a place whither they might resort, in order to avoid the troubles they feared from the people; the sanctuary was now become a refuge, and a shop of tyranny. They also mixed jesting among the miseries they introduced, which was more intolerable than what they did; for in order to try what surprise the people

would be under, and how far their own power extended, they undertook to dispose of the high priesthood by casting lots for it,...

8. ...for it fell upon one whose name was Phannias, the son of Samuel, of the village Aphtha. He was a man not only unworthy of the high priesthood, but that did not well know what the high priesthood was, such a mere rustic was he ! yet did they hail this man, without his own consent, out of the country, as if they were acting a play upon the stage, and adorned him with a counterfeit thee; they also put upon him the sacred garments, and upon every occasion instructed him what he was to do. This horrid piece of wickedness was sport and pastime with them, but occasioned the other priests, who at a distance saw their law made a jest of, to shed tears, and sorely lament the dissolution of such a sacred dignity. 10. And now, when the multitude were gotten together to an assembly, and every one was in indignation at these men's seizing upon the sanctuary, at their rapine and murders, but had not yet begun their attacks upon them, (the reason of which was this, that they imagined it to be a difficult thing to suppress these zealots, as indeed the case was,) Ananus stood in the midst of them, and casting his eyes frequently at the temple, and having a flood of tears in his eyes, he said, "Certainly it had been good for me to die before I had seen the house of God full of so many abominations, or these sacred places, that ought not to be trodden upon at random, filled with the feet of these blood-shedding villains;

#### **JOSEPHUS WARS OF THE JEWS (4:5:1) (THE EDOMITES DESOLATE THE TEMPLE)**

1. This advice pleased the Idumeans, and they ascended through the city to the temple. The zealots were also in great expectation of their coming, and earnestly waited for them. When therefore these were entering, they also came boldly out of the inner temple, and mix-ing themselves with the Idumeans, they attacked the guards; and some of those that were upon the watch, but were fallen asleep, they killed as they were asleep, but as those that were now awakened made a cry, the whole multitude arose, and in the amazement they were in caught hold of their arms immediately, and betook themselves to their own defence; and so long as they thought they were only the zealots who attacked them, they went on boldly, as hoping to overpower them by their numbers; but when they saw others pressing in upon them also, they perceived the Idumeans were got in; and the greatest part of them laid aside their arms, together with their courage, and betook them-selves to lamentations.

...And now the outer temple was all of it overflowed with blood; and that day, as it came on, saw eight thousand five hundred dead bodies there. 2. But the rage of the Idumeans was not satiated by these slaughters; but they now betook themselves to the city, and plundered every house, and slew everyone they met; and for the other multitude, they esteemed it needless to go on with killing them, but they sought for the high-priests, and the generality went with the greatest zeal against them; and as soon as they caught them they slew them,

...I should not mistake if I said that the death of Ananus was the beginning of the destruction of the city, and that from this very day may be dated the overthrow of her wall, and the ruin of her affairs, whereon they saw their high-priest, and the pro-curer of their preservation, slain in the midst of their city.

...and I cannot but think that it was because God had doomed this city to destruction, as a polluted city, and was resolved to purge his sanctuary by fire, that he cut off these their great defenders and wellwishers,

#### **EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORY 3:5**

many great sieges which were carried on against the cities of Judea, ... and how at last the abomination of desolation, proclaimed by the prophets,[11] stood in the very temple of God, so celebrated of old, the temple which was now awaiting its total and final destruction by fire,— all these things any one that wishes may find accurately described in the history written by Josephus.[12]

#### **JOSEPHUS, WARS 6:6:1**

How The Romans Carried Their Ensigns To The Temple, And Made Joyful Acclamations to Titus.

1. And now the Romans, upon the flight of the seditious into the city, and upon the burning of the holy house itself, and of all the buildings lying round about it, brought their ensigns to the temple\* (1) and set them over against its eastern gate; and there did they offer sacrifices to them, and there did they make Titus Imperator (2), with the greatest acclamations of joy. And now all the soldiers had such vast quantities of the spoils which they had gotten by plunder, that in Syria a pound weight of gold was sold for half its former value. FOOTNOTE: (1). Tertullian truly says that the entire religion of the Roman camp almost consisted in worshipping the ensigns, in swearing by the ensigns, and in preferring the ensigns before all the [other] gods."

#### **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IS NOT "THE ANTICHRIST" THERE IS NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE TITLE: "THE ANTICHRIST" IN THE BIBLE.**

**"ANTICHRIST" IN THE BIBLE IS A GENERAL TERM FOR ANYONE, SPIRIT OR PERSON, WHO WAS AGAINST CHRIST OR DENIED THE INCARNATION OF THE TRINITY. SIMILAR IN ANALOGY TO "ANTI-SEMITIC."**

**ANTICHRIST IS A REFERENCE TO THE APOSTASY AND TO THE FALSE CHRISTS THAT JESUS PROPHESED WOULD BE AROUND JUST BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE**

1John 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.<sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the (spirit) of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ {as} coming in the flesh.

This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IS NOT THE "BEAST" OF REVELATION  
FOR THIS EXPLANATION SEE, "THE BEAST OF REVELATION IDENTIFIED" BY KEN GENTRY ON THE WEBSITE:  
WWW.GODAWA.COM

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DANIEL VERSE

*and on the wing of abominations {will come} one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*

FULFILLMENT

THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS BESEIGED WITH WARS UNTIL IT WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED AND DESOLATE

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# THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE “END TIMES” RAPTURE, GREAT TRIBULATION OR ANTI-CHRIST

*A verse by verse fulfillment of Matthew 24  
before the year A.D. 70.*

**F**ar better authors than I have addressed this issue in depth and with worthy scholarship, so my goal here is to simply present the Scripture, verse by verse, and then cite it’s historical fulfillment with citation from original sources, and minimal blathering of my own commentary. For further scholarship see *Last Days Madness* by Gary DeMar (my personal favorite), *The Beast of Revelation* by Ken Gentry, *Days of Vengeance* by David Chilton, and *Paradise Restored* by David Chilton.

## Why the Destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 is so Important

My only commentary is to set the basic overview of the “preterist” (fulfilled in the past) interpretation of Matthew 24 so you have an idea of the big picture. If you’ve been taught like 90% of the rest of us, you’ll probably react scandalously to this at first. I know I did. We’ve been taught only one view over the years as if it were the only Biblical view of the End Times and so we tend to think it is orthodoxy, when in fact it is modern western revisionism at it’s worst: Reinterpreting ancient documents through contemporary thought patterns.

Anyway, my overview is that Jesus is prophesying about the “end of the age” or the end of the old covenant and the ushering in of a “new age” or new covenant (Not “New Age” as in One World Globalism). This “End of the Age” is a Hebrew reference to this termination of the old covenant, not to the end of the universe and the Second Coming of Christ (these are in other passages). The destruction of the Jewish Temple that occurred in AD 70 by Titus and his Roman armies is God’s final act of marking this transition from Old to New Covenant. Between Christ’s resurrection and AD 70, Christianity was still considered a Jewish sect, and many of the Christians were still going to Temple and intermingling with their Jewish brethren, trying to bring the gospel first to the lost sheep of Israel before the Apostles began spreading it to the Gentiles. There was a “fading glory” of the “old ministry” and an increasing glory of the new (2Corinthians 3, Hebrews 8:13). A hybrid mixture of believing Christian and unbelieving Jew that God was ready to separate for good, a transference from the national to the international people of God. This “process” of change of the covenants was the 40 year period between the ascension of Christ and the destruction of the Temple, God’s final separation -- all this *within the generation* of those who knew Jesus and the Apostles.

The Temple was the Old Covenant physical reference of God’s presence on earth amidst his people. It was the very reference point of Judaism because it was the focus of priestly sacrifice for sins. But it was only a shadow of the true temple or tabernacle of God, not made by hands, which is in the heavens (Hebrews 9). By destroying the physical Temple, God literally abolished the ability of the Jews to offer sacrifices and therefore finalized his inauguration of the New Covenant and Christ’s once for all sacrifice in the true Temple of God replacing the old sacrificial system focused in the old Temple. Now God’s Temple is the body of Christ which consists of all believers in Christ worldwide, Jew and Gentile believer alike (Ephesians 2:19-22).

This is why the Destruction of the Temple is so important in God’s covenantal plan for his people. It marks the end of the Old Covenant sacrificial system (which has not ever been re-established), and the new once-for-all sacrifice of Christ that supplants the old. It marks the replacing of the “shadow” Temple with the True Temple, Christ’s Body. It marks the final break of Christianity from the apostate Jews who refused to accept Messiah. It marks the final establishment of Christianity as a separate faith from this apostate religion. It marks God’s final divorce decree upon unfaithful Israel, and the creation of his new “bride,” his remnant of “true Israel” (Romans 2::28-29) as those who worship Jesus Christ as Messiah.

I used to wonder why I was never taught any of this time period of history in my Christian education. I now know why. Because what happened to me will probably happen to you if you study it thoroughly. I gave up the bizarre 19th/20th century western interpretation of Bible prophecy called Premillennialism, with it’s Rapture, Great Tribulation and Anti-Christ, in favor of understanding the Scriptures in their own context, that of a 1st century Middle Eastern Jew with a background in Old Testament imagery.

Enough blathering. Let God’s word and it’s fulfillment speak for itself:

## Matthew Verse

***Matthew 23:36 “Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. [At the end of the chapter as well: 33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, {fright} at the door. 34 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ]***

## FULFILLMENT:

**WHEN THE ENTIRE PARAGRAPH OF THE “THIS GENERATION” VERSE IS READ IN CONTEXT, EVERY WORD IS DIRECTED TO THE VERY HEARERS OF JESUS’ WORDS.**

Matt. 23:29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had been {living} in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in {shedding} the blood of the prophets.’ 31 “Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 “Fill up then the measure {of the guilt} of your fathers. 33 “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell? 34 “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 that upon you may fall {the guilt of} all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 “Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation.”

**“THIS GENERATION” (GREEK: GENE) NEVER MEANS “RACE OF PEOPLE” IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW, BUT ALWAYS MEANS A LITERAL GENERATION OF PEOPLE AND IN PARTICULAR, THE LITERAL GENERATION WHO WERE JESUS’ CONTEMPORARIES, THOSE ALIVE AT THAT TIME:**

Matt 11:16 “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other {children} , 17 and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ 18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ 19 “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

Matt 12:39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and {yet} no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; 40 for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 “The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. 42 “ {The} Queen of {the} South shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. 43 “Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, and does not find {it.} 44 “Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. 45 “Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

Matt 16:4 “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.” And He left them, and went away.

Matt 17:17 And Jesus answered and said, “O unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you?”

See also: Matthew 1:17; Mark 8:12, 38; 9:19; 13:30; Luke 1:48, 50; 7:31; 9:41; 11:29, 30, 31, 32, 50, 51; 16:8; 17:25; 21:32

## JESUS’ COMING DURING THE LIVES OF THOSE STILL ALIVE

Matthew 10:22 “And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 “But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish {going through} the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.”

Matt 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. 28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to [Pilate], “You have said it {yourself} ; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see THE SON OF

MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

John 21:21 Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man [John]?” 22 Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what {is that} to you? You follow Me!”

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

**THIS QUESTION IS MORE THAN RHETORIC. PETER WAS CRUCIFIED BEFORE AD 70 AND AJOHN WAS STILL ALIVE IN AD 70.**

#### **EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORY 3:7**

But it may be proper to mention also those events [destruction of Jerucalem] which exhibited the graciousness of that all-good Providence which held back their destruction full forty years after their crime against Christ,—during which time many of the apostles and disciples, and James himself the first bishop there, the one who is called the brother of the Lord, were still alive, and dwelling in Jerusalem itself, remained the surest bulwark of the place.

## FULFILLMENT:

### **THE GUILT OF THE GENERATION THAT KILLED CHRIST**

Matt. 21:33 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey. 34 “And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 “And the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 “Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 “But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 “But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and seize his inheritance.’ 39 “And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 “Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?” 41 They said to Him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him the proceeds at the {proper} seasons.”... Matt. 21:43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.”

Luke 23:28 But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 “For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ 30 “Then they will begin TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, ‘FALL ON US,’ AND TO THE HILLS, ‘COVER US.’ [same reference in Revelation: Rev 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?”]

Matt 27:25 And all the people answered and said, “His blood {be} on us and on our children!” 26 Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.

Acts 7:51 “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52 “Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

1Thess 2:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they {did} from the Jews, 15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, 16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

Acts 3:13 “The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, (the one) whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 “But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life,

Acts 5:30 “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.

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Matthew Verse

*Matt. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 “Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 “For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, ‘**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!**’” Matt. 24:1 And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He answered and said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”*

## FULFILLMENT:

### THE JEWISH TEMPLE WAS THE HOUSE OF GOD AND WAS DESTROYED IN AD 70., WHICH IS WITHIN THE GENERATION OF THE PEOPLE TO WHOM JESUS WAS SPEAKING.

Mark 13:1 And as He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” 2 And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

Luke 21:5 And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6 “{As for} these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.”

Luke 19:41 And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 “For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, 44 and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

Lev 26:31 ‘I will lay waste your cities as well, and will make your sanctuaries desolate; and I will not smell your soothing aromas. 32 ‘And I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled over it. 33 ‘You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

### JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS (6:5:5-7) THE TEMPLE IS BURNED

5. So Titus retired into the tower of Antonia, and resolved to storm the temple the next day, early in the morning, with his whole army, and to encamp round about the holy house; but, as for that house, God had for certain long ago doomed it to the fire; and now that fatal day was come, according to the revolution of ages: ... when those that guarded the holy house fought with those that quenched the fire that was burning in the inner [court of the] temple;...As for the seditious, they were in too great distress already to afford their assistance [towards quenching the fire]; they were everywhere slain, and everywhere beaten; and as for a great part of the people, they were weak and without arms, and had their throats cut wherever they were caught. Now, round about the altar lay dead bodies heaped one upon another; as at the steps going up to it ran a great quantity of their blood, whither also the dead bodies that were...and thus was the holy house burnt down, without Caesar’s approbation.

### (6:2:1) GOD’S JUDGEMENT ON JERUSALEM TO PURGE THE WICKEDNESS

“And who is there that does not know what the writings of the an-cient prophets contain in them, — and particularly that oracle which is just now going to be fulfilled upon this miserable city – for they foretold that this city should be then taken when somebody shall begin the slaughter of his own countrymen! and are not both the city and the entire temple now full of the dead bodies of your countrymen? It is God therefore, it is God himself who is bringing on this fire, to purge that city and temple by means of the Remans, and is going to pluck up this city, which is full of your pollutions.”

### 6:5:1 THE BURNING OF JERUSALEM

1. While the holy house was on fire,...and because this hill was high (3), and the works at the temple were very great, one would have thought that the whole city had been on fire.

### 6:6:3

3 . . . So he gave orders to the soldiers both to burn and to plunder the city; who did nothing indeed that day; but on the next day they set fire to the repository of the archives, to Acra, to the council-house, and to the place called Ophlas; at which time the fire proceeded as far as the palace of queen Helena, which was in the middle of Acra: the lanes also were burnt down, as were also those houses that were full of the dead bodies of such as were destroyed by famine.

