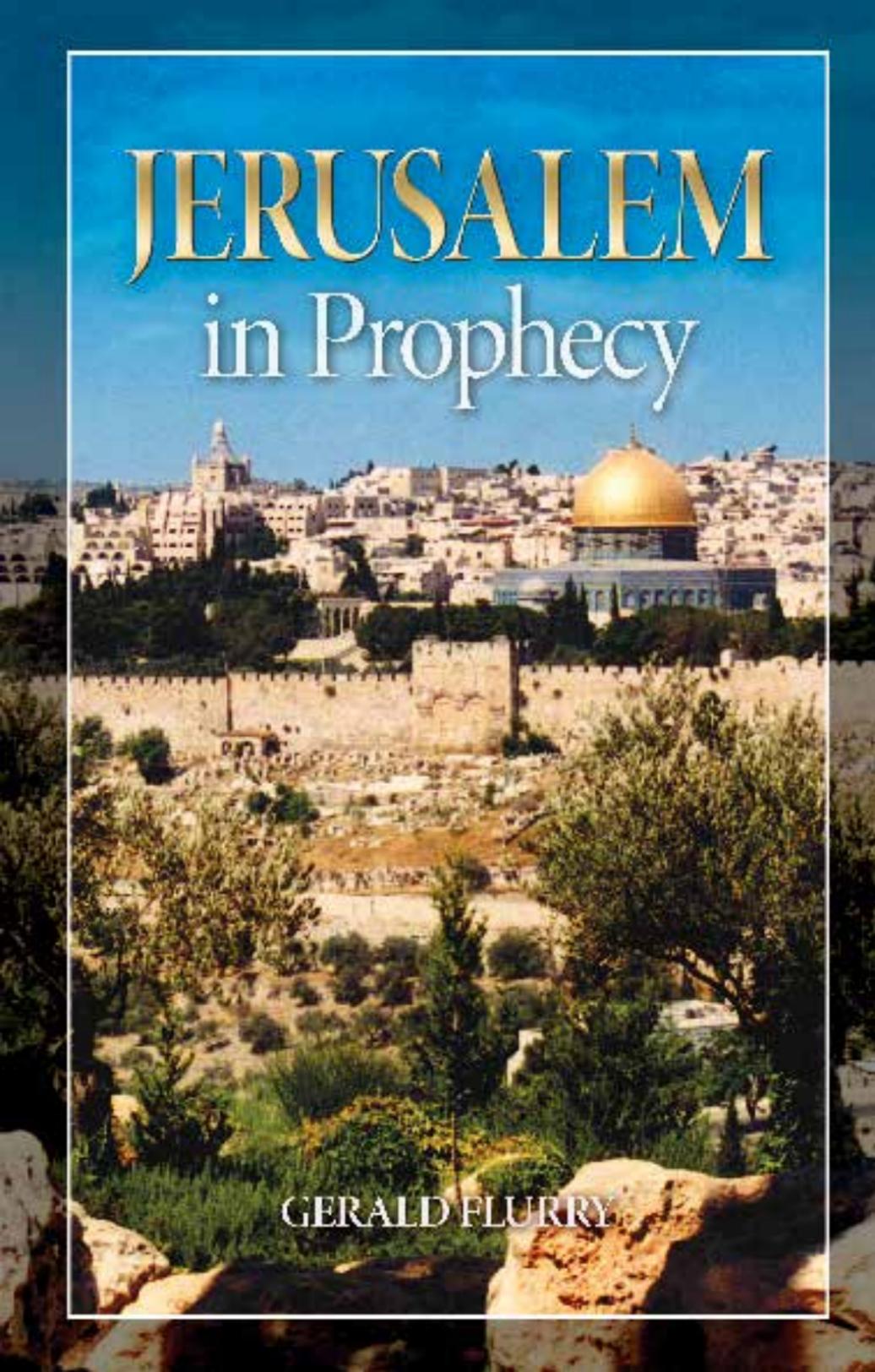


JERUSALEM

in Prophecy



GERALD FLURRY

JERUSALEM in Prophecy

BY GERALD FLURRY

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Printed in the United States of America
Scriptures in this publication are quoted from the
King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

Jerusalem means “city of peace,” and yet this city’s history has been filled with rivers of blood! No city has suffered like Jerusalem. It has known almost no peace. But there is very good news. God established Jerusalem to be a city of peace—and will one day make sure that it becomes so! It is actually the city from which God will rule the entire universe!

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ONE

God Chose Jerusalem

JERUSALEM IS A POWDER KEG, LOADED WITH NUCLEAR POTENTIAL!
No city on Earth is so fraught with INTERNATIONAL TENSION
as JERUSALEM!

Not only does this ancient city play a central role in the beliefs of the three major religions—Judaism, Islam and Christianity—it is a powerful nationalist symbol for both Arabs and Jews.

Today the Israelis and Palestinians are in a bloody deadlock over who will control Jerusalem. They have tried for years now to resolve their many differences through negotiation and compromise. But their talks *always break down over Jerusalem!*

This is an impossible problem with no resolution that will be acceptable to all parties. As one analyst put it, “A peace between the Arabs and Jews that does not resolve the question of Jerusalem will be no peace. Indeed, a peace that weakens the Jews by returning the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights to Arab control but leaves Jerusalem as an unresolved dispute will make war more not less

likely. ... The assumption of the diplomats that all things can be solved by negotiation underestimates the emotions involved. Jerusalem is non-negotiable" (*Islamic Affairs Analyst*, June 1, 1993). That means there is NO PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

The situation is very bad in Jerusalem today, but your Bible says it will get MUCH WORSE before it gets better. But why all the attention on Jerusalem?

GOD CHOSE JERUSALEM

Notice this remarkable statement that God made: "Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I HAVE CHOSEN" (1 Kings 11:13). GOD HIMSELF CHOSE JERUSALEM. HE DIDN'T CHOOSE PARIS OR LONDON OR NEW YORK—HE CHOSE JERUSALEM.

Imagine: This is a city God has chosen! It is yet to dazzle the world with a godly brilliance! The whole world will soon be looking to this city for leadership. Right now, God is preparing his leadership that will soon rule from Jerusalem.

