

# The Coming Revival

## *In Israel*

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*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*

*Romans 9:1-5*

The ninth, tenth, and eleventh chapters of Romans were written by the Apostle Paul to the Gentile church to give them understanding of God's dealings, past, present, and future, with Israel and the Jew. In the ninth chapter, Paul expresses his great sorrow for Israel, a sorrow so great that he says, *"I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."* His love for his fleshly kin was so great that he would be willing to give his own life and soul if only it would bring the salvation of his people. It would not. Jesus had already given the only sacrifice that could ever take away the sin of the people. He, according to the scripture (Galatians 3:13), was *"made a curse"* for us on the cross, to redeem us from the curse. The source of Paul's *"great heaviness and continual sorrow"* was that in rejecting Jesus as their Messiah, the Jew had lost everything. This he expresses in the phrase *"...to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises."* Everything was theirs by *"birthright,"* but they lost it all through *"unbelief."* For the remainder of the ninth chapter, Paul *"vindicates"* God for His severity in dealing with Israel.

Paul begins the tenth chapter with his prayer for the salvation of Israel. He shows that this salvation, which Israel had sought after for many years through the *"deeds of the law,"* was actually received by Gentiles, who simply believed the gospel report and called upon the name of the Lord Jesus. There were two things, necessary to salvation, things that Israel had been unable to do. They are revealed in the ninth verse; *"...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* That which God had given for the salvation of the whole world had become a stumbling stone and rock of offence to Israel (Romans 9:32-33)

In the eleventh chapter, Paul reveals that Israel will be saved. In the twenty fifth verse, he speaks of a *"mystery,"* which is, *"...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."* The next verse begins, *"and so all Israel shall be saved."* It is this mystery, first of the *"blindness,"* and then of the salvation of Israel that I will speak of in this message.

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but*

*perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.*

*Isaiah 6:8-12*

In Isaiah 6:1-11, Isaiah tells of the time that God set him apart to be a prophet. Isaiah's commission from God was strange indeed, as revealed in this text: "*Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.*" Isaiah's response to God was simply, "*Lord, how long?*" God's answer, "*Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.*" Isaiah's commission from God was to "*blind*" the eyes of the people, to make their ears heavy, and their hearts fat, so they would not see, hear, or understand the message of God. Certainly this seems to be a strange commission for a man of God, but it must be understood that God has never blinded anyone to the truth unless they have first closed their own eyes to it. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 13:15, where He says, "*For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*" The Apostle John gave the following explanation for the "*unbelief*" of the Jews in John 12:37-40: "*But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*" Notice that Jesus said the people had closed their own eyes, lest they should see. The Apostle said, "*He (God) hath blinded their eyes.*" Spiritual blindness is the judgment of God against any people that have willfully closed their eyes to the truth.

Now back to the words of Paul in Romans 11:25: "*...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*" Spiritual blindness came upon Israel in the days of Isaiah and the former prophets. They had refused to see or hear the message of the prophets of God. They closed their ears, shut their eyes, and hardened their hearts against the messengers of God until the scripture says, "*...there was no remedy.*" Hear the record in II Chronicles 36:14-17: "*Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.*"

When Jesus wept over Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37-39, He begins by saying, "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee...*" In Luke 19:41-44 He wept a second time over Jerusalem, saying, "*If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*" Jerusalem, by name, was "*The City of Peace.*" For centuries God had sent prophets to Israel declaring the "*way of peace,*" but Isaiah testified against the rulers of Israel saying, "*The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace (Isaiah 59:8).*" How ironic that the "*City of Peace*" did not know the "*Way of Peace.*" This was the cause of Jesus' weeping over them. "*If thou hadst known...in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace.*" They didn't know! They had killed the prophets and the

messengers of God. Now, the “*Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)*” had come to them, and they had rejected Him. They did not know the Way of Peace, “*but now,*” Jesus said, “***they are hid from thine eyes.***” God Himself had blinded them. It had been their “*day*” for almost two thousand years, but too long they had closed their eyes and ears and hardened their hearts. Now, their “*day*” was drawing to a close. Nothing remained for that generation in Jerusalem but tragedy, destruction, and sorrow, because they “*...knew not the time of (their) visitation.*”