### 6:10:1

1. And thus was Jerusalem taken, in the second year of the reign of Vespasian, on the eight day of the month Gorpieus [Elu]. It had been taken five\* (1) times before, though this was the second time of its desolation

7:1:1

1. NOW as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be the objects of their fury, (for they would not have spared any, had there remained any other work to be done,) Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple, ...it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited. This was the end which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those that were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind.

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Matthew Verse

***Matt. 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what {will be} the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"***

FULFILLMENT:

**"LAST DAYS" AND "END OF THE AGE" ARE PHRASES THAT REFER NOT TO THE END OF THE WORLD, BUT TO THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT.**

THE WORD FOR "AGE" IS "AEON" WHICH MEANS AN ERA, AS OPPOSED TO "KOSMOS" WHICH MEANS THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Hebr. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son,... Hebr. 8:13 When He said, "A new {covenant} ." He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Hebrews 9:26 but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1Corinthians 3:God, 6 who also made us adequate {as} servants of a new covenant, ... 7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading {as} it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? ...10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory.

1Peter 1:20 For [Jesus] was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

Jude "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not {really} of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but {they went out,} in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us....

1John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the {spirit} of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2Tim. 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.... 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. [these men were around at THAT time] 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith.

Acts 2:16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel [SPEAKING IN TONGUES ON PENTECOST]: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS

AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN UPON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE, AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BENEATH, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 20 'THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD [see above for collapsing universe imagery as fulfilled prophecy of Israel falling in AD70], BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21 'AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.' [SO...] 40 "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

1 Cor 7:26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is...But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ... for the form of this world is passing away.

1Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Jude 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

#### **"LATTER DAYS" IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS SIMPLY A HEBREW REFERENCE TO "THE FUTURE", NOT THE "END-TIMES" OF ALL THINGS.**

Deut 31:29 "For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger..

THIS WAS FULFILLED IN JUDGES 2:20:

Judges 2:20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY PROPHESED BY JEREMIAH FOR THE "LATTER DAYS" OCCURED IN THEIR TIME

Jer. 30:23 Behold, the tempest of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, A sweeping tempest; It will burst on the head of the wicked.

24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back, Until He has performed, and until He has accomplished The intent of His heart; In the latter days you will understand this.

GOD PROPHESES THAT AFTER THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY, HE WILL RESTORE MOAB & EDOM IN "THE LATTER DAYS" WHICH OCCURED WITHIN 70 YEARS

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

Jer 48:46 For your sons have been taken away captive, And your daughters into captivity. 47 "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab In the latter days," declares the LORD.

Jer 49:39 'But it will come about in the last days That I shall restore the fortunes of Elam,'" Declares the LORD.

ISRAEL IS PROPHESED TO BE SCATTERED AND THEN GATHERED TOGETHER IN "THE LATTER YEARS" WHICH HAPPENED AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE OF 70 YEARS.

Ezek 12:15 "So they will know that I am the LORD when I scatter them among the nations, and spread them among the countries.

Ezek. 6:8 "However, I shall leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries. 9 "Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive,

Ezek 38:8 "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, {whose inhabitants} have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

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Matthew Verse

***4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.***

FULFILLMENT:

SEE VERSE 11 BELOW FOR FULFILLMENT OF FALSE CHRISTS

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Matthew Verse

**6 “And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for {those things} must take place, but {that} is not yet the end. 7 “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,**

FULFILLMENT:

**PAX ROMANA WAS “THE PEACE OF ROME.” WHICH RULED THE KNOWN WORLD AT THE TIME. SO WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS WOULD ONLY BE SIGNIFICANT IN THIS “TIME OF PEACE,” SINCE THEN, THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS WHICH WOULD MAKE THIS AN IRRELEVANT STATEMENT FOR THE FUTURE.**

**(TACITUS, ANNALS, PENGUIN BOOKS ©1996; CHAPTER 4 PAGE 103)**

In the same year, war broke out in the province of Africa...

**(TACITUS, ANNALS, PG 271)**

In this year, war broke out between the Armenians and the Iberians...

**TACITUS, HISTORIES BOOK 1**

January - March, A.D. 69:...I am entering on the history of a period rich in disasters, frightful in its wars, torn by civil strife, and even in peace full of horrors. Four emperors perished by the sword. There were three civil wars; there were more with foreign enemies; there were often wars that had both characters at once. There was success in the East, and disaster in the West. There were disturbances in Illyricum; Gaul wavered in its allegiance; Britain was thoroughly subdued and immediately abandoned; the tribes of the Suevi and the Sarmatae rose in concert against us; the Dacians had the glory of inflicting as well as suffering defeat; the armies of Parthia were all but set in motion by the cheat of a counterfeit Nero. Now too Italy was prostrated by disasters either entirely novel, or that recurred only after a long succession of ages; cities in Campania's richest plains were swallowed up and overwhelmed; Rome was wasted by conflagrations, its oldest temples consumed, and the Capitol itself fired by the hands of citizens. ...Never surely did more terrible calamities of the Roman People, or evidence more conclusive, prove that the Gods take no thought for our happiness, but only for our punishment.

**JOSPEHUS, WARS 4:9:2**

2. Now as Vespasian was returned to Cesarea, and was getting ready with all his army to march directly to Jerusalem, he was informed that Nero was dead...civil war; - I have omitted to give an exact account of them, because they are well known by all, and they are described by a great number of Greek and Roman authors; yet for the sake of the connexion of matters, and that my history may not be incoherent, I have just touched upon every thing briefly.

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Matthew Verse

***and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 “But all these things are {merely} the beginning of birth pangs.***

FULFILLMENT:

Acts 11:27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and {began} to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the {reign} of Claudius. 29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send {a contribution} for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.

Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened.

### **JOSEPHUS, WARS 6:6:7**

#### The Signs That Preceded The Destruction

(7). Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking (8), and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." (9)

### **JOSEPHUS, WARS 1:119:3**

in the seventh (29) year of his reign, when the war about Actium was at the height, at the beginning of the spring, the earth was shaken, and destroyed an immense number of cattle, with thirty thousand men; but the army received no harm, because it lay in the open air. In the mean time, the fame of this earthquake elevated the Arabians to greater courage,

### **JOSEPHUS, WARS 4:4:5**

for there broke out a prodigious storm in the night, with the utmost violence, and very strong winds, with the largest showers of rain, with continued lightnings, terrible thunderings, and amazing concussions and bellowings of the earth, that was in an earthquake. These things were a manifest indication that some destruction was coming upon men, when the system of the world was put into this disorder; and any one would guess that these wonders foreshowed some grand calamities that were coming.

### **TACITUS, ANNALS, MICHAEL GRANT, PENGUIN BOOKS 1989, PAGE 271**

This year witnessed many prodigies [signs and omens].... repeated earthquakes... further portents were seen in a shortage of corn, resulting in famine... it was established that there was no more than fifteen days supply of food in the city [Rome]. Only Heaven's special favour and a mild winter prevented catastrophe.

### **SENECA IN "SENECA AD LUCILIUM EPISTULAE MORALES," TRANSLATED BY RICHARD M GUMMERE, VOL 2, PG 437**

How often have cities in Asia, how often in Achaia, been laid low by a single shock of earthquake! How many towns in Syria, how many in Macedonia, have been swallowed up! How often has this kind of devastation laid Cyprus in ruins! How often had Paphos collapsed! Not infrequently are tidings brought to us of the utter destruction of entire cities

### **JOSEPHUS, WARS, 5:1:4**

...almost all the corn was burnt, which would have been sufficient for a siege of many years. So they were taken by the means of famine, which it was impossible they should have been, unless they had thus prepared the way for it by this procedure. 1. \* This destruction of such a vast quantity of corn and other provisions, as was sufficient for many years, was the direct occasion of that terrible famine, which consumed incredible numbers of Jews in Jerusalem during its siege

### **5:10:2**

The madness of the seditious did also increase together with their famine, and both those miseries were every day inflamed more and more; for there was no corn which any where appeared publicly,

### **5:12:3**

Then did the famine widen its progress, and devoured the people by whole houses and families; the upper rooms were full of women and children that were dying by famine, and the lanes of the city were full of the dead bodies of the aged; the children also and the young men wandered about the market-places like shadows, all swelled with the famine, and fell down dead, wheresoever their misery seized them.

### **6:3:3**

3. Now of those that perished by famine in the city, the number was prodigious, and the miseries they underwent were unspeakable; for if so much as the shadow of any kind of food did anywhere appear, a war was commenced presently; and the dearest friends fell a fighting one with another about it, snatching from each other the most miserable supports of life....Moreover, their hunger was so intolerable, that it obliged them to chew everything, while they gathered such things as the most sordid animals would not touch, and endured to eat them; nor did they at length abstain from girdles and shoes; and the very leather which belonged to their shields they pulled off and gnawed: the very wisps of old hay became food to some;...So those that were thus distressed by the famine were very desirous to die; and those already dead were esteemed happy,...

### **6:5:3**

Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the one-and-twentieth day of the month Artemisius [Jyar], a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared— I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, ...as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence."

### **6:6:3**

3 . . . . So he gave orders to the soldiers both to burn and to plunder the city; ...the lanes also were burnt down, as were also those houses that were full of the dead bodies of such as were destroyed by famine.

### **6:7:1**

Now every sort of death was thought more tolerable than the famine,

**6:9:3-4**

for they were come up from all the country to the feast of unleavened bread, and were on a sudden shut up by an army, which, at the very first, occasioned so great a straitness among them that there came a pestilential destruction upon them, and soon afterward such a famine, as destroyed them more suddenly.

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## Matthew Verse

*[Luke adds: Luke 21:11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.]*

## FULFILLMENT:

**JOSEPHUS, WARS 4:4:5**

for there broke out a prodigious storm in the night, with the utmost violence, and very strong winds, with the largest showers of rain, with continued lightnings, terrible thunderings, and amazing concussions and bellowings of the earth, that was in an earthquake. These things were a manifest indication that some destruction was coming upon men, when the system of the world was put into this disorder: and any one would guess that these wonders foreshowed some grand calamities that were coming.

**JOSEPHUS, WARS 6:5:3**

## The Signs That Preceded The Destruction

3. Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers, and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend, nor give credit, to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation (1); but, like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider(2), did not regard the denunciations that God made to them (3). Thus there was a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year (4). Thus also, before the Jews' rebellion, and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eight day of the month Xanthicus, [Nisan,] and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day-time; which light lasted for half an hour (5). This light seemed to be a good sign to the unskilful, but was so interpreted by the sacred scribes as to portend those events that followed immediately upon it. ... Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the one-and-twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Jyar,] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities (7). Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking (8), and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." (9)

**TACITUS, QUOTED IN CALDER, THE COMET IS COMING, PG 12**

[regarding a comet in the sky and it's interpretation] As if Nero were already dethroned, men began to ask who might be his successor.

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## Matthew Verse

*9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. {Luke adds: Luke 21:12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. 13 "It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. 14 "So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; 15 for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. 16 "But you will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put {some} of you to death, 17 and you will be hated by all on account of My name. 18 "Yet not a hair of your head will perish. 19 "By your endurance you will gain your lives [explained in next verse].*

## FULFILLMENT:

**SEE FULFILLMENT OF VERSE 21 BELOW FOR TRIBULATION.  
THIS VERSE FOCUSES ON BEING HATED BY ALL NATIONS.**

Matthew 10:22 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 "But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish (going through) the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

Acts 8:1 And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church, in order to mistreat them. 2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. 3 And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

**BROUGHT BEFORE KINGS AND GOVERNORS**

Acts 18:12 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, 13 saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

Acts 25:6 and on the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. 7 And after he had arrived, ... while Paul said in his own defense, "I have committed no offense either against the Law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar." 9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me on these {charges}?" 10 But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to {the} Jews, as you also very well know. 11 "If then I am a wrongdoer, and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is {true} of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar." 12 Then when Festus had conferred with his council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go."

Acts 25:13 Now when several days had elapsed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea, and paid their respects to Festus. 14 And while they were spending many days there, Festus laid Paul's case before the king,...Acts 25:23 And so, on the next day when Agrippa had come together with Bernice, amid great pomp, and had entered the auditorium accompanied by the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in....Acts 26:1 And Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and {proceeded} to make his defense:

2Cor 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine {lashes.} 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 {I have been} on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from {my} countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

**EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORIES 2:9**

"[1] Now about that time" (it is clear that 1 he means the time of Claudius) "Herod the King[2] stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the Church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword." And 2 concerning this James, Clement, in the seventh book of his Hypotyposes,[3] relates a story which is worthy of mention; telling it as he received it from those who had lived before him. He says that the one who led James to the judgment-seat, when he saw him bearing his testimony, was moved, and confessed that he was himself also a Christian.3 They were both therefore, he says, led away together; and on the way he begged James to forgive him. And he, after considering a little, said, "Peace be with thee," and kissed him. And thus they were both beheaded at the same time. 4 And then, as the divine Scripture says,[4] Herod, upon the death of James, seeing that the deed pleased the Jews, attacked Peter also and committed him to prison,

**EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORIES 3:1**

Peter appears to have preached 6 in 2 Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Asia[9] to the Jews of the dispersion. And at last, having come to Rome, he was crucified head-downwards;[10] for he had requested that he might suffer in this way. What do we need to say concerning Paul, who preached the Gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to Illyricum,[11] and afterwards suffered martyrdom in Rome under Nero?[12]

**TACITUS, ANNALS 15:44**

But by no human contrivance, whether lavish distributions of money or of offerings to appease the gods, could Nero rid himself of the ugly rumor that the fire was due to his orders. So to dispel the report, he substituted as the guilty persons and inflicted unheard-of punishments on those who, detested for their abominable crimes, were vulgarly called Christians. . . . So those who first confessed were hurried to the trial, and then, on their showing, an immense number were involved in the same fate, not so much on the charge of incendiaries as from hatred of the human race. And their death was aggravated with mockeries, inasmuch that, wrapped in the hides of wild beasts, they were torn to pieces by dogs, or fastened to crosses to be set on fire, that when the darkness fell they might be burned to illuminate the night. Nero had offered his own gardens for the spectacle, and exhibited a circus show, mingling with the crowd, himself dressed as a charioteer or riding in a chariot. Whence it came about that, though the victims were guilty and deserved the most exemplary punishment, a sense of pity was aroused by the feeling that they were sacrificed not on the altar of public interest, but to satisfy the cruelty of one man.

#### **SULPICIOUS SEVERUS, SACRED HISTORY 2:28.**

"He [Nero] first attempted to abolish the name of Christian."

#### **SUETONIUS, NERO 16**

"During his reign many abuses were severely punished and put down, and no fewer new laws were made . . . Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition."

#### **SUETONIUS, NERO 15**

Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.