There is strong evidence that Melchizedek founded Jerusalem. "And Melchizedek *king of Salem* brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God" (Genesis 14:18). Melchizedek was king of Salem, which probably became known as "*Jeru-salem*."

Salem means "peace." *Jerusalem* means "city of peace." If you understand the history of Jerusalem, this could be likened to a sick joke! This city's history has been filled with rivers of blood. No city on Earth has had more bloodshed! No city has suffered like Jerusalem. It has known almost no peace! That's because man has ruled Jerusalem apart from God.

THIS BLOOD-SOAKED CITY IS YET TO BECOME A CITY OF PEACE!

No other city has had such an incredible beginning. It was chosen by God and undoubtedly founded by Melchizedek.

God chose Jerusalem from the very beginning. God founded this city in peace. It was founded to be a city of peace forever! You can be sure God will complete His plan. If you understand God's goal, you know that THE MEANING OF THE CITY'S NAME CONTAINS A PROPHECY OF ITS MAGNIFICENT FUTURE!

God has turned His back on Jerusalem because of the sinful people. But that problem will be corrected in the near future.

During the time of Joshua, Jerusalem was called *Jebus* (Joshua 18:28; Judges 19:10). The Jebusites lived there. They were Canaanites, descended from Ham through Canaan. God promised to drive out the Jebusites if Israel would be His soldiers (Exodus 33:1-3; 34:11-15).

David was the one who finally captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites (2 Samuel 5:1-6). This city was such a fortress that it appeared the blind and lame could defend it. But David trusted God and triumphed.

“Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David. And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house. So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. And David went on, and grew great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him” (2 Samuel 5:7-10). Jerusalem was called the “city of David.” But that would soon change.

GOD REJECTS JERUSALEM

Judah turned away from God. Jeremiah was sent to Jerusalem to warn it. “Thus said the Lord unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem” (Jeremiah 17:19). Jeremiah was told to stand in the gates of Jerusalem—where the kings and rulers would enter—and to warn them. They were breaking God’s Sabbath day.

God *always* sends a messenger to warn His sinning people and Israel. The message must be declared where the people can hear it. “And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the Lord, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates: Thus saith the Lord; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction” (verses 20-23). They were commanded to hallow God’s Sabbath—keep it holy. If we keep a holy Sabbath, it prepares us for a holy week and a close relationship with God. Repeatedly, Israel was punished because of breaking this commandment and turning away from God.

Jerusalem was destroyed because of Sabbath-breaking. It has been trodden down ever since—over 2,000 years! There is a cause for every effect. Jerusalem is a city in deep trouble today. Why? Because of sin.

Nebuchadnezzar made Jerusalem look like a garbage dump. “Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain

of the house as the high places of the forest” (Micah 3:12). After Jerusalem was destroyed in 585 B.C., it looked like heaps of garbage.

Nebuchadnezzar left Jerusalem as a plowed field and in heaps of garbage. Josephus was an eyewitness when the Romans destroyed this city in A.D. 70. He said if a person came upon that place, they would never imagine a city was once there!

Jerusalem was rebuilt, and then the Jews rebelled again in A.D. 132-135. Rome was so incensed that it destroyed every building constructed since A.D. 70. The records claim that, once again, Jerusalem became like a plowed field! No Jew was allowed within 20 miles of Jerusalem.

During the religious crusades, the “city of peace” again flowed with rivers of blood. However, THE WORST WOE BY FAR IS YET TO COME!

“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” (Zechariah 12:2). Every nation that has ruled Jerusalem has experienced serious problems. This is true up to the present day.

“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” (verse 3). God said the Jerusalem problem would be a nightmare for peacemakers and diplomats who get entangled with it, not to mention the people who call it their home. And yet, it seems that EVERY NATION wants Jerusalem.

No city has suffered like Jerusalem. As we will see in the chapters to follow, it is presently weighed down by insoluble problems. Yet, ultimately, there is very good news. God established Jerusalem to be a city of peace—and

one day He will make sure that it finally becomes so! It is actually the city from which God's Family will rule the entire universe!

TWO

Israel's Deadly 'Wound'

THE CITIZEN OF ISRAEL STARES OUT HIS WINDOW AT HIS nation, a tear in his eye and a knot in his stomach. He knows Israel is in trouble.

It is true that for the whole of its mere half-century of existence, the country has existed without peace. But as this Jewish citizen watches Palestinian teenagers and Israeli soldiers tussling in the streets, as the multilingual shouting and popping of gunfire fills his ears, he knows that today the situation is worse than it has ever been. He fears Israel is changed forever.

ISRAEL'S BIRTH

Let's look back at Israel's recent history.

When World War II ended, there were many Jewish refugees with no place to call home. Most of the world became sympathetic to these Jews.

After a bitter struggle in the United Nations, the land of Israel was declared a nation. In 1948, when Israel (biblical Judah—the name Jew is just a shortened version of Judah)

was declared a nation, the Arabs attacked immediately.

The Jews had no real army. They were losing the war after three weeks. Then the Arabs strangely called for a temporary truce. This is exactly what Israel needed to re-arm and train their weary troops—many of them civilians who carried guns.

Shortly thereafter the Arabs started fighting again. This time the Jews were well prepared and soon won the war.

It was a MIRACLE from God. Many of the Jews acknowledged that. They experienced many miracles in the following years.

The Jews were prophesied to have a nation in this end time. So it had to happen!

The Jews were determined fighters. This was their first sovereign nation in 2,000 years. Only death could make them surrender their new and only homeland.

WILL TO FIGHT

There continued to be many problems between the Jews and Arabs. The problems became so intense in 1967 that almost every nation in the world believed the Arabs were about to attack Israel again.

The Soviet Union was strongly urging Egypt to attack. Egyptian troops poured into the Sinai and ordered the UN forces out. War seemed imminent.

Egypt, Jordan and Syria were allied to start a war. So the Jews felt compelled to strike first. Jewish war planes flew into Egypt and destroyed 300 Egyptian combat fighters in three hours. The Jews then captured all of the Sinai, the Suez Canal, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights in just six days.