Paul said Israel’s “*blindness*” would continue “*...until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in (Romans 11:25.*” Now consider that according to the prophecy of Jesus in Luke 21, the “*times of the Gentiles*” were “*fulfilled*” in June 1967, when Jerusalem returned to Jewish control. The thirty-five years since that date have been the generation Jesus said “*shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*” This generation has been a “*generation of transition.*” Something different is happening in Israel in this generation. Something is changing in the church. This generation has been both a generation of “*harvest*” and “*apostasy*” in the church. In Israel, it is evident that the favor of God is returning to the Jew. Their heart is being softened. Their eyes and ears are soon to be opened. God spoke by the mouth of the prophet Zechariah and said, “*...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced...(Zechariah 12:10).*” This does not speak of their seeing Him in the clouds at His second return. They will see Him before He returns. Their eyes will be opened, and they will behold Him. Their ears will hear Him, and their hearts will receive Him. Salvation will come to Israel and the Jew.

## The Olive Tree

***The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken. For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.***

***Jeremiah 11:16-17***

***For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:***

***Romans 11:16-26***

Prophecy preachers often teach that the fig tree is the symbol of Israel. If this is the case, the future of Israel is bleak indeed. In Matthew 21:19, Jesus “*cursed*” a fig tree for no other reason than its “*fruitlessness.*” The account is given as follows: “*And when he saw a **fig tree** in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the **fig tree** withered away.*” This was a real life event in the ministry of Jesus. The following is a parable that Jesus gave to the Jews shortly before His death on the cross. “*He spake also this parable; A certain man had a **fig tree** planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this **fig tree**, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig*

*about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down (Luke 13:6-9)."* These two events certainly deal with the "fruitlessness" of Israel in that generation as did several other parables He gave. At one point Jesus clearly told the Jews that the "kingdom of God" would be taken from them and given to a nation that would "bring forth the fruits thereof (Matthew 21:43)." Neither a barren fig tree nor a barren people will ever be accepted by God.

The Olive tree is, I believe, the true symbol of Israel. In Jeremiah 11:16-17, the Prophet said that God called Israel's name "A green olive tree" that was "fair" and "of goodly fruit." God Himself had planted the olive tree (Israel). His anger was kindled against Israel because of their idolatry, in offering sacrifice to Baal. Jeremiah said that God, in His anger, broke the branches of the olive tree. This is the prophecy that the Apostle Paul is referring to in the eleventh chapter of Romans when he speaks of Israel as "a good olive tree." Paul does not see the "breaking" of the branches as the end of the olive tree, but instead foresees the time when the "broken branches" will be grafted back into the olive tree. Make no mistake about it; Israel is the "good olive tree." The "Gentiles" are the "wild olive tree." The Jews are the "natural branches" of the "good olive tree." Paul said some of the natural branches were broken off because of their "unbelief." We, who were Gentiles, who believed the gospel of Jesus Christ, were "cut out" of the wild olive tree, and grafted, "contrary to nature" into the good olive tree. In "nature" a branch can be cut out of a good and fruitful tree and grafted into a "wild" tree, and it will bring forth fruit. In the spiritual, it is just the opposite. God took us who were barren and unfruitful, a "wild" olive branch, and grafted us into a "good olive tree," and we became "partakers of the root and fatness of the olive tree." Paul warns us to "boast not against the branches (the Jew)." We are to remember, as Paul says, "thou bearest not the root, but the root, thee." Some would say, according to Paul, "The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in." Concerning this he warned, "be not highminded, but fear. For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee." As Paul concludes this analogy of the olive tree, he leaves the Gentile with a further warning, and the Jew with a wonderful promise. To the Gentile, "...thou standest by faith...continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." To the Jew, "...if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again." And, "...how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?" Paul concludes the analogy of the "olive tree" with these words, "And so (in this way), all Israel shall be saved..."

***Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both (Jew and Gentile) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain (Jew and Gentile) one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off (the Gentile), and to them that were nigh (the Jew). For through him we both (Jew and Gentile) have access by one Spirit unto the Father.***

#### ***Ephesians 2:11-18***

There is a great truth revealed in this text that the vast majority in the church have missed. I have added words in parentheses for easy understanding. Paul's analogy of the "good olive tree" confirms the message of this text. In Ephesians 3:4-6 Paul speaks clearly, explaining the "mystery of Christ...That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." The simple truth and the "mystery" that was "revealed unto the holy apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:5)" is this: there is only one body. Paul confirms this even further in Ephesians 4:4 when he says, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." He is speaking to both Jew and Gentile, confirming, "one body, one Spirit, and one hope" for both. Let me speak plainly, because our church tradition cries out against this truth: "there is only one salvation for both Jew and Gentile." There is only one way to God for both Jew and Gentile. There is only one covenant for both Jew and Gentile. The "New Covenant" was made

for “*the house of Israel (see Jeremiah 31:31, Hebrews 8:8, 10:16).*” There is only one “*rapture*” for both Jew and Gentile. There is no such thing as a “*Jewish church*” and a “*Gentile church.*” There is only one “*bride,*” made up of both Jew and Gentile. It is both the Jew and the Gentile in the church at Ephesus that Paul exhorts in Ephesians 4:2-7, saying, “*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.***”

In the eleventh chapter of Romans, in the analogy of the olive trees, there was only one “*good olive tree.*” Remember that the natural branches of the good tree, the Jew, were broken off because of unbelief, and we were grafted in through faith in Jesus Christ. There is still only one “*good olive tree,*” but now the believing Gentile is a branch in that tree. When “*faith*” is given to the Jew, they also will be grafted back into “*their own olive tree (the words of Paul).*” There will still be only one tree. It must be remembered that it is not the “*branches*” that are important, but the “*root and fatness of the tree.*” God will never accept a “*Jew*” just because he is a Jew: neither will He accept a “*Gentile*” just because he is a Gentile. We must be in the tree, there is only one tree, and that “*good olive tree*” is Christ. This is the “*mystery of Christ.*”

Whereas in Romans Eleven, there is only one “*good olive tree,*” the same analogy in the book of Ephesians shows but one body, and one new man in Christ, made up of both believing Jew and Gentile. Of this be sure, the Jew is returning, and with their return, Jesus the Messiah is coming. We will see it in our generation.

## **Zechariah’s Wonderful Prophecy**

***The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.***

***Zech 12:1-3***

The creator of Heaven and Earth and of every man has told us from the beginning about events that are taking place in this generation and before our very eyes. “*I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about...*” “*I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people...*” Who can deny that these words, spoken almost twenty five hundred years ago by the almighty God through the mouth of the prophet Zechariah, have come to pass in our day? This is even more amazing when we realize that Zechariah was prophesying during the time that Jerusalem laid waste in the land. Seventy years before, Babylon had utterly destroyed the city, the wall, and the Temple. Zechariah stood in those ruins and prophesied the restoration of Judea and Jerusalem, foretelling her future glory that would come after a time of great distress. Israel had not been a sovereign nation for over twenty five hundred years until AD 1948. Jerusalem was inhabited and controlled by Gentiles for almost nineteen hundred years from AD 70 until AD 1967. June 1967 marked the beginning of the last generation before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. Jesus was speaking of His generation and the destruction of Jerusalem that came in AD 70 when He spoke these words in Luke 21:24, “*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*” Just a few verses later, in Luke 21:29-32, Jesus spoke of our generation: “*And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*” Exactly eighteen hundred, ninety-seven years passed from the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 until it was restored to Jewish control

AD 1967. This generation we live in today was born June 7, 1967, and Jesus said it will not pass away until all things are fulfilled. We are that generation of destiny.