#### **1 CLEMENT 6**

[Neronian Persecution] To these men who spent their lives in the practice of holiness, there is to be added a great multitude of the elect, who, having through envy endured many indignities and tortures, furnished us with a most excellent example. ... being persecuted, after they had suffered terrible and unspeakable torments, finished the course of their faith with steadfastness,

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## Matthew Verse

***10 "And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.***

## FULFILLMENT:

2THESS 2:2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for {it will not come} unless the apostasy comes first,

Rev. 3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Rom. 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.... 20 And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Acts 15:1 And some men came down from Judea and {began} teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."...5 But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."

Acts 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

2Cor 11:3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity {of devotion} to Christ. 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear {this} beautifully.

Phil. 3:2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; ...17 18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, {that they are} enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is {their} appetite, and {whose} glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Gal. 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is {really} not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ...4 But {it was} because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

1Tim 1:18 you may fight the good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan,

1Timothy 3:5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain....10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

1Tim. 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

1Tim. 6:20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly {and} empty chatter {and} the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

2Tim. 1:15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

2Tim 2:16 But avoid worldly {and} empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 {men} who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and thus they upset the faith of some.

2Tim. 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days [See below for proof that the "The Last Days" were the last days of the Old Covenant, not the end of time) difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith.

2Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but {wanting} to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not {teach} , for the sake of sordid gain. ...For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. ...16 They profess to know God, but by {their} deeds they deny {Him} , being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

2Pet. 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in {their} greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Jude 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. ... Jude10 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct,...11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12 These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear...Jude 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

#### **TACITUS, QUOTED IN NEWTON, ON THE PROPHECIES PG 339**

[of the persecution under Nero] several were seized who confessed and then by their discovery, a great multitude of others were convicted and barbarously executed.

**ANOTHER INTERPRETATION OF THE APOSTASY IS THAT UNBELIEVING JEWS ARE THE "MANY WHO FALL AWAY." SINCE CHRISTIANITY IS THE FULFILLMENT OF JUDAISM, THEN IF YOU ARE A JEW AND DO NOT ACCEPT MESSIAH, THEN YOU ARE AN APOSTATE WHO HAS FALLEN AWAY FROM THE TRUE FAITH**

Matt. 21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers, and went on a journey. 34 "And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 "And the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and seize his inheritance.' 39 "And they took him, and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" 41 They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers, who will pay him the proceeds at the {proper} seasons."... Matt. 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.

Matt. 23:27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 "Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, 'If we had been {living} in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in {shedding} the blood of the prophets.' 31 "Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 "Fill up then the measure {of the guilt} of your fathers. 33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell? 34 "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 that upon you may fall {the guilt of} all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 "Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Romans 11:11 But by [Israel's] transgression salvation {has come} to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. 12 Now if their transgression be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, ...15 For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, ... they were broken off for their unbelief,... for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. ...25 ... a partial hardening has happened to Israel ...

Acts 15:1 And some men came down from Judea and {began} teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."...5 But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses."

Col 2:16 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day — 17 things which are a {mere} shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. ...Col. 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all {refer} {to} things destined to perish with the using )—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, {but are} of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not {teach} , for the sake of sordid gain. ...For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. ...16 They profess to know God, but by {their} deeds they deny {Him} , being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

#### JOSEPHUS LIFE 4

4. And now I perceived innovations were already begun, and that there were a great many very much elevated in hopes of a revolt (apostasia) from the Romans. I therefore endeavored to put a stop to these tumultuous persons, and persuaded them to change their minds; and laid before their eyes against whom it was that they were going to fight, and told them that they were inferior to the Romans not only in martial skill, but also in good fortune; and desired them not rashly, and after the most foolish manner, to bring on the dangers of the most terrible mischiefs upon their country, upon their families, and upon themselves.

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## Matthew Verse

***11 "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. 12 "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.***

***4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 "For many***

*will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.*

*23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There {He is,} do not believe {him.} 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 "Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 "If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, {or,} 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe {them.}*

## FULFILLMENT:

### FALSE PROPHETS FILLED THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 5:36 "For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody; and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. And he was slain; and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 "After this man Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away {some} people after him, he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered.

Acts 8:9 Now there was a certain man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; 10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."

Acts 13:6 And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-jesus,

Acts 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

2Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come [See "Last Days" explanation below to explain that the last days were the last days of the Old Covenant during Paul's time]. ...5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. ...8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those {two} came to be. ...13 But evil men and impostors will proceed {from bad} to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

1Timothy 3:5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain....10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

2Cor 11:12 But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

Gal. 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is {really} not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ...4 But {it was} because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

Revelation 2:2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them {to be} false;

Rev 2:14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit {acts of} immorality. 15 'Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Rev 2:20 'But I have {this} against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit {acts of} immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 'Behold, I will cast her upon a bed {of sickness}, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them —I place no other burden on you.

2Cor 11:12 But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness;

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not {really} of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but {they went out,} in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.... 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son...26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

1John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the {spirit} of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ {as} coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God;

#### **(EUSEBIUS, HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, 2:13)**

1 Christ having now been diffused among all men,[2] the enemy of man's salvation contrived a plan for seizing the imperial city for himself. He conducted thither the above-mentioned Simon,[3] aided him in his deceitful arts, led many of the inhabitants of Rome astray, and thus brought them into his own power. This is 2 stated by Justin,[4] one of our distinguished writers who lived not long after the time of the apostles. Concerning him I shall speak in the proper place.[5] Take and read the work of this man, who in the first Apology[6] which he addressed to Antonine in behalf of our religion writes 3 as follows:[7] "And after the ascension of the Lord into heaven the demons put forward certain men who said they were gods, and who were not only allowed by you to go unpersecuted, but were even deemed worthy of honors. One of them was Simon, a Samaritan of the village of Gitto,[8] who in the reign of Claudius C'sar[9] performed in your imperial city some mighty acts of magic by the art of demons operating in him, and was considered a god,

#### **(JOSEPHUS ANTIQUITIES 20:5:1)**

1. NOW it came to pass, while Fadus was procurator of Judea, that a certain magician, whose name was Theudas, (9) persuaded a great part of the people to take their effects with them, and follow him to the river Jordan; for he told them he was a prophet, and that he would, by his own command, divide the river, and afford them an easy passage over it; and many were deluded by his words.

#### **(JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS, 2:8:4-6)**

4. There was also another body of wicked men gotten together, not so impure in their actions, but more wicked in their intentions, who laid waste the happy state of the city no less than did these murderers. These were such men as deceived and deluded the people under pretence of divine inspiration, but were for procuring innovations and changes of the government, and these prevailed with the multitude to act like madmen, and went before them into the wilderness, as pretending that God would there show them the signals of liberty; but Felix thought this procedure was to be the beginning of a revolt; so he sent some horsemen and footmen, both armed, who destroyed a great number of them.

5. But there was an Egyptian false prophet that did the Jews more mischief than the former; for he was a cheat, and pretended to be a prophet also, and got together thirty thousand men that were deluded by him; these he led round about from the wilderness to the mount which was called the Mount of Olives, and was ready to break into Jerusalem by force from that place; and if he could but once conquer the Roman garrison and the people, he intended to domineer over them by the assistance of those guards of his that were to break into the city with him, but Felix prevented his attempt, and met him with his Roman soldiers, while all the people assisted him in his attack upon them, insomuch that, when it came to a battle, the Egyptian ran away, with a few others, while the greatest part of those that were with him were either destroyed or taken alive; but the rest of the multitude were dispersed every one to their own homes and there concealed themselves.

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Matthew Verse

***13 "But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.  
[Luke adds: Luke 21:19 "By your endurance you will gain your lives .]***

FULFILLMENT:

**"THE END" IS THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT ORDER. SO ENDURING TO THE END WOULD MEAN ENDURING TILL**

**JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED. SEE VERSE 23 FULFILLMENT FOR MEANING OF "THE END OF THE AGE."**

LUKE'S VERSION OF THIS SAME SERMON

Luke 21:36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**"ENDURING TO THE END" SHALL BE SAVED**

Matthew 10:22 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 "But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish {going through} the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes."

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

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Matthew Verse

***14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.***

FULFILLMENT:

Colossians 1:23 the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven

Rom. 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

Romans 10:17 So faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. 18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; **THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.**

Luke 2:1 Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. [same word as in Matthew 24:14, Oikoumene, so this means the Roman Empire in Scripture]

**EUSIBIUS, ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORIES 3:7**

The same historian [Josephus] records another fact still more wonderful than this. He says (9) that a certain oracle was found in their sacred writings which declared that at that time a certain person should go forth from their country to rule the world. He himself understood 11 that this was fulfilled in Vespasian. But Vespasian did not rule the whole world, but only that part of it which was subject to the Romans. With better right could it be applied to Christ; to whom it was said by the Father, "Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the ends of the earth for thy possession." (10) At that very time, indeed, the voice of his holy apostles "went throughout all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." (11)

**JOSEPHUS, WARS, NOTE B 2:19:6**

There may another very important, and very providential, reason be here assigned for this strange and foolish retreat of Cestius; which, if Josephus had been now a Christian, he might probably have taken notice of also; and that is, the affording the Jewish Christians in the city an opportunity of calling to mind the prediction and caution given them by Christ about thirty-three years and a half before, that "when they should see the abomination of desolation" [the idolatrous Roman armies, with the images of their idols in their ensigns, ready to lay Jerusalem desolate] "stand where it ought not;" or, "in the holy place;" or, "when they should see Jerusalem any one instance of a more unpolitic, but more providential, compassed with armies;" they should then "flee to the mound conduct than this retreat of Cestius visible during this whole rains." By complying with which those Jewish Christians fled I siege of Jerusalem; which yet was providentially such a "great to the mountains of Perea, and escaped this destruction. Such a Great tribulation, as had not been from the beginning of the world to that time; no, Lit. Accompl. of Proph. p. 69, 70. Nor was there, perhaps, nor ever should be."--Ibid. p. 70, 71.

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Matthew Verse

***Matt. 24:15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was***

*spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),*

## FULFILLMENT:

### **THIS SAME PASSAGE PARALLELS LUKE WHO EXPLAINS THE HISTORIC ASPECT CLEARER:**

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Daniel 9:26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing [the crucifixion, when sin was laid on Christ "Cut Him off" from the Father: "My Go, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matt 27:46] , and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end {will come} with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations {will come} one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Dan 11:31 "And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, {there will be} 1,290 days.

**THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION STANDING IN THE HOLY PLACE WAS ONE OF THREE THINGS: 1) THE PAGAN ROMAN LEADER, TITUS AND HIS ARMY SURROUNDING JERUSALEM 2) THE IRRELIGIOUS ZEALOTS ENTERING THE TEMPLE, 3) THE PAGAN EDMITES DESECRATING THE TEMPLE**

### **1) TITUS SURROUNDING JERUSALEM**

**THIS SAME VERSE IS INTERPRETED BY LUKE AS "JERUSALEM BEING SURROUNDED BY ARMIES." AND BY MARK AS ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION STANDING WHERE IT SHOULD NOT BE" (WHICH WOULD BE AROUND THE "HOLY CITY" OF JERUSALEM). THEREFORE, IN CONTEXT WITH THE OTHER SYNOPTIC GOSPELS, THE GREEK WORDS, "HOLY PLACE" IN MATT 24 DO NOT NECESSARILY THEREFORE TRANSLATE AS THE HOLY PLACE OF THE TEMPLE, IT COULD MEAN ANY HOLY AREA, SUCH AS THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM.**

Luke 21:20 ""But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains,

Mark 13:14\* "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

### **EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORY 3:5**

many great sieges which were carried on against the cities of Judea, ... and how at last the abomination of desolation, proclaimed by the prophets,[11] stood in the very temple of God, so celebrated of old, the temple which was now awaiting its total and final destruction by fire,— all these things any one that wishes may find accurately described in the history written by Josephus.[12]

### **JOSEPHUS, WARS 6:6:1**

How The Romans Carried Their Ensigns To The Temple, And Made Joyful Acclamations to Titus.

1. And now the Romans, upon the flight of the seditious into the city, and upon the burning of the holy house itself, and of all the buildings lying round about it, brought their ensigns to the temple\* (1) and set them over against its eastern gate; and there did they offer sacrifices to them, and there did they make Titus Imperator (2), with the greatest acclamations of joy. And now all the soldiers had such vast quantities of the spoils which they had gotten by plunder, that in Syria a pound weight of gold was sold for half its former value. FOOTNOTE: (1). Tertullian truly says that the entire religion of the Roman camp almost consisted in worshipping the ensigns, in swearing by the ensigns, and in preferring the ensigns before all the [other] gods."

### **2) THE ZEALOTS DESECRATE THE TEMPLE WINTER OF AD 67-68)**

#### **JOSPEHUS, WARS, 4:3:6-10**

6. Now the people were come to that degree of meanness and fear, and these robbers to that degree of madness, that these last took upon them to appoint high priests. (4) So when they had disannulled the succession, according to those families out of which the high priests used to be made, they ordained certain unknown and ignoble persons for that office, that they might have their assistance in their wicked undertakings; for such as obtained this highest of all honors, without any desert, were forced to comply with those that bestowed it on them....., when they were satiated with the unjust actions they had done towards men, they transferred their contumelious behavior to God himself, and came into the sanctuary with polluted feet.

7. ...These men made the temple of God a strong hold for them, and a place whither they might resort, in order to avoid the troubles they feared from the people; the sanctuary was now become a refuge, and a shop of tyranny. They also mixed jesting among the miseries they introduced, which was more intolerable than what they did; for in order to try what surprise the people

would be under, and how far their own power extended, they undertook to dispose of the high priesthood by casting lots for it,...

8. ...for it fell upon one whose name was Phannias, the son of Samuel, of the village Aphtha. He was a man not only unworthy of the high priesthood, but that did not well know what the high priesthood was, such a mere rustic was he ! yet did they hail this man, without his own consent, out of the country, as if they were acting a play upon the stage, and adorned him with a counterfeit thee; they also put upon him the sacred garments, and upon every occasion instructed him what he was to do. This horrid piece of wickedness was sport and pastime with them, but occasioned the other priests, who at a distance saw their law made a jest of, to shed tears, and sorely lament the dissolution of such a sacred dignity. 10. And now, when the multitude were gotten together to an assembly, and every one was in indignation at these men's seizing upon the sanctuary, at their rapine and murders, but had not yet begun their attacks upon them, (the reason of which was this, that they imagined it to be a difficult thing to suppress these zealots, as indeed the case was,) Ananus stood in the midst of them, and casting his eyes frequently at the temple, and having a flood of tears in his eyes, he said, "Certainly it had been good for me to die before I had seen the house of God full of so many abominations, or these sacred places, that ought not to be trodden upon at random, filled with the feet of these blood-shedding villains;

### **3) THE EDMITES DESOLATE THE TEMPLE JOSPEHUS WARS OF THE JEWS (4:5:1)**

1. This advice pleased the Idumeans, and they ascended through the city to the temple. The zealots were also in great expectation of their coming, and earnestly waited for them. When therefore these were entering, they also came boldly out of the inner temple, and mix-ing themselves with the Idumeans, they attacked the guards; and some of those that were upon the watch, but were fallen asleep, they killed as they were asleep, but as those that were now awakened made a cry, the whole multitude arose, and in the amazement they were in caught hold of their arms immediately, and betook themselves to their own defence; and so long as they thought they were only the zealots who attacked them, they went on boldly, as hoping to overpower them by their numbers; but when they saw others pressing in upon them also, they perceived the Idumeans were got in; and the greatest part of them laid aside their arms, together with their courage, and betook them-selves to lamentations.