Again, a series of MIRACLES by God saved the Jewish nation.

Tourists began to pour into Israel. The state became prosperous and complacent. The Jews were lulled into a false sense of security.

In late 1973, the Jewish military ignored serious intelligence reports that the Arabs were again going to attack. The attack occurred on October 6—during the solemn Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur.

The Jews won the war in three weeks, with much aid from the Americans. Egypt was beaten, but not humiliated. Once again biblical Judah had been MIRACULOUSLY saved.

But soon after, something dramatic changed in Israel.

Menachem Begin was elected prime minister in 1977. President Carter persuaded him to give the Sinai back to Egypt in the late 1970s.

This was the beginning of the Israeli-Arab peace process. The Jews gave up land for a piece of paper.

MOUNT SINAI

When the Jews gave the Sinai back to Egypt, that probably included Mount Sinai, where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. THIS FIERY MOUNTAIN SPECTACLE GAVE BIRTH TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL! The Sinai area was where the children of Israel wandered FOR 40 YEARS as they rebelled against God's law.

Again, the biblical name for the modern nation called Israel is *Judah*. But the modern descendants of the ancient Israelites include many nations—primarily the U.S. (biblical *Manasseh*) and Britain (biblical *Ephraim*). In other words, biblical Judah is only a small part of Israel today. America and the British people are also Israel. The prophecies about end-time Israel are primarily focused on those three nations. (For proof, write for our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The United States and Britain were both instrumental in pressuring Judah to give the Sinai back to Egypt, even though our ancestry was also a part of Israel when God's law was given on Mount Sinai.

Prophecy states that those three nations, Israel, the U.S. and Britain, will be conquered together just before Christ returns, unless they repent (Hosea 5:5). The Jewish nation had to be established by God for that prophecy to be fulfilled. A miracle by God had to be performed.

Those three nations are looking to men for peace and not to the great God of Mount Sinai. THEIR HISTORY WITH GOD IS VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS!

No other nation on Earth was ever chosen as God's people—chosen *not* as a *favorite* people, but to lead the world to God. Israel has failed God miserably—anciently and today. Soon God will punish nations as never before. The people of biblical Israel talk a lot about God but don't believe and obey Him. That is the real source of all our problems today. The nations of Israel will fall because of that faithlessness.

THE JEWISH NATION WAS BORN AND SUSTAINED BY GODLY MIRACLES. BUT IT STILL REFUSES TO TRUST GOD!

Today, in spite of the fact that the Jews gave the Sinai back to Egypt—an unparalleled gift—Egypt is fast becoming one of Israel's most hostile neighbors. That should give us some idea of how giving land away does not buy peace.

Nevertheless, Israel has taken on the same mentality of weakness and trusting in men in its dealings with the Palestinians living in Israel. The Jews continue to give land for empty promises of peace. It started in 1993 on the White House lawn with a handshake between the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. There Israel surrendered

bits of that hard-won, strategically important land in *hope* that the Arabs could be simply *bargained* into giving up their goal of destroying Israel.

The Jews have also given Gaza, Jericho, Bethlehem and other West Bank areas back to the Palestinians. It seems the world has forgotten that those areas were *won in a war* where the Arabs were trying to annihilate the Jews. This land-for-peace process is almost unheard of in history, except perhaps what has recently happened in South Africa.

God gave Bethlehem to the Jews. Through the “peace” process, they gave it to the Palestinians.

The Jews have given back many other biblical sites to the Arabs. America and Britain have strongly urged them to do so. We fail to realize that such a lack of faith is why all the adults of ancient Israel had to die in the Sinai wilderness.

Throughout this terribly misnamed “peace” process— involving giving up land and seeing no appreciable drop in violence—Palestinian leaders have consistently told politicians and media that they want peaceful coexistence with Israel while simultaneously promising to their people Israel's destruction.

Now, after years of gambling with its own soil, Israel finds itself depleted of property and will, sapped and bloodied by a policy that has publicized, for all to see, the fatal weariness of this tiny nation.

JUDAH'S WOUND

The book of Hosea was written as prophecy for the end time. Again, the nation called Israel today is really biblical *Judah*. There are some specific prophecies about Judah in this book. “When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his *wound*, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king *Jareb*: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound”

(Hosea 5:13). Studying this verse in the original Hebrew reveals that both Ephraim (Britain) and Judah (called “Israel” today) go to Assyria (or Germany—to prove that fact, write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*).

Why do the Jews go to Germany, and what is Judah’s wound? The word *wound* is number 4205 in *Strong’s Concordance*. It means “in the sense of binding up: a bondage, i.e. *remedy*.” *Gesenius’ Lexicon* defines it this way: “the pressing together, binding up of a wound; here used figuratively of a *remedy* applied to the wounds of the state.” In other words, THE REMEDY IS THE WOUND!

Another word for *wound* is also mentioned in Obadiah 1:7: “All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a *wound* under thee: there is none understanding in him.” This *wound* is number 4204 in *Strong’s*. *Gesenius* defines it as “falsehood; hence, fraud, insidious dealing ... net, or snare.” It has the same root word as the word used in Hosea 5:13. IN OBADIAH THE WOUND IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO BEING DECEIVED BY A PEACE PACT!

TRUSTING THEIR ENEMIES

Is the *peace pact* with the Arabs the Israeli *wound* that God refers to in Hosea 5:13? There would have been no peace pact if Judah would have trusted God instead of men.

The word *wound* doesn’t necessarily itself refer to some violent act, but it will undoubtedly lead to violence.

“Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness” (Hosea 5:12). The word *rottenness* should read *worm*. The *Anchor Bible Commentary* states that the word usually describes the rottenness in wood or bones (Habakkuk 3:16; Proverbs 12:4; 14:30;

Job 13:28; Isaiah 40:20). This wound reaches into their bones like cancer.

The *worm* is “like maggots infesting open wounds and then begins to devour the flesh.” This is a sickness unto death. The only cure is God.