That Israel should be restored as a “sovereign” nation after twenty five hundred years; that the Jew should be gathered to Israel after being scattered among all nations for almost nineteen centuries; and that Jerusalem should be restored to the Jews after the same period of time; and that each of these things were prophesied two millenniums ago is not almost, but totally beyond the realm of coincidence. It follows that the things Jesus and the prophets told us would happen in the generation following these things will also come to pass. We can see the evidence almost daily in the news. Virtually every nation on earth is troubled by Jerusalem in this present hour. Any promise of “*peace on earth*” seems to have been shattered in this generation by the very existence of the modern nation of Israel, and the Jews control of Jerusalem. It is amazing that Jerusalem should be the daily focal point of virtually every newscast in every nation on the planet. It is also amazing that world opinion is steadily turning against Israel, to the extent that, divided as America is, we are the best and almost only friend Israel has among the nations today. Strangely, it is God that has caused it to be this way. He said in Zechariah 14:2 that He would “*gather all nations against Israel to battle.*” God Himself will deceive the nations of the world. Many will think they are doing God’s will when they fight against Israel. It is to the Gentile nations that God speaks to gather them against Israel in Joel 3:9-10: “*Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.*” Notice the saying, “*let the weak say, I am strong.*” God is saying to the nations, “*be deceived, and think that you, with your hundreds of millions, will be able to destroy tiny Israel. Come down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, where I will judge you.*” “*And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it (Zechariah 12:3).*”

***And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.***

***Zechariah 12:9-14***

God is turning back to Israel and the Jew in this generation. It is prophesied, and it will come to pass. The promise of it is found in this text as God almighty speaks the following:

**1. “I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”** Any and every nation that comes against Jerusalem and the Jew in the coming conflict will be in direct defiance against God. Never in the history of the world has there been such a conflict as that which is coming soon. God said He would “*cut (them) in pieces, though all the people of the world be gathered together against it (Jerusalem).*” For a time it will appear that the nations will be successful in their war against Israel, for God will not take up Israel’s cause until number three, “*they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.*”

**2. “And I will pour upon...the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications:”** God has promised to pour the spirit of grace and supplications upon the Jew. This will be the root cause of number three, “*they shall look upon me, etc.*” Jesus said, “*...no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father (John 6:65).*” For this entire generation, beginning in June 1967, the Jews have been weeping and praying at the “*wailing wall*” for the coming of their Messiah. Their Messiah is soon to come, but He will not come until the Jew knows just who He is. For this purpose, God gives them the spirit “*of grace and of supplication.*” God’s favor is returning to the Jew.

**3. “they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.”** This does not speak of the return of Jesus to earth. This will take place *“before”* the return of our Lord. Jesus wept over Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37-39 saying these words, *“...behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”* No one knows the heart of the Jew even now. How many, in the secret recesses of their hearts are beginning to consider Jesus, only God knows, but it is God almighty that is speaking through the mouth of Zechariah, *“they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.”* Suicide bombings will continue for the present. Nations of the world will gather against Jerusalem. One half of the city will go into captivity (Zechariah 14:2). In such case, they will be cut off from the *“wailing wall,”* where they have prayed for a full generation. The end will seem eminent. Israel’s enemies will rejoice in what seems to be certain victory, but something wonderful happens for the Jew. God said, *“They shall look upon me whom they have pierced.”*

**4. “They shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son.”** When the *“church”* of the early days of America was awakened and brought to repentance before God, the *“altars”* were called *“mourners benches.”* They were crude wooden benches built for the sole purpose of being a place for sinners to come and mourn in repentance for their sins. Paul told us *“Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of (II Corinthians 7:10).”* Those who have *“mourned”* before God because of their sins have most often arisen from the *“altar”* rejoicing in a glorious freedom from sin that was purchased for us at Calvary. God said that when the Jew looks upon Him, they will repent; they will mourn, even *“as one mourneth for his only son.”* They will be pained in their hearts for the death of their Messiah, for when they *“look upon”* Him, they will know who He is. They will repent over their rejection of their Messiah. Truly, a nation will be *“born at once (Isaiah 66:8).”*

**5. “And the land shall mourn, every family apart...and their wives apart.”** Throughout the land there will be repenting and mourning, *“every family apart, and their wives apart.”* This last phrase could refer to the law of Moses’ command that men not come near their wives during times of *“purification.”* Possibly this is so. I consider, on the other hand, that the sovereign working of the Spirit of God upon the hearts of the Jew will be such that each individual be so convicted and convinced by God that they will not consider or even know what is in their neighbor’s heart, or even in their husband’s or wife’s heart. It was an old Jewish man that told me a few years ago, *“If my wife knew who it is that I pray to in the synagogue, she would divorce me.”* He went on to tell me, *“No one knows what is in a Jew’s heart. I don’t even know what my Rabbi believes in the depths of his heart,”* he concluded.