...And now the outer temple was all of it overflowed with blood; and that day, as it came on, saw eight thousand five hundred dead bodies there. 2. But the rage of the Idumeans was not satiated by these slaughters; but they now betook themselves to the city, and plundered every house, and slew everyone they met; and for the other multitude, they esteemed it needless to go on with killing them, but they sought for the high-priests, and the generality went with the greatest zeal against them; and as soon as they caught them they slew them,

...I should not mistake if I said that the death of Ananus was the beginning of the destruction of the city, and that from this very day may be dated the overthrow of her wall, and the ruin of her affairs, whereon they saw their high-priest, and the pro-curer of their preservation, slain in the midst of their city.

...and I cannot but think that it was because God had doomed this city to destruction, as a polluted city, and was resolved to purge his sanctuary by fire, that he cut off these their great defenders and wellwishers,

### **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IS NOT "THE ANTICHRIST" THERE IS NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL WITH THE TITLE: "THE ANTICHRIST" IN THE BIBLE.**

**"ANTICHRIST" IN THE BIBLE IS A GENERAL TERM FOR ANYONE, SPIRIT OR PERSON, WHO WAS AGAINST CHRIST OR DENIED THE INCARNATION OF THE TRINITY. SIMILAR IN ANALOGY TO "ANTI-SEMITIC." ANTICHRIST IS A REFERENCE TO THE APOSTASY AND TO THE FALSE CHRISTS THAT JESUS PROPHESED WOULD BE AROUND JUST BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE**

1John 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.<sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the {spirit} of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ {as} coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

**THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IS NOT THE "BEAST" OF REVELATION  
FOR THIS EXPLANATION SEE, "THE BEAST OF REVELATION IDENTIFIED" BY KEN GENTRY ON THE WEBSITE:  
WWW.GODAWA.COM**

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Matthew Verse

***16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; 17 let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; 18 and let him who is in the field not***

*turn back to get his cloak. 19 “But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days! 20 “But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;*

FULFILLMENT:

#### **CHRISTIANS DID FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM**

LUKE'S VERSION OF THIS SAME SERMON

Luke 21:36 “But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

#### **JOSEPHUS, WARS, NOTE B 2:19:6**

There may another very important, and very providential, reason be here assigned for this strange and foolish retreat of Cestius; which, if Josephus had been now a Christian, he might probably have taken notice of also; and that is, the affording the Jewish Christians in the city an opportunity of calling to mind the prediction and caution given them by Christ about thirty-three years and a half before, that “when they should see the abomination of desolation” [the idolatrous Roman armies, with the images of their idols in their ensigns, ready to lay Jerusalem desolate] “stand where it ought not;” or, “in the holy place;” or, “when they should see Jerusalem any one instance of a more unpolitic, but more providential, compassed with armies;” they should then “flee to the mound conduct than this retreat of Cestius visible during this whole rains.” By complying with which those Jewish Christians fled I siege of Jerusalem; which yet was providentially such a “great to the mountains of Perea, and escaped this destruction. Such a Great tribulation, as had not been from the beginning of the world to that time; no, Lit. Accompl. of Proph. p. 69, 70. Nor was there, perhaps, nor ever should be.”--Ibid. p. 70, 71.

#### **EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORY 3:5**

But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella.[10] And when those that believed in Christ had come thither from Jerusalem, then, as if the royal city of the Jews and the whole land of Judea were entirely destitute of holy men, the judgment of God at length overtook those who had committed such outrages against Christ and his apostles, and totally destroyed that generation of impious men.

*LUKE ADDS: Luke 21:20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city;*

FULFILLMENT:

#### **JERUSALEM SURROUNDED BY ARMIES IN 67 AD BEFORE THE FALL**

Luke 19:41 And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 “For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, 44 and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

#### **JOSEPHUS 6:9:4**

4. but the entire nation was now shut up by fate as in prison, and the Roman army encompassed the city when it was crowded with inhabitants.

#### **EUSEBIUS 23:2-30**

But Hegesippus,[6] who lived immediately after the apostles, gives the most accurate account in the fifth book of his Memoirs.[7] ...19 The aforesaid Scribes and Pharisees therefore placed James upon the pinnacle of the temple, and cried out to him and said: Thou just one, in whom we ought all to have: confidence, forasmuch as the people are led, astray after Jesus, the crucified one, declare to us, what is the gate of Jesus.[20] And he answered with a loud voice, ‘Why do ye ask me concerning Jesus, the Son of Man ? He himself sitteth in heaven at the right hand of the great Power, and is about to come upon the clouds of heaven.’...30 And immediately Vespasian besieged them.”[31] 19 These things are related at length by Hegesippus, who is in agreement with Clement.[

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Matthew Verse

*21 for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.*

*[Luke Adds: Luke 21:23 “Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.]*

## FULFILLMENT:

**“SUCH AS HAS NOT OCCURRED UNTIL NOR NOR EVER SHALL BE” A COMMON HEBREW HYPERBOLE TO EXPRESS EXTRAORDINARINESS, NOT A LITERAL EXTREMITY TO COMPARE TO ALL OTHER CASES.**

Ezekial 5:9 [TO JERUSALEM DURING NEBUCHEDNEZZER’S SEIGE OF JERUSALEM; 2KINGS 25] ‘And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again. 10 ‘Therefore, fathers will eat {their} sons among you, and sons will eat their fathers; for I will execute judgments on you, and scatter all your remnant to every wind.

Exodus 10:14 And the locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled in all the territory of Egypt; {they were} very numerous. There had never been so {many} locusts, nor would there be so {many} again.

Joel 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel. 2 Hear this, O elders, And listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has {anything like} this happened in your days Or in your fathers’ days? ...4What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.

Daniel 9:12 for under the whole heaven there has not been done {anything} like what was done to Jerusalem.

Dan. 12:1 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands {guard} over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time;

JOEL 2:2 For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, 2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, {So} there is a great and mighty people; There has never been {anything} like it. Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations.

2Kings 18:5 He [Hezekiah] trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor {among those} who were before him.

2Kings 23:25 And before him [Josiah] there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.

1Kings 3:12 Behold, I have given you [Solomon] a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

Matthew 12:42 42 “ {The} Queen of {the} South shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

**THE FLOOD IS TECHNICALLY THE GREATEST DESTRUCTION BECAUSE IT DESTROYED THE ENTIRE EARTH AND ONLY EIGHT PEOPLE SURVIVED**

1Peter3:20 in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through {the} water.

**THE APOSTLE JOHN SAID THE TRIBULATION WAS GOING ON RIGHT THEN DURING HIS LIFETIME**

Rev. 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance {which are} in Jesus,

Rev 3:3:10 ‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that {hour} which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

## PETER

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer. ...12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

## PAUL

1Corinthians 7:26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

### JESUS

Matthew 10:22 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 "But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish (going through) the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

### EUSEBIUS, HISTORIES, 2:25

WHEN the government of Nero was now 1 firmly established, he began to plunge into unholy pursuits, and armed himself even against the religion of the God of the universe. To describe the greatness of his depravity does not lie within the plan of the present work. As there are many indeed that have recorded his history in most accurate narratives,[1] every one may at his pleasure learn from them the coarseness of the man's extraordinary madness, under the influence of which, after he had accomplished the destruction of so many myriads without any reason, he ran into such blood-guiltiness that he did not spare even his nearest relatives and dearest friends, but destroyed his mother and his brothers and his wife,[2] with very many others of his own family as he would private and public enemies, with various kinds of deaths. But with all these things this particular in the catalogue of his crimes was still wanting, that he was the first of the emperors who showed himself an enemy of the divine religion. 4 The Roman Tertullian is likewise a witness of this. He writes as follows:[3] "Examine your records. There you will find that Nero was the first that persecuted this doctrine.[4] particularly then when after subduing all the east, he exercised his cruelty against all at Rome.[5] We glory in having such a man the leader in our punishment. For whoever knows him can understand that nothing was condemned by Nero unless it was something 5 of great excellence." Thus publicly announcing himself as the first among God's chief enemies, he was led on to the slaughter of the apostles.

### JOSEPHUS, WARS, NOTE B 2:19:6

There may another very important, and very providential, reason be here assigned for this strange and foolish retreat of Cestius; which, if Josephus had been now a Christian, he might probably have taken notice of also; and that is, the affording the Jewish Christians in the city an opportunity of calling to mind the prediction and caution given them by Christ about thirty-three years and a half before, that "when they should see the abomination of desolation" [the idolatrous Roman armies, with the images of their idols in their ensigns, ready to lay Jerusalem desolate] "stand where it ought not;" or, "in the holy place;" or, "when they should see Jerusalem any one instance of a more unpolitic, but more providential, compassed with armies;" they should then "flee to the mound conduct than this retreat of Cestius visible during this whole rains." By complying with which those Jewish Christians fled I siege of Jerusalem; which yet was providentially such a "great to the mountains of Perea, and escaped this destruction. Such a Great tribulation, as had not been from the beginning of the world to that time; no, Lit. Accompl. of Proph. p. 69, 70. Nor was there, perhaps, nor ever should be."--Ibid. p. 70, 71.

### JOSEPHUS 6:9:4

4. Now this vast multitude is indeed collected out of remote places, but the entire nation was now shut up by fate as in prison, and the Roman army encompassed the city when it was crowded with inhabitants. Accordingly, the multitude of those that therein perished exceeded all the destructions that either men or God ever brought upon the world; for, to speak only of what was publicly known, the Romans slew some of them, some they carried captives, and others they made a search for under ground, and when they found where they were, they broke up the ground and slew all they met with.

### PREFACE, SECTION 1.

Whereas the war which the Jews made with the Romans hath been the greatest of all those, not only that have been in our times, but, in a manner, of those that were ever heard of

### JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS (2:18:2)

It was then common to see cities filled with dead bodies, still lying un-buried, and those of old men, mixed with infants, all dead, and scat-tered about together; women also lay amongst them, without any covering for their nakedness: you might then see the whole province full of inexpressible calamities, while the dread of still more barbarous practices which were threatened, was everywhere greater than what had been already perpetrated.

### GALILEE FILLED WITH FIRE AND BLOOD (3:4:1)

1 . . . nor did the Remans, out of the anger they bore at this at-tempt, leave off either by night or by day, burning the places in the plain, or stealing away the cattle that were in the country, and killing whatsoever appeared capable of fighting perpetually, and leading the weaker people as slaves into captivity: so that Galilee was all over filled with fire and blood; . . .

### 4:5:1

3. Now after these were slain, the zealots and the multitude of the Idumeans fell upon the people as upon a flock of profane animals, and cut their throats; and, for the ordinary sort, they were destroyed in what place soever they caught them. But for the noblemen and the youth, they first caught them and bound them, and shut them up in prison, and put off their slaughter, in hopes that some of them would turn over to their party; but not one of them would comply with their desires, but all of them preferred death before being enrolled among such wicked wretches as acted against their own country. But this refusal of theirs brought upon them terrible torments; for they were so scourged and tortured, that their bodies were not able to sustain their torments, till at length, and with difficulty, they had the favor to be slain.

### 4:6:3

3 . . . So the up-shot was this, ...Along all the roads also vast numbers of dead bodies lay in heaps, and even many of those that

were so zealous in deserting, at length chose rather to perish within the city; for the hopes of burial made death in their own city appear of the two less terrible to them.

**5:8:7**

...no fewer than a hundred and fifteen thousand eight hundred and eighty dead bodies(1), in the interval between the fourteenth day of the month Xanthius, [Nisan,] when the Romans pitched their camp by the city, and the first day of the month Panemus [Tamuz]. This was itself a prodigious multitude...the entire number of the poor that were dead, and that no fewer than six hundred thousand were thrown out at the gates,

**6:1:1**

1. Thus did the miseries of Jerusalem grow worse and worse every day, and the seditious were still more irritated by the calamities they were under, even while the famine preyed upon themselves, after it had preyed upon the people. And indeed the multitude of carcases that lay in heaps one upon another (1) was a horrible sight, and produced a pestilential stench

**6:5:1**

1. While the holy house was on fire, everything was plundered that came to hand, and ten thousand of those that were caught were slain; nor was there a commiseration of any age, or any reverence of gravity(1); but children, and old men, and profane persons, and priests, were all slain in the same manner ...the blood was larger in quantity than the fire, and those that were slain more in number than those that slew them; for the ground did nowhere appear visible, for the dead bodies that lay on it;

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Matthew Verse

*[Luke Adds: Luke 21:23 “Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.]*

FULFILLMENT:

**LED CAPTIVE INTO ALL THE NATIONS**

Lev 26:31 'I will lay waste your cities as well, and will make your sanctuaries desolate; and I will not smell your soothing aromas. 32 'And I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled over it. 33 'You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

**JOSEPHUS, WARS, 6:8:2**

for they left only the populace, and sold the rest of the multitude, \*(2) with their wives and children, and every one of them at a very low price, and that because such as were sold were very many, and the buyers very few;

**JOSEPHUS, WARS, 6:9:3**

3. Now the number of those that were carried captive during the whole war was collected to be ninety-seven thousand (1); as was the number of those that perished during the whole siege, eleven hundred thousand \* (2), the greater part of whom were indeed of the same nation, [with the citizens of Jerusalem,] but not belonging to the city itself;

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Matthew Verse

*22 “And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.*

FULFILLMENT:

1 Cor 7:26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is...But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ... for the

form of this world is passing away.

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Matthew Verse

*23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There {He is,} do not believe {him.} 24 “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 “Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 “If therefore they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go forth, {or,} ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe {them.}”*

FULFILLMENT:

SEE VERSE 11 FULFILLMENT ABOVE. SAME PROPHECY.

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Matthew Verse

*27 “For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.”*

FULFILLMENT:

**LIGHTNING IS OFTEN A SYMBOL OF GOD’S JUDGING PRESENCE. JESUS WAS COMPARING THE FALSE “COMINGS” OF PHYSICAL TEACHING VERSUS A JUDGEMENT COMING**

Job 36:30 “Behold, He spreads His lightning about Him, And He covers the depths of the sea. 31 “For by these He judges peoples;

Ezekiel 21:15 that {their} hearts may melt, and many fall at all their gates. I have given the glittering sword. Ah! It is made {for striking} like lightning, it is wrapped up {in readiness} for slaughter.

Ezek. 21:28 “And you, son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the sons of Ammon and concerning their reproach,’ and say: ‘A sword, a sword is drawn, polished for the slaughter, to cause it to consume, that it may be like lightning

Zech 9:13 For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim. And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece; And I will make you like a warrior’s sword. 14 Then the LORD will appear over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning; And the Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, And will march in the storm winds of the south. 15 The LORD of hosts will defend them.