The word *wound* in verse 13 means *bandage*. It's as if a bandage is hopelessly applied to an open, running sore. From the beginning of the peace process, the Jews have looked to men, *often their enemies*, for help—not God. That is the unseen *wound*.

So little trust in God—so much trust in their enemies!

The real wound is spiritual—a lack of faith in God. The Jews keep trying to heal themselves by making peace pacts. They were strong when they trusted God. Even recent history proves that truth. Just a few years ago they were a terror to the Arabs. Now the Arabs are a terror to the Jews. A complete reversal in such a short time! Why?

The Israelis will finally see that their peace pact with the Palestinians has failed. The Jews really only see the *effect* of their wound. They don't see the *cause*. That is why they turn to Germany for another peace pact! This time they place their trust in an even greater enemy! Once again they fail to trust God. It will lead to the worst disaster in the Jews' long history of suffering.

The lesson still has not been learned. God is going to teach them emphatically about what their wound is and what the real solution is.

Today the Jews only see their wound humanly. But even that understanding comes painfully slow. Before this is over, they will see their wound spiritually—through God's eyes. Then their wound will be healed and they will have peace forever.

But before that happens, they have to learn the most terrifying lesson of their national life!

DEADLY DELUSION

The Israelis are trying to negotiate peace with the Palestinians. The Israelis have given control of Gaza and areas in the West Bank to the Palestinians. The terrorists often operate from these Palestinian-controlled areas.

That means the Israelis are no longer free to declare war on the terrorist base of operations.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's former prime minister, once said: "I think the central problem of the terrorism that we see today is that we have created a situation where we rely on Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to be our subcontractors to fight terrorism."

The Jews are DEEPLY DIVIDED over the peace agreement. This makes any democracy extremely vulnerable. It paralyzes the decision-making process, and hard decisions need to be made!

Why is the peace process a wound? *Intelligence Digest*, September 27, 1996, wrote: "There were always two fundamental problems with the Madrid PEACE PROCESS. The first was that if it 'succeeded' it would leave Israel physically vulnerable without having removed all the causes for war between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbor—thus MAKING WAR MORE NOT LESS LIKELY.

"On the other hand, if it 'failed' it would have heightened Palestinian expectations only to dash them later, thus making the general atmosphere in the Middle East worse not better" (emphasis mine throughout).

If the peace process makes violence and war "more not less likely," then it is a *wound* for Israel. That means by trusting men, instead of God, Israel is a loser either way!

A later issue of *Intelligence Digest*, October 4, 1996, said this: "Both prospects are appalling: but they are the inevitable result of THE PRINCIPAL DELUSION underpinning the

Middle East peace process, namely THAT ALL PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY NEGOTIATION.”

The DEADLY DELUSION that “all problems can be solved by negotiation” is going to lead Israel and the U.S. to disaster!

Such a philosophy destroys nations. NO GREAT NATION HAS EVER BEEN BUILT OR SUSTAINED BY SUCH A BELIEF! Any good history book should teach us that. Bible prophecy certainly does. IT IS A PHILOSOPHY BASED ON WEAKNESS. Any powerful nation that reasons from such weakness is plummeting to disaster!

Through *weakness* and a *lack of faith in God*, THE JEWS HAVE CREATED THEIR OWN WOUND! Because of the land they have already given the Palestinians, the Jews can no longer even pursue their enemy. And you would think the Palestinians would be grateful to the Jews for the land they have already been given. Instead, they use that gift to intensify their hatred!

A little psychology ought to convince any honest person that a peace pact will never work! But the Jews cling to their illusions because of weakness.

The Jews are afraid to get tough even in the Arab areas which *they* control. They don't want the “peace” process to break down. But WHAT MOST OF THEM DON'T KNOW IS THAT THE PEACE PROCESS IS A DEADLY DELUSION! It is a wound that will cause death, if they don't repent. It is like terminal cancer!

The number-one Arab leader in the peace process for many years was Yasser Arafat. Before the peace negotiations, he was the leading terrorist in the Middle East! This is not a good foundation for peace.

Why would the Israelis have trusted the greatest terrorist in the Middle East to protect them from terrorism? They have more than enough power to protect themselves. But they lack the WILL to use it! That is because God has broken their will—and that includes America's and Britain's. And here is why.

THE LAW OF MOSES

We need to read an end-time prophecy specifically directed to America, Britain and Israel about their security. “Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written *in the law of Moses* the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: FOR UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN HATH NOT BEEN DONE AS HATH BEEN DONE UPON JERUSALEM” (Daniel 9:10-12). EVIL IS GOING TO BE DONE UPON JERUSALEM (AND ISRAEL) THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE “UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN”! God has “set before us” His message.

God is “bringing upon us a great evil.” These words ought to strike terror in our minds! No people can prevail against their enemies when God is against them. “The curse is **POURED** upon us”! However, the curses have not caused us to pray to the true God. Many people have prayed, but we have not prayed to “turn from our iniquities” (verses 13-14). This is what God commands. We have not repented. That means our prayers are of little or no value.

The only way Israel can achieve security is through repentance. God has promised to destroy us unless we learn that lesson! How can we not take careful note of these prophecies?

Daniel is an end-time book (Daniel 12:4, 9). According to Daniel, there are many prophecies in the books of Moses that are *also* for this end time (Daniel 9:11).

Let’s look at one of these prophecies. “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these

commandments And I WILL SET MY FACE AGAINST YOU, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you And I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass” (Leviticus 26:14, 17, 19). Because we have not hearkened to God, curses are upon us. God prophesied, “I will set my face against you.” IF WE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THIS PROPHECY, EACH ONE OF OUR PEOPLE WOULD TREMBLE IN FEAR!

There is a reason why everything seems to go wrong in America, Britain and Judah. But our people never seem to fear enough to “TURN from our iniquities”—our sins! And that does *not* mean to repent of what we call sin, but WHAT GOD CALLS SIN—*God’s* definition.

So God states, “I will break the pride of your power.” THAT MEANS WE HAVE POWER, BUT LACK THE WILL TO USE IT. America has more military power than any other nation on Earth. But we are afraid to use it. Britain probably has more nuclear power and conventional military might than any nation in Europe. However, they too fear using it. The Jews have more military power than any other nation in the Middle East. A few years ago they struck fear in all of their enemies. But today, they have been in A LONG RETREAT called the “PEACE PROCESS.” Why?