***In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.***

***Zechariah 13:1***

*“In that day”* speaks of the time when the Jew *“looks upon (Him) whom they pierced,”* and *“mourns for Him as a man mourneth for His firstborn.”* *“In that day”* a fountain for sin and uncleanness will be opened to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The basis for the Jew’s continued rejection of Jesus as their Messiah is because He did not bring an end of sin in the world around us. It was promised in Daniel 9:24 that *“Messiah”* would *“make an end of sins”* and *“bring in everlasting righteousness,”* among other precious promises. We can see that this did not happen as far as the world around us is concerned, and it presents an unanswerable obstacle to the sincere Jew. In answer to this, the Apostle John tells us, *“He came unto His own (Israel), and His own received Him not. But as many (Jew or Gentile) as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name (John 1:11-12).”* Not only Israel, but all the nations of the world have rejected Him, but, even today, as many as receive Him, whether Jew or Gentile, to them He gives the power to be the sons of God. The vast majority of those in *“Christianity”* are as blind to this as Israel ever was, but Jesus Christ, our saviour and Israel’s Messiah, does *“make an end of sins”* in the heart and nature of everyone who receives Him. The Jew will behold Him. The *“eyes of their understanding”* will be enlightened, and they will *“see,”* they will *“hear,”* they will *“understand,”* and they will *“convert (Isaiah 6:10).”* God will heal their land. The *“fountain for sin”* will be opened to them. They will *“see Jesus.”* In

their scriptures they will see Jesus. In their law they will see Jesus. In their prophets they will see Jesus. They will call upon Him, and He will answer them. A nation will be born “*in a day,*” and then, we shall all see Jesus, for He will return to deliver His people, as many as look and long for Him in that day.

***Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.  
Zechariah 14:3***

This scripture announces the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. “*His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east (Zechariah 14:4).*” “*And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth (Zechariah 14:12).*” “*And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and His name one (Zechariah 14:9).*” “*...and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited (Zechariah 14:11).*”

## Conclusion

Many end-time scenarios concerning the Jew have been drawn throughout the generations. The popular current scenario is that the “*anti-christ*” will rise to power, deceive the Jews, make a treaty with them, rebuild their temple, move into the temple, and declare himself to be God. The promoters of this scenario are oblivious to the fact that the forefathers of the Jew were deceived by “*anti-christ* (I John 2:22)” before Jesus suffered the cross, and they have suffered from that deception for almost two thousand years. This is not the generation of the Jew that will be deceived, but this is the generation that will “*see.*”

It was the famous Hindu leader, Ghandi, who is quoted as saying, “*...I would be a ‘Christian,’ if it were not for the ‘Christians’* (not an exact quote).” This writer believes this to be true of the present day Jew. The greatest hindrance to their conversion to Christ is those who have been called “*Christians.*” Historically they have suffered at the hands of “*Christians*” throughout the centuries, from the “*crusades,*” to the “*inquisition,*” to the “*furnaces*” of World War II. Great numbers of them have come to admire Jesus, but they have seen nothing in the “*Christian*” to prove that Jesus is either their Messiah, or the Son of God.

It is not “*The Anti-christ*” that will ultimately “*drive*” the Jew to Jesus, it is Jesus Himself that will “*draw*” them “*with cords of a man, with bands of love (Hosea 11:1-4).*” They will see Jesus, but oh how they need to see Jesus in us. May God grant that we would be the “*cords of a man, the bands of love*” God will use to bring the Jew back to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.