Deut 33:2 “The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

**EUSEBIUS ECC. HISTORY 3:8**

The Signs which preceded the War.

1 Taking, then, the work of this author, read what he records in the sixth book of his History. His words are as follows: (1) “Thus were the miserable people won over at this time by the impostors and false prophets; (2) but they did not heed nor give credit to the visions and signs that foretold the approaching desolation. On the contrary, as if struck by lightning, and as if possessing neither eyes nor understanding, they slighted the proclamations of God.

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Matthew Verse

*28 “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”*

FULFILLMENT:

**THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE ROMAN ARMIES OF TITUS (VULTURES) SURROUNDING ISRAEL WHICH IS A DEAD RELIGION (CORPSE) BECAUSE OF GOD'S NEW COVENANT.**

**LUKE'S VERSION OF THIS SAME VERSE WRITES IN THESE LITERAL WORDS INSTEAD OF THE CORPSE AND VULTURES SYMBOL:**

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand.

Jer 7:33 "And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the sky, and for the beasts of the earth; and no one will frighten {them away.} 34 "Then I will make to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride; for the land will become a ruin.

Jer 19: 7 "And I shall make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I shall cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hand of those who seek their life; and I shall give over their carcasses as food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth.

**JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS (6:1:4)**

4. Now this vast multitude is indeed collected out of remote places, but the entire nation was now shut up by fate as in a prison, and the Roman army encompassed the city when it was crowded with inhabitants. Accordingly the multitude of those that therein perished exceeded all the destructions that either men or God ever brought upon the world; for, to speak only of what was publicly known, the Romans slew some of them, some they carried captives, and others they made search for underground, and when they found where they were, they broke up the ground and slew all they met with.

**EUSEBIUS, HISTORIES, 3:5**

AFTER Nero had held the power thirteen years,[1] and Galba and Otho had ruled a year and six months,[2]Vespasian, who had become distinguished in the campaigns against the Jews, was proclaimed sovereign in Judea and received the title of Emperor from the armies there.[3] Setting out immediately, therefore, for Rome, he entrusted the conduct of the war 2. against the Jews to his son Titus.

**JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS (4:6:3) DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM**

But these zealots came at last to that degree of barbarity, as not to bestow a burial either on those slain in the city, or on those that lay along the roads; ... they left the dead bodies to putrify under the sun:

**6:6:3 STORIES OF GOD REMOVING HIMSELF FROM THE HOLY OF HOLIES**

Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking (8), and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence."

**TACITUS HISTORIES 5:13 GOD REMOVING HIMSELF FROM THE HOLY OF HOLIES**

"In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour. A sudden lightening flash from the clouds lit up the Temple. The doors of the holy place abruptly opened, a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and in the same instant came the rushing tumult of their departure"

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Matthew Verse

***Matt. 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,***

FULFILLMENT:

**SUN, MOON AND STARS ARE SYMBOLS OF RULERS AND IN PARTICULAR, ISRAEL**

Judg. 5:19 "The kings came {and} fought; Then fought the kings of Canaan At Taanach near the waters of Megiddo; They took no plunder in silver. 20 "The stars fought from heaven, From their courses they fought against Sisera.

Gen 37:9 Now [Joseph] had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, ... behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ... and his father rebuked him and said to him, ...Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"

Rev. 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a

crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

### **COLLAPSING UNIVERSE IMAGRY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A POETIC REFERENCE TO THE FALL AND DESTRUCTION OF IMPORTANT RULERS AND CULTURES, NOT LITERAL COLLAPSING UNIVERSES:**

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. ...22 because these are days of vengeance, ....24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles.... 25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, ... 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

### **WHEN GOD DESTROYED THE TEMPLE FIRST IN 587 BC**

Jer. 4:23 I looked on the earth, and behold, (it was) formless and void; And to the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, And all the hills moved to and fro. 25 I looked, and behold, there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. 26 I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were pulled down Before the LORD, before His fierce anger. Jer. 4:27 For thus says the LORD, "The whole land shall be a desolation, Yet I will not execute a complete destruction. 28 "For this the earth shall mourn, And the heavens above be dark, ...30 And you, O desolate one, what will you do?

### **PROPHECY OF THE NEW COVENANT AS SHAKING OF HEAVENS AND EARTH**

Haggai 2:6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 'And I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill this house with glory,  
Hebrew 12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.'" 27 And this {expression} , "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken,

### **DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON BY THE MEDES IN 539 BC WAS A DESTRUCTION OF HEAVENS AND EARTH**

Isa. 13:1 The oracle concerning Babylon ...The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle. 5 They are coming from a far country From the farthest heavens, The LORD and His instruments of indignation, To destroy the whole earth. ...9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land [earth] a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises, And the moon will not shed its light. 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil,13 Therefore I shall make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger....17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,...19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

### **THE FALL OF EDOM**

Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as {one} withers from the fig tree. 5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom,

### **THE FALL OF SAMARIA IN 722 BC**

Amos 8:9 "And it will come about in that day," declares the Lord GOD, "That I shall make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.

### **THE DESTRUCTION OF EGYPT**

Ezekial 32:7 "And when (I) extinguish you, I will cover the heavens, and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give its light. 8 "All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you And will set darkness on your land,"

Joel 2:10 Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness. 11 And the LORD utters His voice before His army;

### **THE DESTRUCTION AND CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL BY NEBUCHEDNEZZER AND HIS INVASION**

Isa. 24:1 Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants...3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word. 4 The earth mourns {and} withers, the world fades {and} withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. 5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left....19 The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently. 20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, And it totters like a shack. For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again. 21 So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, And the kings of the earth, on earth....23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, ...26:9 For when the earth experiences Thy judgments The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness....

### **THE DESTRUCTION ABOUT TO COME UPON NINEVAH**

Nahum 1:4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither. 5 Mountains quake because of Him. And the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence. The world and all the inhabitants in it. 6 Who can stand before His indignation?

#### THE COMING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Matt. 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"

**Isa. 40:3** A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see {it} together;

**SEE ADDENDUM #2 BELOW FOR MORE ON RE-CREATING A "NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH": TERMINOLOGY.**

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## Matthew Verse

*30 and then will appear, the sign of the Son of Man in heaven,...*

### FULFILLMENT:

#### THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM WAS THE SIGN THAT JESUS IS ENTHRONED IN HEAVEN SEATED AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND OF POWER

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly {places}. 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to [Pilate], "You have said it {yourself}; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

Matt. 22:41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, 42 saying, "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, " {The son} of David." 43 He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying, 44 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT THINE ENEMIES BENEATH THY FEET"'? Matt. 22:45 "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

Acts 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT {one} OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.'"

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## Matthew Verse

*30 and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn,...*

### FULFILLMENT:

**"TRIBES OF THE EARTH" IS BETTER TRANSLATED: "TRIBES OF THE LAND.",SO JESUS IS REFERING TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL, SAYING THAT THE JEWS THMESLEVES WILL MOURN FOR BECAUSE OF THEIR REJECTION OF GOD'S SON, THEIR OWN MESSIAH**

Zech 12:Zech. 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; [The Jews pierced Jesus: See above for the Guilt of the Jews] and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-

born. 11 "In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. 12 "And the land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself,

"In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, 6 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER, WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

Matthew 2:20 "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." 21 And he arose and took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE CLEARLY INDICATES THAT "LAND" IS A REFERENCE TO ISRAEL, BECAUSE THE BEGINNING OF MATTHEW 24 PROPHECIES THE MOURNFUL JUDGEMENT ON THE JEWS.

Matt. 23:29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, 'If we had been {living} in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in {shedding} the blood of the prophets.' 31 "Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 "Fill up then the measure {of the guilt} of your fathers. 33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell? 34 "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 that upon you may fall {the guilt of} all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 "Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation.

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

John 19:"Behold, the Man!" 6 When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him."

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## Matthew Verse

***30 ... and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.***

## FULFILLMENT:

### JESUS TOLD HIS CONTEMPORARIES THEY WOULD SEE HIM COMING ON CLOUDS AND SEATED AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Matthew 16:28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to [Pilate], "You have said it {yourself} ; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

**THE BELIEF THAT "ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH MUST SEE" THIS EVENT IS NOT A LITERAL STATEMENT THAT DEMANDS THAT EVERY SINGLE NATION OR INDIVIDUAL MUST SEE THIS EVENT, BUT RATHER A HYPERBOLIC REFERENCE TO AN OCCURENCE IN THE MIDST OF TIME AND HISTORY. WHEN JESUS FIRST CAME, THE PROPHECY STATED THAT "ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE INCARNATION TOGETHER" BUT ALL FLESH DID NOT LITERALLY SEE IT.**

3 A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together;

**“SEEING” IS A BIBLICAL METAPHOR FOR “UNDERSTANDING” SO THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS IS GOD’S POWER AND GLORY BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE AS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD COVENANT**

Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him [Jesus];

Isaiah 6:1010 “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.”

Acts 26:17 delivering you from the {Jewish} people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God,

Isaiah 35:5 “Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come {with} vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy.

Isaiah 42:6 “I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

**“COMING ON CLOUDS” IS AN OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE TO GOD’S JUDGING PRESENCE:**

Isa. 19:1 The oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud, and is about to come to Egypt;

Nahum 1:1 The oracle of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. 2 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. 3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave {the guilty} unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

Ps. 18:7 [When God delivered David and judged Saul] Then the earth shook and quaked; And the foundations of the mountains were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With thick darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub and flew: And He sped upon the wings of the wind.

Joel 2:1 [When God was going to judge Israel] Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, 2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains,

Ezekiel 30:3 “For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time {of doom} for the nations. 4 “And a sword will come upon Egypt,

Ex 34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD.

**CLOUDS ARE ALSO A REFERENCE TO GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY & GLORY**

Jer 10:13 When He utters His voice, {there is} a tumult of waters in the heavens, And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth;

Jer 51:16 When He utters His voice, {there is} a tumult of waters in the heavens, And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth;

Ps. 104:3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind;

1Kgs. 8:12 Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud

Ex 13:21 And the LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night..

Ex 20:21 So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God {was.}

Ex 34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD.

Dan. 7:13 “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass

away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly {places} , 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet,

#### **WHEN JESUS ASCENDED, HE “CAME ON THE CLOUDS AND BEGAN HIS KINGDOM OF DOMINION WITH GLORY.”**

Dan. 7:13 “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.”

Mark 16:19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Acts 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 2:30 “And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT {one} OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, ‘SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.’”

Acts 7:55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

#### **THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE IS THE SIGN OF THAT “COMING ON THE CLOUDS” ASCENSION AND THAT JESUS IS REIGNING IN HEAVEN BECAUSE THE OLD SYSTEM OF SACRIFICES IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.**

##### **EUSIBIUS, ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORIES 3:3**

The same historian [Josephus] records another fact still more wonderful than this. He says (9) that a certain oracle was found in their sacred writings which declared that at that time a certain person should go forth from their country to rule the world. He himself understood 11 that this was fulfilled in Vespasian. But Vespasian did not rule the whole world, but only that part of it which was subject to the Romans. With better right could it be applied to Christ; to whom it was said by the Father, “Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the ends of the earth for thy possession.” (10) At that very time, indeed, the voice of his holy apostles “went throughout all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (11)

##### **EUSEBIUS 23:2-30**

But Hegesippus,[6] who lived immediately after the apostles, gives the most accurate account in the fifth book of his Memoirs.[7] ...19 The aforesaid Scribes and Pharisees therefore placed James upon the pinnacle of the temple, and cried out to him and said: Thou just one, in whom we ought all to have: confidence, forasmuch as the people are led, astray after Jesus, the crucified one, declare to us, what is the gate of Jesus.’[20] And he answered with a loud voice; Why do ye ask me concerning Jesus, the Son of Man ? He himself sitteth in heaven at the right hand of the great Power, and is about to come upon the clouds of heaven.’...30 And immediately Vespasian besieged them.’[31] 19 These things are related at length by Hegesippus, who is in agreement with Clement.[

#### **“COMING WITH GLORY” IS A REFERENCE TO THE GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT FULLY INAUGURATED AT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.**

THE OLD COVENANT WAS A GLORY THAT WAS FADING AND THE NEW COVENANT WAS A GLORY THAT WAS SURPASSING THE OLD

2Cor 3:7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading {as} it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory. 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer....12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

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Matthew Verse

***31 “And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.***

FULFILLMENT:

**THE CHRISTIANS (GOD’S “SENT OUT” MESSENGERS) STARTED PREACHING THE GOSPEL, AND STARTED GATHERING TOGETHER INTO A NEW TEMPLE OF GOD (THE CHURCH), THOSE WHO BELIEVE FROM ALL NATIONS, FROM THE “FOUR WINDS” OF THE EARTH, NOT JUST JEWS.**

***“And He will send forth His angels...***

**“ANGEL” IN GREEK (ANGELOS) MEANS “MESSENGER” AND SOMETIMES REFERS TO PEOPLE, NOT “SUPERNATURAL BEINGS,” WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL AS GOD’S MESSENGERS**

Luke 7:24 And when the messengers (“angels”) of John had left, He began to speak

Matthew 11:10 “This is the one (John the Baptist) about whom it is written, ‘BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER (“angel”) BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.’

James 2:25 And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers (“angels”) and sent them out by another way?

Luke 9:52 and He sent messengers (“angels”) on ahead of Him.

The Seven angels of the churches in Revelation are referred to by many commentators as the pastors or leaders of those churches or the churches themselves as messengers.

Mark 1:2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER (“angel”) BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY;

Mal. 3:1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger (“angel”) and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger (“angel”) of the covenant

2Chron 36:15 And the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent {word} to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; 16 but they {continually} mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

Hebr. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

***with A GREAT TRUMPET..***

**“SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET” WAS AN OLD TESTAMENT IMAGE OF A CALL TO WORSHIP, A CALL TO JUDGEMENT, AND A CALL TO REPENT AS WELL AS A CALL TO WAR. HERE IT IS THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL WHICH IS ALL FOUR OF THESE**

Num. 10:1 The LORD spoke further to Moses, saying, 2 “Make yourself two trumpets of silver, of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation...” 7 “When convening the assembly, however, you shall blow without sounding an alarm. 8 “The priestly sons of Aaron, moreover, shall blow the trumpets; and this shall be for you a perpetual statute throughout your generations.

Isa. 58:1 “Cry loudly, do not hold back; Raise your voice like a trumpet, And declare to My people their transgression,

Jer 6:17 "And I set watchmen over you, {saying,} 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.' 18 "Therefore hear, O nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 "Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, The fruit of their plans, Because they have not listened to My words,

**THIS TRUMPET IS ALSO A REFERENCE TO THE JUBILEE TRUMPET WHICH IS ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE JUBILEE FULFILLMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

Lev 25:9 'You shall then sound a ram's horn abroad on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the day of atonement you shall sound a horn all through your land. 10 'You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you.