When Benjamin Netanyahu was elected in 1996, the *New York Times* wrote, “Mr. Netanyahu also indicated what he meant by negotiating with Arabs during his debate with Prime Minister Shimon Peres. The Arabs, he said, were ‘realistic’—‘when they see a weak government like Mr. Peres,’ they demand everything, they get everything, and they demand more.”

This is true of government in America, Britain and Israel (biblical Judah). We just don’t understand that God has broken the pride of our power because of our sins. But OUR

ENEMIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE our nations know that the pride of our power has been broken—that we are pitifully weak. And as Mr. Netanyahu said of the Arabs, our enemies will keep demanding more and more—until we collapse.

Just a little understanding of history reveals that such an American-sponsored “peace process” can only lead to destruction.

Henry Kissinger said that Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated prime minister, had “no other choice than the peace process.” That was not true a few years earlier, because the Israeli people had a much stronger will.

Such a statement is made out of weakness! We are weak because God has **BROKEN** our will to fight and win. We now want to trust others to protect us, because we cringe in fear before our enemies. We no longer trust God! Our sins are destroying us.

We must understand this terrifying reality. God said, “I will set my face **AGAINST YOU.**” Do we grasp what this means? The mighty, all-powerful God is **AGAINST US!** **THE PUNISHMENT WILL INCREASE UNTIL WE REPENT OR DIE!**

We must learn to have faith in God, or we will be totally destroyed. Read all of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Those chapters are part of the woeful prophecies Daniel said would come upon us in the end time.

Why won't we turn to God in repentance? Only He can save us. If we don't, then notice the end result for our nations. “Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat” (Leviticus 26:28-29). God says, “I, **EVEN I,** will chastise you seven times for your sins.” He is emphasizing “I, even I.” This is God talking—the omnipotent God who created man and the universe! These are not the words of weak men. Do we really know what this means?

It gets even worse. "And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth. And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies. And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up" (verses 36-38). This is a horrifying prophecy. Our enemies will devour us!

Read verses 1-13 and see the wonderful rewards and blessings that will come if we turn to God. We have never experienced such peace and prosperity. "And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and NONE SHALL MAKE YOU AFRAID: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land" (verse 6). God promised peace to the nations of Israel. Nobody would make them afraid—NOBODY! The sword would never enter their land.

This is the way we should be living today. All we have to do is obey God. "And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people" (verse 12). If only we would let God rule us. What glorious examples we could be to this sick world.

There is good news. Even if we do not repent now, God is still going to usher in this paradise. We should never have to experience what is happening in Judah today. It is totally unnecessary.

Security is coming to Israel very soon, when the Messiah comes. But our repentance must precede that event. Then we shall have unparalleled prosperity and security. The only reason we don't have it now is our refusal to repent. The sooner we learn that lesson, the quicker the security will come.

Apparently our nations won't repent until they are in captivity. Still, God promises safety to any individual who truly repents.

Voting for a certain man will never give us security. Repenting of our sins will give us security forever.

MIDDLE EAST EXPLOSION SOON

Many intelligence sources see that there will NOT be peace in Israel. Here is what the March 1, 1996, *Intelligence Digest* stated in its article, "Listen to Arafat!": "The propensity of people to ignore unpalatable truths is one of the most damaging of human traits. Unfortunately it is in full evidence over the Middle East peace process."

The editor went on to quote Yasser Arafat from a secret speech he gave in May 1994 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Arafat called for a holy war in order to liberate Jerusalem. And concerning the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, he said, "This agreement, I am not considering it more than the agreement which had been signed between our Prophet Mohammed and the Quraysh."

Continuing from *Intelligence Digest*: "This was a reference to the non-belligerency agreement Mohammed signed with the Quraysh tribe which controlled Mecca. Two years later, Mohammed violated the agreement, conquered Mecca and killed the leaders of the tribe."

Notice also what Arafat said in early 1996 to a group of Arab diplomats in Sweden: "[Israeli Prime Minister Shimon] Peres and [Israeli negotiator Yossi] Beilin have already promised us half of Jerusalem [but] WE PALESTINIANS WILL TAKE OVER EVERYTHING, INCLUDING ALL OF JERUSALEM.... Within five years we will have 6 to 7 million Arabs living on the West Bank and in Jerusalem.... If the Jews can import all kinds of Ethiopians, Uzbeks and Ukrainians as Jews, we can import

all kinds of Arabs WE PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND ESTABLISH A PALESTINIAN STATE We will make life unbearable for the Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion. Jews will not want to live among Arabs.”

In March 2001, after months of clashes between Arabs and Jews, Arafat was quoted as saying, “Our people will continue the Aksa *intifada* until we raise the Palestinian flag in every mosque and church and on the walls of *Jerusalem*.”

The Palestinians are clearly NOT interested in making peace with Israel! But Israel is so war-weary and blinded by wishful thinking that it won't face reality! Their naiveté is leading them into a disaster of untold magnitude. It is easy to see why God calls the peace process a “deadly wound.”

The situation has changed little since Arafat died. His successor as Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, whatever his intentions, simply cannot maintain a leadership role unless he accommodates the spirit of the overwhelming majority of Palestinians who reject Israel's existence.

As it turns out, evidence suggests that, despite his moderate persona, this is really not too hard for Abbas. “Abu Mazen [the popular name for Abbas among Palestinians] was an Arafat crony and comes from the Palestinian elite. He has consistently held the hardline anti-Israel agenda since his years as a student. His doctoral dissertation was a full-blown foray into Holocaust denial and aimed to prove that Zionism and Nazism are branches of the same tree. . . . Abu Mazen may wear a suit while Arafat wore fatigues but much of their world view is still the same—the destruction of Israel remains on the ‘to-do’ list” (*Philadelphia Daily News*, January 8, 2005).