# Thoughts on Heaven

By Leslie Jordan

Perception of Heaven as described by large numbers of Christians has the sound and feeling more of earth than of God's Heaven. By our nature of flesh and mortality, we see things in the light of flesh and earthly surroundings. Heaven however far exceeds such a limited viewpoint. If indeed we are bound for eternity in Heaven, in God's very presence; and His Word claims this to be so; we are of a new nature through our new birth and no longer bound by the eyes or feelings of flesh and mortality. Our new nature is heavenly and supernatural.

Supernatural is a word taken often to mean "*magical*," "*mystical*," something "*psychic*." More correctly it could be described as a nature that supersedes, or goes beyond or above the natural. So it is when one is reborn in Christ and the Holy Ghost of God becomes the guiding force and power of that life. A view of life both now and hereafter seen through the eyes of one born again in Christ sees farther, deeper and more clearly. The more we read God's Word and talk to Him, the more God clears the vision of His way.

We began these thoughts by speaking of Heaven. Suppose we look at some common perceptions and also at some spiritual possibilities.

A Christian is describing his arrival to the gates of Heaven. In great joy he steps onto shining golden streets: he greets family and friends: he is well, strong, and younger. A huge feast is prepared for him, perfect white robes are given, crowns he has won are offered. Now the new arrival can walk along a beautiful river as he proceeds to a huge palatial home built for him. No more of a meager existence. Every desire of man has been met and each man is as a king. We sing of gold and jewels and royalty in our songs. Oh, of course these messages and songs speak also of the highest king, He Who is King of Kings, to whom great honor is due.

Could it be we look with eyes of flesh on things of Heaven? God's Word gives evidence of the precious materials used for foundation and streets. Of course everything in heaven is made by God, nothing is man-made. So no concrete or other manufactured substances will be found. Here in this present life gold is precious, men kill or die for it, but in heaven the streets are made of gold. Here we spend money to buy a tiny piece of Amethyst for a ring or necklace. In Heaven it is one of the twelve foundations of the Holy City. To man, the gold and jewels are precious and much to be desired. To God, the soul of man is precious. So much so He would, He did, sacrifice His only Son. So much so His Son Jesus Christ consented to that sacrifice and bore sin and shame with untold pain on a cross for the soul of man. To God the precious materials are as concrete or wood is to us. Certainly they are not the primary thing on which to focus attention. Things of our flesh have no place in God's presence. All is perfection because "*all*" is made by God. All is holy as He is holy.

To the Christian, who has learned to listen for God's voice and who has felt the hand of God touch him, there is a growing assurance of God's leadership and presence through His Word. We have in hand the Word, and the Word was God. The more one knows of the Word, the more one knows God. In that light, as this knowledge and awareness of God increases, the more He can lead the life of His child in His way. As this direction progresses it will be apparent to the Christian and to those around him there is something unusual in his life.

Something should show in you that others see as different. Life will have a touch of a miracle for you. Not in a face on a tortilla, or some spectacular special effects type of thing Hollywood might conjure up. No, a touch

of insight, a depth of compassion, a vision of wisdom, a warning of impending danger, a drawing to souls in need, the touch of help to those that hurt. These are precious things God's child has. As one becomes more a channel through which God moves and reaches lost and weaker souls the life of such a channel is more blessed. This is a rich full life giving strength and joy. It may have nothing to do with physical strength, though sometimes God blesses there; it may have nothing to do with wealth or material gain, but sometimes God gives that as well. The point is that the power and blessing of God supercedes any strength or might of man. He will use the man or woman, boy or girl who will allow Him liberty in their body, heart and mind.

Now at the end of this life of flesh the Christian who has walked close to God, knowing well they were a new creature made for His fellowship, enters Heaven. Being now in the presence of God Almighty, fully aware of God, the three in one, having left all trace of flesh behind, that child come home can now worship and praise "*He Who is all in all*" as never before. Could a golden street or a wall of lovely jasper draw attention? Not in a million years! Finally nothing will distract our mind, or heart, or interrupt the complete knowledge and ability to praise and worship our King.

These are some thoughts to consider as we seek to be as God wants His children to be, and be ready when He calls us home.

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