Luke 4:17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

**THE ISAIAH PROPHECY THAT IS QUOTED HERE ABOUT THE JUBILEE IS DIRECTLY FOLLOWED BY A PHRASE "DAYS OF VENGEANCE" WHICH LUKE EXPLAINS IN HIS VERSION OF THIS SERMON AS BEING FULFILLED AT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AS WELL.**

Isaiah 61:2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God;

Luke 21:22 because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

***and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect...***

**"GATHER" IN GREEK IS THE WORD FOR "SYNAGOGUE" (EPISUNAGO). AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES WERE FIRST CALLED "SYNAGOGUES." SO THIS "GATHERING" IS THE GATHERING OF GOD'S ELECT INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

John 11:51 Now this he did not say on his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

John 10:16 "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold [Gentiles]; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock {with} one shepherd.

Matt. 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather ("synagogue") your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Deut 30:3 then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather ("synagogue") you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather ("synagogue") you, and from there He will bring you back. (Septuagint)

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with {an attitude of} personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly ("synagogue")

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling ("synagoguing") together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another} ; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

**BECAUSE THE CHURCH WAS NOW THE TRUE SYNAGOGUE OF GOD, JEWISH SYNAGOGUES WERE CONSIDERED "SYNAGOGUES OF SATAN."**

Rev 2:9 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev 3:9 'Behold, I will cause {those} of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews, and are not,

***from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other...***

**THE FOUR WINDS IS NOT A LITERAL REFERENCE TO A SQUARE EARTH BUT A LITERARY METAPHOR THAT EXPRESSED “FROM EVERYWHERE” NOT MERELY ISRAEL**

IN THE OT, ISAIAH WROTE OF THE EARTH BEING A SPHERE, SO THEY KNEW THE EARTH WAS NOT SQUARE  
Isaiah 40:22 It is He who sits above the vault [Hebrew: khug, which means “sphere”] of the earth,

Isai 11:12 And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

Ezek 7:2 2 “And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel, ‘An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land.

Ps. 22:27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before Thee.

Deut 4:32 {inquire} from one end of the heavens to the other. Has {anything} been done like this great thing, or has {anything} been heard like it?

**THE GOSPEL IS THE PREACHED TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND THE ELECT ARE GATHERED FROM THOSE FOUR WINDS WHERE THE GOSPEL HAS BEEN PREACHED**

John 11:51 he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Rom 10:17 So faith {comes} from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. 18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; “THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.”

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Matthew Verse

***Matt. 24:32 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, [right] at the door. 34 “Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [At the beginning of the chapter as well: 36 “Truly I say to you, all these things shall come upon this generation. ]***

FULFILLMENT:

**“NEAR” MEANS “NEAR” LITERALLY TO JESUS’ CONTEMPORARIES, NOT THOUSANDS OF YEARS LATER. SINCE IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED ABOVE [IN VERSE 30] THAT “THE COMING OF THE LORD” IS OFTEN A REFERENCE TO GOD COMING IN JUDGEMENT WHEN ANY CITY OR CULTURE IS DESTROYED, THEN THE LORD’S COMING BEING “NEAR” IS NOT HIS SECOND COMING, BUT HIS COMING IN JUDGEMENT ON JERUSALEM.**

**LUKE’S VERSION OF THIS SAME SERMON**

Luke 21:36 “But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Phil 4:5 Let your forbearing {spirit} be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another} ; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

1Cor 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha [the Lord Comes!].

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the

soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. [same phrase used in Matthew 24:33]

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer. ..  
1Peter 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place;...3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. ...19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things. ...2:16 'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, ...3:10 I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that {hour} which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth. 11 'I am coming quickly;... 22:6 ...I to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book"...10 "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ...12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward {is} with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done....20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Matthew 10:22 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 "But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish {going through} the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Rom 13:12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand.

Malachi 5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.  
Matthew 17:10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; 12 but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

#### **"NEAR" ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT REALLY MEANS, "NEAR" NOT THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NEAR**

Matt 26:18 [Jesus said:] "My time is at hand [{"near"}]; I {am to} keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.""

Matt 26:45 Then He came to the disciples, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand [near], and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

John 2:13 And the Passover of the Jews was at hand [near], and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

John 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand [near].

John 11:55 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand [near].

John 7:2 Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was at hand [near].

Luke 21:30 as soon as they put forth {leaves,} you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 "Even so you, too, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.

Matt. 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matt 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Matt 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. SO AT HAND [{"NEAR"}] MEANS TRULY AT HAND OR UPON US.

Hebr. 8:13 When He said, "A new {covenant} ," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready [near] to disappear.

#### **"QUICKLY" ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ALWAYS MEANS LITERALLY, "QUICKLY" FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF**

**THOSE WHO TO WHOM IT WAS WRITTEN, NOT “QUICKLY” THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NOW FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE**

JOHN 11:29 And when she heard it, she arose quickly, and was coming to Him.

John 11:30 when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out,

JOHN 13:27 Jesus therefore said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

Matt 5:25 “Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way,

Matt 28:7 “And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead;...8 And they departed quickly from the tomb

Mark 16: 8 And they went out and fled [quickly] from the tomb,

**ALSO THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Gen 41:32 “Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, {it means} that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

**WHEN GOD SAYS HE IS TO JUDGE “SHORTLY” HE REALLY DOES IT SHORTLY, NOT THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM SHORTLY. AND THE PEOPLE WERE JUDGED FOR THINKING THAT “SHORTLY” WAS FAR OFF AND NOT “SHORTLY”**

EZEKIAL PROPHECIES ABOUT THE FIRST DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE AND JERUSALEM [SIMILAR IN CONTEXT TO THE DESTRUCTION IN 70 AD]

Ezek 7:8 ‘Now I will shortly pour out My wrath on you (Israel), and spend My anger against you, judge you according to your ways, and bring on you all your abominations.

Ezek. 12:21 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, 22 “Son of man, what is this proverb you {people} have concerning the land of Israel, saying, ‘The days are long and every vision fails’? 23 “Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “I will make this proverb cease so that they will no longer use it as a proverb in Israel.” But tell them, “The days draw near as well as the fulfillment of every vision. ...Ezek. 12:26 Furthermore, the word of the LORD came to me saying, 27 “Son of man, behold, the house of Israel is saying, ‘The vision that he sees is for many years {from now,} and he prophesies of times far off.’ 28 “Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “None of My words will be delayed any longer. Whatever word I speak will be performed,’”” declares the Lord GOD.

**SEE ADDENDUM #1 BELOW ON “DAY OF THE LORD” FOR PASSAGES THAT DESCRIBE OTHER “DAYS OF THE LORD” THAT WERE DESCRIBED AS “NEAR” AND DID IN FACT OCCUR “NEAR” TO THOSE WHO THE WORDS WERE SPOKEN TO.**

**JESUS’ COMING DURING THE LIVES OF THOSE STILL ALIVE**

Matthew 10:22 “And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. 23 “But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish {going through} the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

Matt 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. 28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to [Pilate], “You have said it {yourself} ; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

John 21:21 Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man [John]?” 22 Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what {is that} to you? You follow Me!”

**THIS QUESTION IS MORE THAN RHETORIC. PETER WAS CRUCIFIED BEFORE AD 70 AND A JOHN WAS STILL ALIVE IN AD 70.**

**THE FIG TREE PUTTING FORTH LEAVES IS NOT A METAPHOR FOR ISRAEL BECOMING A NATION IN THIS PASSAGE, BUT RATHER A SYMBOL OF KNOWING SOMETHING IS NEAR**

**WHENEVER JESUS EXPLAINS A PARABLE, HE ALWAYS EXPLAINS WHICH IMAGES ARE RELEVANT TO THE POINT OF THE PARABLE. JESUS’ OWN EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE SAYS ONLY THAT IT IS A PARABLE OF NEARNESS. HE DOES NOT EXPLAIN THAT THE FIG TREE PUTTING FORTH LEAVES REPRESENTS ISRAEL BECOMING A NATION IN THE FUTURE.**

Matt. 24:32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, (right) at the door.

#### **THE FIG TREE IS NOT USED EXCLUSIVELY OF ISRAEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

JUDGES 9:8 "Once the trees went forth to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us!' 9 "But the olive tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my fatness with which God and men are honored, and go to wave over the trees?' 10 "Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come, reign over us!' 11 "But the fig tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees?' 12 "Then the trees said to the vine, 'You come, reign over us!' 13 "But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?' 14 "Finally all the trees said to the bramble, 'You come, reign over us!'

#### **IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THE FIG TREE ITSELF IS NOT USED TO SYMBOLIZE ISRAEL, BUT THE FRUIT OF THE TREE**

Jer. 24:4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, ... for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart. ...8 'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness —indeed, thus says the LORD — so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and the ones who dwell in the land of Egypt.

Hosea 9:10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first {season.}

#### **THE FIG TREE IS USED AS A SYMBOL FOR MANY OTHER THINGS, SO THE CONTEXT DETERMINES WHAT IT IS SYMBOLIZING**

##### **GODLY PERSONS IN GENERAL**

Micah 7:1 Woe is me! For I am Like the fruit pickers and the grape gatherers. There is not a cluster of grapes to eat, {Or} a first-ripe fig {which} I crave. 2 The godly person has perished from the land,

##### **PRODUCTIVITY**

Hab 3:17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, {Though} the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food,

##### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Zech 3:10 'In that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'every one of you will invite his neighbor to {sit} under {his} vine and under {his} fig tree.'"

1Kings 4:25 So Judah and Israel lived in safety, every man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

##### **ANYTHING WE INVEST OUR TIME INTO**

Luke 13:6 And He {began} telling this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it, and did not find any. 7 "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' 8 "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; 9 and if it bears fruit next year, {fine;} but if not, cut it down.'"

##### **RULERS OF A NATION BEING DETHRONED**

Rev 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. [See explanation above on callapsing universe imagery]

##### **ISRAEL IS LIKENED TO A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT FRUIT BEARING PLANTS AND TREES -- FOR FRUITFULNESS ALONE**

Haggai 2:18 from the day when the temple of the LORD was founded, consider: 19 'Is the seed still in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree, it has not borne {fruit.} Yet from this day on I will bless {you.}' "

##### **IF THE FIG TREE IS ISRAEL, THEN THIS PASSAGE HAS JESUS PROPHECYING THAT ISRAEL WILL NEVER BEAR FRUIT, SO ISRAEL BECOMING A NATION CANNOT BE IN MIND IN THIS PASSAGE**

Matt. 21:18 Now in the morning, when He returned to the city, He became hungry. 19 And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, "No longer shall there ever be {any} fruit from you." And at

once the fig tree withered. 20 And seeing {this,} the disciples marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" 21 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it shall happen. 22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

Luke 13:6 And He {began} telling this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it, and did not find any. 7 "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' 8 "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; 9 and if it bears fruit next year, {fine;} but if not, cut it down.'"

#### **LUKE'S VERSION OF THE SAME PARABLE ADDS "ALL TREES" IN THE SYMBOL, THUS EMPHASIZING THE MEANING OF NEARNESS, NOT THE TREE ITSELF AS A SYMBOL**

Luke 21:29 And He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they put forth {leaves,} you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 "Even so you, too, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.

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## **ADDENDUM #1**

### **DAY OF THE LORD**

**"DAY OF THE LORD" IS ALSO A PHRASE THAT IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. BUT A CAREFUL STUDY OF SCRIPTURE SHOWS THAT "DAY OF THE LORD" IS A GENERIC OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE TO ANY TIME THAT THE LORD "COMES" IN JUDGEMENT UPON A NATION OR CULTURE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY "DAYS OF THE LORD" IN THE PAST, AND ALL OF THEM DESCRIBED AS "NEAR" DID IN FACT HAPPEN "NEAR" TO THOSE WHO WERE SPOKEN TO.**

#### **THE SACKING OF JERUSALEM BY BABYLON IN 586 BC**

Obad. 15 "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you.

Zeph. 1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near, ...14 Near is the great day of the LORD. Near and coming very quickly: Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

#### **AMOS PROPHECIES ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION BY THE ASSYRIANS**

Amos 5:18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose {will} the day of the LORD {be} to you? It {will be} darkness and not light; 19 As when a man flees from a lion, And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall, And a snake bites him. 20 {Will} not the day of the LORD {be} darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

#### **THE FALL OF BABYLON TO THE MEDES IN 539 BC:**

Isaiah 13: 6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty... 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, ...11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; ...And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger...17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,...19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

#### **THE FALL OF EDOM**

Isaiah 34:5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom, ...8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion. ...35:4 Behold, your God will come {with} vengeance; The recompense of God will come,

#### **THE FALL OF EGYPT TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR**

Jer. 46:1 That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations. 2 To Egypt,...10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; And the sword will devour and be satiated And drink its fill of their blood; For there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts,

**ALSO, NOTICE THE FOLLOWING VERSES TIE TOGETHER "CLOUD" IMAGERY WITH "DAY OF THE LORD" REMEMBER**

## EARLIER WE ESTABLISHED THAT "CLOUDS" WAS A REFERENCE TO GOD COMING IN JUDGEMENT

### THE FALL OF EGYPT

Ezekiel 30:3 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Wail, 'Alas for the day!' 3 "For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time {of doom} for the nations. 4 "And a sword will come upon Egypt,

### GOD'S DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

Zeph. 1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near, ...Zeph. 1:14 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

## OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES A "DAY OF THE LORD" FOR ISRAEL IN WHICH GOD WILL JUDGE JERUSALEM. THIS "DAY OF THE LORD" IS THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY ROME AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE THAT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT.

Zeph 1:3 ...declares the LORD. 4 "So I will stretch out My hand against Judah And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. For the day of the LORD is near, ...12 That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, ...4 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day,

Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. 6 "And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to {their} children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

Luke 1:17 "And it is he [John the Baptist] who will go {as a forerunner} before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN,

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## ADDENDUM #2

### " NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH"

*2 Peter 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with {their} mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? ... it escapes their notice that by the word of God {the} heavens existed long ago and {the} earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not let this one {fact} escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are [BEING] destroyed [dissolved] in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements [are being melted] with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

THIS VERSE DOES NOT DESCRIBE THE FINAL JUDGEMENT BUT RATHER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE IN 70 AD AND THE OLD COVENANT ORDER THAT ACCOMPANIED IT.

**IN THE SAME WAY THAT COLLAPSING UNIVERSE IMAGRY IS USED TO DESCRIBE GOD'S OVERTHROW OF KINGDOMS AND NATIONS [SEE PROOF ON VERSE 29 ABOVE], SO THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF CREATING OR RE-CREATING A "NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH" AS A METAPHOR FOR GOD ESTABLISHING A NEW KINGDOM OR COVENANT. THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY A REFERENCE TO THE FINAL JUDGEMENT WHEN GOD DESTROYS THE PHYSICAL HEAVENS AND EARTH AS WE KNOW THEM.**

**PROPHECY OF THE NEW COVENANT AS SHAKING OF HEAVENS AND EARTH OR CREATING A NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH**

Haggai 2:6 "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 'And I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations; and I will fill this house with glory,

Hebrew 12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." 27 And this {expression} , "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken,

Isa. 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind....22 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure.

**IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, GOD RE-CREATED THE HEAVENS AND EARTH METAPORICALLY WHEN HE MADE THE OLD COVENANT WITH MOSES AFTER PASSING THROUGH THE RED SEA**

Isa. 51:14 "The exile [From Egypt] will soon be set free, ... 15 "For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea {parting the Red Sea} and its waves roar (the LORD of hosts is His name). 16 "And I have put My words in your mouth [ gave the law to Moses], and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are My people. [ When he formed them in the wilderness]'"

**SPIRIT OF GOD HOVERING OVER A WASTE OR VOID DURING THE EXODUS**

Deut 32:10 "He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled [hovered over] him, He cared for him, SAME LANGUAGE AS IN GENESIS 1 CREATION:

Gen 1:2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....And the earth was formless and void and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving [hovering] over the surface of the waters.

**GOD SEPARATING THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS DURING THE EXODUS**

Exodus 14:20 So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night.

Gen 1:4 and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night

**GOD SEPARATING THE WATERS FROM THE DRY LAND**

Exod. 14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD swept the sea {back} by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.

Gen. 1:9 Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

**WHEN GOD DESTROYED THE TEMPLE FIRST IN 587 BC HE STARTED OVER CREATING THE HEAVENS AND EARTH**

Jer. 4:23 I looked on the earth, and behold, {it was} formless and void; And to the heavens, and they had no light. ...27 For thus says the LORD, "The whole land shall be a desolation, Yet I will not execute a complete destruction. 28 "For this the earth shall mourn, And the heavens above be dark, ...30 And you, O desolate one, what will you do?

Lev. 26:14 'But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments, ... then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 'And I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your Heaven like iron and your earth like bronze.

**DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON BY THE MEDES IN 539 BC WAS A DESTRUCTION OF HEAVENS AND EARTH**

Isa. 13:1 The oracle concerning Babylon ...The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle. 5 They are coming from a far country From the farthest heavens, The LORD and His instruments of indignation, To destroy the whole earth. ...9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land [earth] a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises, And the moon will not shed its light. 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil,<sup>13</sup> Therefore I shall make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger....<sup>17</sup> Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,...<sup>19</sup> And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

**THE FALL OF EDOM DESCRIBED AS THE HEAVENS AND EARTH BEING DESTROYED**

Isa. 34:1 Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that

springs from it. 2 For the LORD'S indignation is against all the nations, 4 And all the host of heaven will wear away. And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away. As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as {one} withers from the fig tree. 5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom, ...8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion. 9 And its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its loose earth into brimstone. And its land shall become burning pitch.

#### **THE DESTRUCTION AND CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL BY NEBUCHEDNEZZER AND HIS INVASION**

Isa. 24:1 Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants...3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word. 4 The earth mourns {and} withers, the world fades {and} withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. 5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left....19 The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently. 20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, And it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again. 21 So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, And the kings of the earth, on earth....23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, ...26:9 For when the earth experiences Thy judgments The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness....

***2Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up .11 Since all these things are [BEING] destroyed [dissolved] in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed [dissolved] by burning, and the elements [ARE BEING melted] with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.***

#### **THE ELEMENTS BEING BURNED IS A METAPHORIC REFERENCE TO THE "OLD COVENANT ORDER" BEING DESTROYED BY GOD'S PURGING FLAMES.**

#### **THE PRESENT PASSIVE MIDDLE PARTICIPLE USED OF THE ELEMENTS "DISSOLVING" IS AN INDICATION THAT THE "DISSOLVING" WAS ALREADY IN PROCESS AT THE TIME OF HIS WRITING.**

Hebr. 8:13 When He said, "A new {covenant} ," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

2Corinthians 3:6 who also made us adequate {as} servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading {as} it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory.

#### **THE GREEK WORD FOR "ELEMENTS" [STOICHEIA] IS ALWAYS USED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR THE "ELEMENTARY ETHICAL SYSTEM" OF THE OLD COVENANT ORDER, NOT FOR THE PHYSICAL ELEMENTS OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.**

Gal 4:3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things [stoicheia] of the world. 4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law...9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things [stoicheia] , to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.

Col. 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles [stoicheia] of the world, rather than according to Christ... 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles [stoicheia] of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all {refer} {to} things destined to perish with the using )—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

Heb 5:12 you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles [stoicheia] of the oracles of God, "ORACLES OF GOD" IS THE OLD COVENANT LAW: Rom. 3:1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? 2 Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Act 7:37 "This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN.' 38 "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and {who was} with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.

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# 2 THESSALONIANS 2 & THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

*A verse by verse fulfillment of 2Thessalonians2  
before the year A.D. 70.*

## THE PROPHECY

*2Ths. 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for {it will not come} unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way. 8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 {that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.*

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**T**o understand this passage you will really have to understand Matthew 24 and it's fulfillment. So if you haven't already acquainted yourself with my other article, *There Will be No Future 'End Times' Rapture, Great Tribulation and Antichrist: A verse by verse fulfillment of Matthew 24*, then please do or suffer the confusion.

It has long been held that this passage is one of the most obscure, difficult-to-interpret passages in the Bible. So my presentation here is one possible approach to a preterist perspective. Preterism is the belief that the prophecies are already fulfilled in the past rather than in some future Antichrist etc. This is why my goal is to present the Bible passage, verse by verse, with minimal commentary, and to give you the biblical/historical primary documentation where those prophecies were fulfilled. Let the truth speak for itself...

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## Thessalonians Verse

*2Ths. 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus*

### FULFILLMENT:

“COMING” (GREEK: PAROUSIA) DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN THE PHYSICAL SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS IT OFTEN IS A REFERENCE TO GOD COMING IN JUDGEMENT UPON A PEOPLE OR NATION.

JESUS TOLD HIS CONTEMPORARIES THEY WOULD SEE HIM COMING ON CLOUDS AND SEATED AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Matthew 16:28 “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Matthew 26:64 Jesus said to [Pilate], “You have said it {yourself} ; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.”

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

**“SEEING” IS A BIBLICAL METAPHOR FOR “UNDERSTANDING” SO THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS IS GOD’S POWER AND GLORY BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE AS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD COVENANT**

Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him [Jesus];

Isaiah 6:1010 “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Lest they see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.”

Acts 26:17 delivering you from the {Jewish} people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God,

Isaiah 35:5 “Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come {with} vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy.

Isaiah 42:6 “I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

**“COMING ON CLOUDS” IS AN OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE TO GOD’S JUDGING PRESENCE:**

Isa. 19:1 The oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud, and is about to come to Egypt;

Nahum 1:1 The oracle of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. 2 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. 3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave {the guilty} unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

Ps. 18:7 [When God delivered David and judged Saul] Then the earth shook and quaked; And the foundations of the mountains were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With thick darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He sped upon the wings of the wind.

Joel 2:1 [When God was going to judge Israel] Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, 2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains,

Ezekiel 30:3 “For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time {of doom} for the nations. 4 “And a sword will come upon Egypt,

Ex 34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD.

**CLOUDS ARE ALSO A REFERENCE TO GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY & GLORY**

Jer 10:13 When He utters His voice, {there is} a tumult of waters in the heavens, And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth;

Jer 51:16 When He utters His voice, {there is} a tumult of waters in the heavens, And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth;

Ps. 104:3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind;

1Kgs. 8:12 Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud

Ex 13:21 And the LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Ex 20:21 So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God {was.}

Ex 34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD.

Dan. 7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly {places} , 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet,

#### **WHEN JESUS ASCENDED, HE "CAME ON THE CLOUDS AND BEGAN HIS KINGDOM OF DOMINION WITH GLORY."**

Dan. 7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Mark 16:19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Acts 1:9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT {one} OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET."

Acts 7:55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

#### **THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE IS THE SIGN OF THAT "COMING ON THE CLOUDS" ASCENSION AND THAT JESUS IS REIGNING IN HEAVEN BECAUSE THE OLD SYSTEM OF SACRIFICES IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.**

##### **EUSIBIUS, ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORIES 3:3**

The same historian [Josephus] records another fact still more wonderful than this. He says (9) that a certain oracle was found in their sacred writings which declared that at that time a certain person should go forth from their country to rule the world. He himself understood 11 that this was fulfilled in Vespasian. But Vespasian did not rule the whole world, but only that part of it which was subject to the Romans. With better right could it be applied to Christ; to whom it was said by the Father, "Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the ends of the earth for thy possession." (10) At that very time, indeed, the voice of his holy apostles "went throughout all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." (11)

##### **EUSEBIUS 23:2-30**

But Hegesippus,[6] who lived immediately after the apostles, gives the most accurate account in the fifth book of his Memoirs.[7] ...19 The aforesaid Scribes and Pharisees therefore placed James upon the pinnacle of the temple, and cried out to him and said: Thou just one, in whom we ought all to have: confidence, forasmuch as the people are led, astray after Jesus, the crucified one, declare to us, what is the gate of Jesus.[20] And he answered with a loud voice; 'Why do ye ask me concerning Jesus, the Son of Man? He himself sitteth in heaven at the right hand of the great Power, and is about to come upon the clouds of heaven.'...30 And immediately Vespasian besieged them."[31] 19 These things are related at length by Hegesippus, who is in agreement with Clement.[

#### **"COMING WITH GLORY" IS A REFERENCE TO THE GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT FULLY INAUGURATED AT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.**

THE OLD COVENANT WAS A GLORY THAT WAS FADING AND THE NEW COVENANT WAS A GLORY THAT WAS

## SURPASSING THE OLD

2Cor 3:7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading {as} it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? 9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. 10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory. 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer....12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

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## Thessalonians Verse

*and our gathering together to Him,*

### **FULFILLMENT:**

**“GATHER” IN GREEK IS THE WORD FOR “SYNAGOGUE” (EPISUNAGO). AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES WERE FIRST CALLED “SYNAGOGUES.” SO THIS “GATHERING” IS THE GATHERING OF GOD’S ELECT INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

John 11:51 Now this he did not say on his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.

John 10:16 “And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold [Gentiles]; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock {with} one shepherd.

Matt. 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather (“synagogue”) your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 “Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Deut 30:3 then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather (“synagogue”) you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 “If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather (“synagogue”) you, and from there He will bring you back. (Septuagint)

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with {an attitude of} personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly (“synagogue”)

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling (“synagoguing”) together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another} ; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

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## Thessalonians Verse

*2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.*

### **FULFILLMENT:**

**“DAY OF THE LORD” IS A GENERIC OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE TO ANY TIME THAT THE LORD “COMES” IN JUDGEMENT UPON A NATION OR CULTURE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY “DAYS OF THE LORD” IN THE PAST. “DAY OF THE LORD” IS NOT AN EXCLUSIVE REFERENCE TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, BUT AN EXPRESSION OF GOD JUDGING PEOPLE WITHIN HISTORY.**

**THE SACKING OF JERUSALEM BY BABYLON IN 586 BC**

Obad. 15 "For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you.

#### **AMOS PROPHECIES ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION BY THE ASSYRIANS**

Amos 5:18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose {will} the day of the LORD {be} to you? It {will be} darkness and not light; 19 As when a man flees from a lion, And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall, And a snake bites him. 20 {Will} not the day of the LORD {be} darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

#### **THE FALL OF BABYLON TO THE MEDES IN 539 BC:**

Isaiah 13: 6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.... 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, ...11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; ...And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger....17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,...19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

#### **THE FALL OF EDOM**

Isaiah 34:5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom, ...8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion. ...35:4 Behold, your God will come {with} vengeance; The recompense of God will come,

#### **THE FALL OF EGYPT TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR**

Jer. 46:1 That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations. 2 To Egypt,...10 For that day belongs to the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, so as to avenge Himself on His foes; And the sword will devour and be satiated And drink its fill of their blood; For there will be a slaughter for the Lord GOD of hosts,

#### **THE FALL OF EGYPT**

Ezekial 30:3 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Wail, 'Alas for the day!' 3 "For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, A time {of doom} for the nations. 4 "And a sword will come upon Egypt,

#### **GOD'S DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL**

Zeph. 1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near, ...Zeph. 1:14 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

#### **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES A "DAY OF THE LORD" FOR ISRAEL IN WHICH GOD WILL JUDGE JERUSALEM. THIS "DAY OF THE LORD" IS THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY ROME AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE THAT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT.**

Zeph 1:3 ...declares the LORD. 4 "So I will stretch out My hand against Judah And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. For the day of the LORD is near, ...12 That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, ...4 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day,

So Paul is here indicating that their expectation of the "Day of the Lord" was being proclaimed by others (through letters and such) to have been fulfilled. But if it was possible for the Thessalonians to believe that the Day of the Lord had already come then the Thessalonians and Paul's understanding of "Day of the Lord" in this passage could not have been the physical Second Coming of Christ, because it would not be in question as it is in this passage. When Christ Returns at his physical Second Coming, he will resurrect all the dead and cast the unbelievers into hell and bring the believers into heaven. So there is no way Paul would have to tell them this unless he was referring to a different kind of "Day of the Lord," one that would not be a physical obvious end of the world coming. If they could have been deceived that the Day of the Lord already came then their concept of "Day of the Lord" was not His physical Second Coming. And they would know better than us because Paul told them personally what it meant.

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#### **Thessalonians Verse**

*3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for {it will not come} unless the apostasy comes first,*

#### **FULFILLMENT:**

THE WORD FOR APOSTASY IS "APOSTASIA" AND HISTORICALLY CAN MEAN A REVOLT OR REBELLION. THE JEWS HAD REVOLTED BOTH AGAINST GOD BY REJECTING MESSIAH AND AGAINST THE ROMAN OCCUPATION DURING THE WARS OF THE JEWS IN 70 AD, WHICH HAD NOT HAPPENED YET WHEN PAUL WROTE THIS LETTER. SO, GOD'S "DAY OF THE LORD" FOR ISRAEL WOULD NOT HAPPEN UNTIL THE JEWS REVOLTED AGAINST ROME, WHICH LED TO THE WARS OF THE JEWS AND ENDED IN GOD DESTROYING THE TEMPLE AS JUDGEMENT AGAINST

## ISRAEL.

1 Thessalonians 2:14 the Jews, 15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, 16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost. [The destruction of Jerusalem that was soon to occur]

## JOSEPHUS LIFE 4

4. And now I perceived innovations were already begun, and that there were a great many very much elevated in hopes of a revolt (apostasia) from the Romans. I therefore endeavored to put a stop to these tumultuous persons, and persuaded them to change their minds; and laid before their eyes against whom it was that they were going to fight, and told them that they were inferior to the Romans not only in martial skill, but also in good fortune; and desired them not rashly, and after the most foolish manner, to bring on the dangers of the most terrible mischiefs upon their country, upon their families, and upon themselves.