Far from denouncing his terrorist predecessor, Abbas actually draws on Arafat's legacy to gain extra authority. In his pre-election campaign speeches, he called for the same “right of return” that Arafat espoused, which, as the *New York Sun* termed it, is “code for the destruction of the

Jewish state” (December 31, 2004).

Abbas has received kudos for his attempts to coerce terrorist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad into curbing their lethal violence. Many have been willing to dismiss his public anti-Israel rhetoric and expressions of solidarity with terrorists as mere politics.

Of this, Charles Krauthammer asked, “What of Abbas’s vaunted opposition to violence? On January 2 [2005] he tells Hamas terrorists firing rockets that maim and kill Jewish villagers within Israel, ‘This is not the time for this kind of act.’ This is an interesting ‘renunciation’ of terrorism: Not today, boys; perhaps later, when the time is right” (*Washington Post*, January 7, 2005).

Daniel Pipes commented, “Mr. Abbas shows tactical flexibility. Unlike Arafat, who could never let go of the terrorist tool that had brought him wealth, power and glory, Mr. Abbas sees the situation more cogently. If stopping the violence against Israel best serves his goal of eliminating the sovereign Jewish state, that is his program. He no more accepts what he so charmingly the other day called the ‘Zionist enemy’ than Arafat did (or Hamas, or Palestinian Islamic Jihad), but he is open to a multiplicity of means to destroy it” (*New York Sun*, January 11, 2005).

Is that assessment really true? Time will certainly tell. But a clue as to the answer has come in the method Abbas has taken to rein in the terrorists—not by cracking down on them, but by tempting them to become politicians.

On February 16, 2005, Abbas announced that, in the words of *Stratfor*, “he supports sharing national leadership with Hamas, jihad organizations, and public and democratic fronts”

Hamas and other jihad groups openly base their existence on war against Israel. They are precisely the source of the problem.

It appears Abbas is sympathetic to their views.

The bottom line is, there will be no peace in the Middle East as long as there are groups agitating for Israel's destruction.

GOING TO GERMANY

Let's look again at Hosea 5:13. "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his *wound*, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king *Jareb*: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound." *Lange's Commentary* states that the word *Jareb*, the German leader, means "war-like monarch." The *Soncino Commentary* translates it as "King Contentious." He will be far more dangerous than Hitler was.

If you read our literature on Germany, you will see that this leader will be ruled by Satan! And Britain and the Jews will go to him for mercy and aid!

Already the European Union has stepped up its efforts to help the Middle East peace process as the U.S. pulls out of the region and grows weaker. German-led Europe has been publicly mentioned as being a protector to Israel.

Can anyone miss the cruel irony of this situation? One Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor who lives in Israel said, "If there is anything that frightens Israelis more than Syrian troops on the Golan, it is German troops on the Golan."

IT SEEMS THE ISRAELIS CAN TRUST THEIR WORST ENEMY, BUT THEY CAN'T TRUST GOD TO PROTECT THEM! And God is their *only* source of help.

Israel will become "lovers" with the Germans. This move will lead to their destruction. It is not the Arabs who will destroy them. The friendship between Germany and Israel will lead to one of the biggest double-crosses in the history of man! We will study this more in the next chapter.

‘Will to Withdraw’

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN JUDAH TODAY? SOME OF THE JEWS do see where the problem lies. Here is what Shmuel Schnitzer wrote in *Maariv*, or the *Mideast Mirror*, back on September 14, 1994: “For the first time in 2,000 years, we are preparing to deny our historical rights, both the divine promise and in terms of referring to the land by the name of its people, ‘The Land of Israel’—a land which belongs to the children of Israel, from then and to eternity. [The Jews are only one tribe of Israel.]

“SUDDENLY, WE ARE GRIPPED BY A WILL TO WITHDRAW. A delight in withdrawing, euphoria in cutting ourselves off from it. Pulling out of Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel) will be a holiday. We shall say: ‘Goodbye, not *au revoir*’” (emphasis mine throughout).

We continue to make the same mistake our forefathers made. And unless we repent we are going to have the same tragic end!

The problem is that God has broken their will, or the pride of their awesome power, because of their sins (Leviticus 26:19). And the problem is only going to get worse until they repent!

Mr. Schnitzer continued: “First we referred to parts of the homeland as ‘territories.’ That’s a term which evinces no love, no link. ‘Territories’ are not ours. We never dreamt of territories, nor prayed to return to them. We didn’t nurture them with the blood of our young men. We didn’t hear in them the calls of our prophets and we didn’t bury our forefathers in the ‘territories.’ We didn’t fight over the ‘territories’ with the Canaanites and the Egyptians, the Babylonians, Greeks and Romans, the British and the Arabs. We didn’t read of them in the Book of books, nor yearn constantly for them.

“WE ARE A GENERATION THAT IS BETRAYING ITS FOREFATHERS, THEIR FAITH AND THEIR SACRIFICE. We are now engaged in tearing out the heart of the land from ourselves, undercutting everything which we nurtured.

“AN ENTIRELY NEW JEWISH PEOPLE IS BEING CREATED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES. A nation which doesn’t belong to its land, which doesn’t continue the past, which will inherit nothing and is promised nothing. THE BIBLE IS NO LONGER OUR CALLING CARD. IT’S A MERE HISTORICAL CURIOSITY.”

God clearly gave the Jews their land. But the “peacemakers” don’t like to refer to it as a gift from God, because they have no faith in God.

So we see a “new Jewish people” unwilling to fight as in the past. Now they have a broken will.

A U.S. intelligence document stated that the Arabs now believe the Jews have lost their will to fight.

Few reports could signal a greater danger! The Arabs will exploit this weakness. You can be certain of that.

Shmuel Schnitzer wrote, “Suddenly, paths of peace are more important than the paths down which we traveled for 2,000 years, more important than our prayers and our faith.

“I ask myself what kind of Jewish people will this be with no attachment to its land, without all the places of the book

of Joshua, the wonderful vistas there, WITHOUT THE INTENSITY OF THE PROPHETIC VISION, without the heritage of our fighters who spilt their blood for the country which was promised them and their descendants?

“This is the will of the majority, and we are told that in a democracy the majority’s will is that which counts.