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## Thessalonians Verse

*and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship,*

## FULFILLMENT:

IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT NERO WAS THE “MAN OF LAWLESSNESS”

## NERO WAS WORSHIPED AS GOD IN THE EMPEROR CULT

Inscriptions found in Ephesus archeology call Nero “Almighty God and Savior” (Ratton, Apocalypse pg 48)

Inscriptions found in Salamis and Cyprus call Nero “God and Savior” (Smallwood, Documents Illustrating the Principates pg 142) Dio Cassius Roman History 62:5:2; 62:26:3

## SYBYLLINE ORACLES 12:79-85 (SPEAKING OF NERO)

[Nero is] terrible and frightful.. a terrible snake... Making himself equal to God, he will convince a willing people... there will be quaking of me...

## NERO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS “LAWLESSNESS.”

"Although at first his acts of wantonness, lust, extravagance, avarice and cruelty were gradual and secret. . . yet even then their nature was such that no one doubted that they were defects of his character and not due to his time of life" (Suetonius, Nero 26). "Gradually Nero's vices gained the upper hand: he no longer tried to laugh them off, or hide, or deny them, but openly broke into more serious crime" (Nero 27, cp. 6). "After this, no considerations of selection or moderation restrained Nero from murdering anyone he please, on whatever pretext" (Nero 37). "Other murders were meant to follow. But the emperor's tutors, Sextus Afranius Burrus and Lucius Annaeus Seneca, prevented them.... They collaborated in controlling the emperor's perilous adolescence; their policy was to direct his deviations from virtue into licensed channels of indulgence" (Tacitus, Annals 13).

**AS THE “SON OF DESTRUCTION” NERO WOULD BE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING JERUSALEM. ANOTHER TERM SIMILAR TO THIS IS “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION” OR “ONE WHO MAKES DESOLATE” SEE VERSE BELOW FOR “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.”**

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## Thessalonians Verse

*so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.*

## FULFILLMENT:

**WHILE NERO NEVER SAT IN THE TEMPLE, TITUS, THE CONQUERING GENERAL FOR NERO DID. AND THE MILITARY GENERAL WAS CONSIDERED THE EXTENSION OF THE EMPEROR’S OWN PRESENCE AND AUTHORITY. IN DANIEL, MATTHEW AND OTHER PLACES, THIS INDIVIDUAL WHO SITS IN THE TEMPLE IS REFERRED TO AS THE “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.”**

## EUSEBIUS, ECC. HISTORY 3:5

many great sieges which were carried on against the cities of Judea, ... and how at last the abomination of desolation, proclaimed by the prophets,[11] stood in the very temple of God, so celebrated of old, the temple which was now awaiting its total and final destruction by fire,— all these things any one that wishes may find accurately described in the history written by Josephus.[12]

## JOSEPHUS, WARS 6:6:1

How The Romans Carried Their Ensigns To The Temple, And Made Joyful Acclamations to Titus.

1. And now the Romans, upon the flight of the seditious into the city, and upon the burning of the holy house itself, and of all the buildings lying round about it, brought their ensigns to the temple\* (1) and set them over against its eastern gate; and there did they offer sacrifices to them, and there did they make Titus Imperator (2), with the greatest acclamations of joy. And now all the soldiers had such vast quantities of the spoils which they had gotten by plunder, that in Syria a pound weight of gold was sold for half its former value. FOOTNOTE: (1). Tertullian truly says that the entire religion of the Roman camp almost consisted in worshipping the ensigns, in swearing by the ensigns, and in preferring the ensigns before all the [other] gods."

## ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Matt. 24:15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

### THIS SAME PASSAGE PARALLELS LUKE WHO EXPLAINS THE HISTORIC ASPECT CLEARER:

Luke 21:20 "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. 21 "Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Daniel 9:26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing [**the crucifixion, when sin was laid on Christ "Cut Him off" from the Father: "My Go, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matt 27:46**] , and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end {will come} with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations {will come} one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Dan 11:31 "And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished, and the abomination of desolation is set up, {there will be} 1,290 days.

## JOSEPHUS, WARS, NOTE B 2:19:6

There may another very important, and very providential, reason be here assigned for this strange and foolish retreat of Cestius; which, if Josephus had been now a Christian, he might probably have taken notice of also; and that is, the affording the Jewish Christians in the city an opportunity of calling to mind the prediction and caution given them by Christ about thirty-three years and a half before, that "when they should see the abomination of desolation" [the idolatrous Roman armies, with the images of their idols in their ensigns, ready to lay Jerusalem desolate] "stand where it ought not;" or, "in the holy place;" or, "when they should see Jerusalem any one instance of a more unpolitic, but more providential, compassed with armies;" they should then "flee to the mound conduct than this retreat of Cestius visible during this whole rains." By complying with which those Jewish Christians fled I siege of Jerusalem; which yet was providentially such a "great to the mountains of Perea, and escaped this destruction. Such a Great tribulation, as had not been from the beginning of the world to that time; no, Lit. Accompl. of Proph. p. 69, 70. Nor was there, perhaps, nor ever should be."--Ibid. p. 70, 71.

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## Thessalonians Verse

*6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way.*

### FULFILLMENT:

"YOU KNOW WHAT RESTRAINS HIM NOW," "ALREADY AT WORK," "HE WHO NOW RESTRAINS WILL DO SO..." ALL THESE PHRASES INDICATES THAT PAUL HAD TOLD THEM PERSONALLY WHO IT WAS AND THAT IT WAS ALL HAPPENING RIGHT THEN IN THEIR LIVES, NOT IN SOME FUTURE TIME THOUSANDS OF YEARS AWAY.

CLAUDIUS WAS EMPEROR WHEN PAUL WROTE 2THESSALONIANS.

THE GREEK WORD FOR "RESTRAINT" IS "CLAUDERE" WHICH WAS PROBABLY A PLAY ON WORDS THAT PAUL WAS USING.

CLAUDIUS WAS THE ONE "RESTRAINING" NERO AS HE RESTRAINED THE JEWS AS WELL FROM PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS.

PAUL SHIFTS BETWEEN THE NEUTER AND MASCULINE FORMS OF THE WORD "RESTRAINER" IN 6 & 7 WHICH

INDICATES THAT “RESTRAINER” MAY BE BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL CLAUDIUS AND THE ROMAN LAWS THAT PROTECTED CHRISTIANITY UNDER “RELIGIO LICITA.”

**SUETONIUS 25:5**

He [Claudius] banished from Rome all the Jews, who were continually making disturbances at the instigation of one Chrestus [Christ].

Acts 18:2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.

**NERO WAS RESTRAINED UNTIL HE WAS IN CONTROL AND THEN BROKE OUT WITH A VENGEANCE**

"Although at first his acts of wantonness, lust, extravagance, avarice and cruelty were gradual and secret. . . yet even then their nature was such that no one doubted that they were defects of his character and not due to his time of life" (Suetonius, Nero 26). "Gradually Nero's vices gained the upper hand: he no longer tried to laugh them off, or hide, or deny them, but openly broke into more serious crime" (Nero 27, cp. 6). "After this, no considerations of selection or moderation restrained Nero from murdering anyone he please, on whatever pretext" (Nero 37). "Other murders were meant to follow. But the emperor's tutors, Sextus Afranius Burrus and Lucius Annaeus Seneca, prevented them.... They collaborated in controlling the emperor's perilous adolescence; their policy was to direct his deviations from virtue into licensed channels of indulgence" (Tacitus, Annals 13).

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**Thessalonians Verse**

*8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;*

**FULFILLMENT:**

“BREATH OF HIS MOUTH” IS A COMMON BIBLICAL REFERENCE TO GOD’S JUDGEMENT UPON A NATION OR CITY. NERO KILLED HIMSELF DURING THE WARS WITH THE JEWS ON JUNE 8, AD 68.

**JOSEPHUS, WARS, 4:9:2**

Now as Vespasian was returned to Cesarea, and was getting ready with all his army to march directly to Jerusalem, he was informed that Nero was dead, after he had reigned thirteen years and eight days.

**JUDGEMENT ON ASSYRIA**

Isa. 30:27 Behold, the name of the LORD comes from a remote place; Burning is His anger, and dense is {His} smoke; His lips are filled with indignation, And His tongue is like a consuming fire; 28 And His breath is like an overflowing torrent, Which reaches to the neck, To shake the nations back and forth in a sieve, And to {put} in the jaws of the peoples the bridle which leads to ruin. ...30 And the LORD will cause His voice of authority to be heard. ...For at the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified, {When} He strikes with the rod. 32 And every blow of the rod of punishment, Which the LORD will lay on him, ...The breath of the LORD, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire.

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**Thessalonians Verse**

*and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;*

**FULFILLMENT:**

SEE EXPLANATION FOR VERSE 1 ABOVE FOR “THE COMING OF THE LORD.”

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**Thessalonians Verse**

*9 {that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.*

**FULFILLMENT:**

## **JESUS PROPHESED THESE SAME SATANIC SIGNS AND WONDERS BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE IN 70 AD.**

Matt 24:11 “And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. 12 “And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. ... 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. 5 “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. ...23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There {He is;} do not believe {him.} 24 “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

### **FALSE PROPHETS FILLED THE EARLY CHURCH**

Acts 8:9 Now there was a certain man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; 10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, “This man is what is called the Great Power of God.”

Acts 13:6 And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-jesus,

2Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come [See “Last Days” explanation below to explain that the last days were the last days of the Old Covenant during Paul’s time]. ...5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. ...8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those {two} came to be. ...13 But evil men and impostors will proceed {from bad} to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2John 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ {as} coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God;

### **(EUSEBIUS, HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, 2:13)**

1 Christ having now been diffused among all men,[2] the enemy of man’s salvation contrived a plan for seizing the imperial city for himself. He conducted thither the above-mentioned Simon.[3] aided him in his deceitful arts, led many of the inhabitants of Rome astray, and thus brought them into his own power. This is 2 stated by Justin.[4] one of our distinguished writers who lived not long after the time of the apostles. Concerning him I shall speak in the proper place.[5] Take and read the work of this man, who in the first Apology[6] which he addressed to Antonine in behalf of our religion writes 3 as follows:[7] “And after the ascension of the Lord into heaven the demons put forward certain men who said they were gods, and who were not only allowed by you to go unpersecuted, but were even deemed worthy of honors. One of them was Simon, a Samaritan of the village of Gitto.[8] who in the reign of Claudius C’sar[9] performed in your imperial city some mighty acts of magic by the art of demons operating in him, and was considered a god,

### **(JOSEPHUS ANTIQUITIES 20:5:1)**

1. NOW it came to pass, while Fadus was procurator of Judea, that a certain magician, whose name was Theudas, (9) persuaded a great part of the people to take their effects with them, and follow him to the river Jordan; for he told them he was a prophet, and that he would, by his own command, divide the river, and afford them an easy passage over it; and many were deluded by his words.

### **(JOSEPHUS, WARS OF THE JEWS, 2:8:4-6)**

4. There was also another body of wicked men gotten together, not so impure in their actions, but more wicked in their intentions, who laid waste the happy state of the city no less than did these murderers. These were such men as deceived and deluded the people under pretence of divine inspiration, but were for procuring innovations and changes of the government, and these prevailed with the multitude to act like madmen, and went before them into the wilderness, as pretending that God would there show them the signals of liberty; but Felix thought this procedure was to be the beginning of a revolt; so he sent some horsemen and footmen, both armed, who destroyed a great number of them. 5. But there was an Egyptian false prophet that did the Jews more mischief than the former: for he was a cheat, and pretended to be a prophet also, and got together thirty thousand men that were deluded by him; these he led round about from the wilderness to the mount which was called the Mount of Olives, and was ready to break into Jerusalem by force from that place; and if he could but once conquer the Roman garrison and the people, he intended to domineer over them by the assistance of those guards of his that were to break into the city with him, but Felix prevented his attempt, and met him with his Roman soldiers,

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## **Addendum #1**

### **“Last Days”**

***Matt. 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him***

*privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what {will be} the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

#### **FULFILLMENT:**

"LAST DAYS" AND "END OF THE AGE" ARE PHRASES THAT REFER NOT TO THE END OF TIME, BUT TO THE END OF THE OLD COVENANT. SO THE REASON WHY THE BIBLE TALKS SO MUCH ABOUT THEM BEING IN THE LAST DAYS AND THE LAST HOUR IS BECAUSE THEY LITERALLY WERE IN THE LAST DAYS AND HOUR OF THE OLD COVENANT. WITH THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW COVENANT AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE, THE THE LAST DAYS WERE OVER. WE ARE NOT NOW IN THE LAST DAYS BECAUSE THE LAST DAYS WAS A HISTORICAL REFERENCE TO THIS END OF THE OLD AGE, OLD COVENANT.

THE WORD FOR "AGE" IS "AEON" WHICH MEANS AN ERA, AS OPPOSED TO "KOSMOS" WHICH MEANS THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Hebr. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in {His} Son....Hebr. 8:13 When He said, "A new {covenant} ." He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Hebrews 9:26 but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

1Corinthians 3:God, 6 who also made us adequate {as} servants of a new covenant, ... 7 But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading {as} it was, 8 how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? ...10 For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses {it.} 11 For if that which fades away {was} with glory, much more that which remains {is} in glory.

1Peter 1:20 For [Jesus] was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

Jude "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not {really} of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but {they went out,} in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us....

1John 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the {spirit} of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2Tim. 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.... 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. [these men were around at THAT time] 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these {men} also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith.

Acts 2:16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel [SPEAKING IN TONGUES ON PENTECOST]: 17 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN UPON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy. 19 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE, AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BENEATH, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. 20 'THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD [see above for collapsing universe imagery as fulfilled prophecy of Israel falling in AD70]. BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. 21 'AND IT SHALL BE, THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.' [SO...] 40 "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

1 Cor 7:26 I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is...But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; ... for the form of this world is passing away.

1Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Jude 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

**"LATTER DAYS" IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS SIMPLY A HEBREW REFERENCE TO "THE FUTURE", NOT THE "END-TIMES" OF ALL THINGS.**

Deut 31:29 "For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger..

THIS WAS FULFILLED IN JUDGES 2:20:

Judges 2:20 So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to My voice, 21 I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY PROPHESED BY JEREMIAH FOR THE "LATTER DAYS" OCCURED IN THEIR TIME

Jer. 30:23 Behold, the tempest of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, A sweeping tempest; It will burst on the head of the wicked.

24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back, Until He has performed, and until He has accomplished The intent of His heart; In the latter days you will understand this.

GOD PROPHESES THAT AFTER THE BABYONIAN CAPTIVITY, HE WILL RESTORE MOAB & EDOM IN "THE LATTER DAYS" WHICH OCCURED WITHIN 70 YEARS

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

Jer 48:46 For your sons have been taken away captive, And your daughters into captivity. 47 "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab In the latter days," declares the LORD.

Jer 49:39 'But it will come about in the last days That I shall restore the fortunes of Elam,'" Declares the LORD.

ISRAEL IS PROPHESED TO BE SCATTERED AND THEN GATHERED TOGETHER IN "THE LATTER YEARS" WHICH HAPPENED AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE OF 70 YEARS.

Ezek 12:15 "So they will know that I am the LORD when I scatter them among the nations, and spread them among the countries.

Ezek. 6:8 "However, I shall leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries. 9 "Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive,

Ezek 38:8 "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, {whose inhabitants} have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel

Jer 29:10 "For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

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