“But let us not forget on the eve of our holiest day (the Day of Atonement) that while a majority can rule, it hasn’t a monopoly on truth and on good sense. A majority can make a tragic mistake, create a golden calf and dance about it” (ibid.).

The Jewish people are now looking to the *will of the majority*, not the great God who gave them their own land.

Now the peace pacts are more important than faith in God. That is a sure recipe for disaster!

“I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early” (verse 15). God will not stop punishing Judah (and all Israel—mainly America and Britain) until they “acknowledge their offense,” or repent of their sins and seek God. But how can they know what their sins are and how to repent?

“Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin. Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have *I made known that which shall surely be*” (verses 8-9). God has made their sins known to them through Herbert W. Armstrong and our Church today. You are reading that trumpet message now! Hosea is specifically about our work today (write for our booklet on Hosea). The Jews are going to suffer at the hands of the Arabs and Germans until they awaken! They must acknowledge our message from God! If they don't hear the alarm of war through this message, they must *experience* being conquered!

“For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him” (verse 14). The lion is king of the beasts—the most fearsome predator. It is the strongest metaphor of destruction!

Why is God so angry? The prophets always had scathing messages when Israel went to and trusted the heathen.

THE WAY OF PEACE THEY KNOW NOT

America, Britain and Judah must understand that they are being punished for their sins. Jeremiah is also a book written for the end time (Jeremiah 23:20). Prophecy clearly

reveals why our problems are overwhelming us. "Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return" (Jeremiah 8:5). Jerusalem is a type of all the nations of Israel. They all "hold fast deceit" and continue in their ugly sins.

"I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle" (verse 6). "No man" repents when they hear God's word.

"Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord" (verse 7). The animals understand their purpose better than America, Britain and Judah!

"How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have *rejected* the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" (verses 8-9). They have heard God's word and *rejected* it. They abhor God's law and government. They have no judgment or wisdom.

A terrible penalty is coming unless we wake up. "Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, FROM THE PROPHET EVEN UNTO THE PRIEST EVERY ONE DEALETH FALSELY" (verse 10). The enemy is going to take Israel's wives for themselves! Why? Because they are so blatantly rebellious!

Our physical and spiritual leaders have deceived the people. "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace" (verse 11). Our leaders have gotten the people

to accept peace pacts like the one with Judah and the Palestinians. The leaders continually talk of *peace, peace*, WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE.

Look around. Do you see peace? THE MORE VIOLENCE WE SEE, THE MORE THEY TALK ABOUT PEACE! They don't know how to have peace. "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).

Our peoples boast of all the Bibles we print. But we don't BELIEVE what is in them! We don't believe God! We talk about Him much of the time. But we don't believe Him—His Word!

All this suffering could be eliminated. Because of our sinful attitude, our people refuse to obey God. So we must suffer until we change that attitude.

Through the peace process, Judah has become vulnerable to the enemy, with very little freedom to strike back. Just a few years ago, they would have retaliated with far greater force! But not today.

Soon the whole world will see what the Arabs saw all along—that the peace process is a wound from which the Jews will never recover!

Unless they repent, their future is extremely bleak. The good news is, this present crisis will soon culminate in the coming of the Messiah. What a glorious future that lies just ahead! But immediately before that event, the worst time of suffering ever on Earth is upon us.

THREE

Jerusalem: About to Explode

PRESENTLY THE JEWS RULE OVER ALL OF JERUSALEM, EVEN though East Jerusalem is mostly comprised of Arabs. The Palestinians want this half for his capital. But most of the Jews won't budge, saying they must rule all of Jerusalem.

Both sides proclaim that they must rule East Jerusalem or there will be war!

Here is the real shocker. Did you know the Bible prophecies about this one half of Jerusalem and the super-miraculous outcome? It is a prophecy that will stagger your mind.

HALF OF JERUSALEM

“Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee” (Zechariah 14:1). The subject is the Day of the Lord—the end time. This whole book is focused on the latter days.

“For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the

women ravished; and HALF OF THE CITY shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city” (verse 2). Christ prophesied that He would “gather all nations” to battle Him in Jerusalem. Then He makes what might appear to be a STRANGE STATEMENT. One half of Jerusalem is to be taken captive. Notice how specific this prophecy is. East Jerusalem—one half of the city—will be conquered by the Palestinians!

The nation of Israel was established in 1948. At that time the Jews only had roughly *one half* of Jerusalem. The Arabs had East Jerusalem. Zechariah 14 is also a prophecy that the Jews would conquer all Jerusalem, because in order for *half the city to be taken* just before Christ returns, the whole city must be controlled by the Jews just before that time! The Jews did take full control in the 1967 war.

So the prophecy in Zechariah 14:1-2, which has not yet been fulfilled, has to happen between 1967 and the Great Tribulation. Jerusalem is going to be *totally* captured in the Tribulation (Revelation 11:1-3). Many prophecies tell us that.

Today the Arabs live in roughly one half of Jerusalem. They just don’t control it—*yet*. When such an attack occurs, the Jews couldn’t effectively drop bombs, especially nuclear bombs, on one half of their own city.

Looking at the ongoing violence in Jerusalem today—the absolute inability of the involved parties to solve things by peaceful means—we can easily see HOW one half of Jerusalem shall be taken captive in the very near future. THE PRESENT VIOLENCE IS AN EMBRYO THAT IS ABOUT TO GROW INTO MUCH GREATER VIOLENCE. That is the critical event prophesied in Zechariah 14:2.

We will see this prophecy in Zechariah 14:1-2 fulfilled very soon. And while it will involve some sickening atrocities and bloodshed, it is directly connected to the greatest news this world has ever heard!

COMING OF THE MESSIAH

Look again at Zechariah 14:2. “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and HALF OF THE CITY shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”

The first half of that verse is talking about a great climactic battle that will occur at the coming of the Messiah. Again, at the time of this final battle, the *whole* of Jerusalem will have been captured—by German-led European armies, called the king of the north (Daniel 11:40-41). We will look at these events in detail later.

The question is, why does the *last* half of Zechariah 14:2 talk about only *half* the city being taken?

Consider it: THE DAY OF THE LORD AND THE DISPUTE OVER ONE HALF OF JERUSALEM ARE PRESENTED IN THE SAME CONTEXT. That is because when half of Jerusalem goes into captivity, THAT CRISIS TRIGGERS A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT LEADS TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH! One half of Jerusalem being taken captive is like the first domino to fall leading to His coming and battle against all nations in Jerusalem! It all begins and ends in Jerusalem.

In other words, THE CURRENT DISPUTE OVER EAST JERUSALEM IS A STRONG SIGN THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD IS ALMOST HERE! We must wake up! Men must heed God’s warning before it is too late!

Any peace talks over Jerusalem make headlines around the world. But here is the greatest “scoop” of all, and the news media totally ignore it!

The peace talks will lead directly to the fall of East Jerusalem. This battle will trigger events that lead to a nuclear World War III! THIS WILL BE THE CROWNING RESULT OF MAN’S BEST EFFORTS TO BRING THE WORLD PEACE!

Thankfully God will intervene just before all life has been exterminated. Then He will usher in 1,000 years of peace.

“Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” (Zechariah 14:3-4). The Jews and Palestinians will never settle the Jerusalem issue. The Messiah is obviously not a part of the peace talks. He is nevertheless orchestrating the overall direction of these events.

Shortly after the fall of East Jerusalem, and much more violence and warfare, He will come. He will stand on the Mount of Olives. That famous mountain will divide, creating a huge valley.

Only the Messiah can and will settle the Jerusalem issue!

Why won't more people recognize the truth of this prophecy? Why won't they listen, when it is about the violent outcome of a world-famous peace process where men are fighting verbally for the rights to East Jerusalem? And it is tied directly to the coming of the Messiah—the greatest event ever to occur on Earth or in the universe!

This prophecy is thrilling, wonderful and awesome! It ought to stir the imagination of the whole world! But men are too drunk on deception to comprehend what is happening. Only great violence can sober them.

When will men learn that they don't know how to bring true peace?

Now let's examine in more detail the chain of crises to follow the capture of one half of Jerusalem.

GOING TO THE ASSYRIAN

We have shown that the peace process is Judah's wound. But the Jews do not see it that way—yet! However, when one half of Jerusalem is taken captive, they will see that it all happened as a part of the Middle East peace process. Their wound, or the peace process, primarily causes them to lose one half of Jerusalem.

At the mercy of the Arabs, little Israel will feel backed into a corner. As we covered in the last chapter, the Jews are prophesied to go to Germany for help. “When Ephraim [Britain] saw his sickness, and Judah [Israel] saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian [Germany], and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound” (Hosea 5:13). The Hebrew clearly indicates that *both* Israel and Britain go to Germany for help. Both Judah and Britain are in danger of falling. By this point, America will be too weak and too sick itself to help.

We are already seeing Israel beginning to look to Germany for help. However, Hosea 5:13 will probably be fulfilled *after* the Arabs take over East Jerusalem.

God tells Judah that Germany cannot “heal you, nor cure you of your wound.” Why does God say that? Because Judah got into this mess by looking to men. Now it is trying to get out of the quagmire by looking to men. **THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM WILL NEVER FIND A CURE OR BE HEALED UNTIL THEY LOOK TO GOD!** That is what God is teaching them—the hard way.

Receiving our message and repenting would be the easy way. But who listens to God today?

THE WHIRLWIND

At that point in the course of future events, another prophecy fills in some vital details.

After the Palestinians gain control of East Jerusalem, Israel will turn to Germany and the European Union for help. This will set the stage for a violent clash between the European Union and Islamic fundamentalism. The Bible refers to these two forces as the king of the north, led by Germany, and the king of the south—probably led by Iran. “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south *push at him*: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40). This *push* by the king of the south will probably be a clash directly related to Jerusalem. It could certainly involve cutting off oil to punish the king of the north, over a dispute about Jerusalem. (Europe receives more than one third of its oil from the Middle East.)

The king of the north is going to come against him like a “whirlwind.” *Gesenius* defines *whirlwind* this way: “a storm or tempest . . . to sweep away in a storm” or “to be fierce as a tempest.” *Strong’s Concordance* states, “by implication to cause to shiver with fear.” It leaves people terror-stricken.

After the German-led European armies conquer the mighty king of the south, the world will tremble and the Germans will feel invincible!

Little Judah will then no doubt ask them for protection. “He shall ENTER also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” (verse 41). The powerful European Union army will then ENTER the glorious land, or Israel. The word *enter* in no way indicates the use of force. The Germans will undoubtedly be invited in as a peacekeeping force.

The king of the north immediately enters *the glorious*

land, specifically Jerusalem. That is a strong indication that the war was triggered over that city. Anyhow, Jerusalem is their main concern.

The Vatican has said that Jerusalem must be an international city. The Catholic Church, like the Arabs, also has a passionate interest in this city.

The Vatican and Germany are the heart of the Holy Roman Empire. They have conquered Jerusalem several times before. And they are destined to do so one last time!

Even though Germany cannot help the Jews, the Germans do get involved in Jerusalem. The Catholic Church is going to unite with and then guide the European Union, or the king of the north—with Germany as the real power behind it.

Three great religions—Christianity, Judaism and Islam—all have an intense interest in Jerusalem. That city is the third-most holy site to the Muslims. It is the most holy city for the Jews. Christians consider it their first or second holiest city. In the end, it is going to bring disaster to all three religions. “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). Even the United Nations is burdened down with Jerusalem. Those nations that burden themselves with that city will be “CUT IN PIECES.” Instead of trusting God for a solution, they trust men.

Because of its past and future, God has more interest in that city than in any other city on Earth. GOD IS GOING TO RULE THE EARTH AND THE UNIVERSE FROM THERE!

This takes us to another critical end-time prophecy. Jerusalem is to enter one last bloodbath before the Messiah’s arrival

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Just like the ancient destructions of Jerusalem at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, Antiochus Epiphanes and the Romans, Jerusalem is to be surrounded by armies once more. This is part of the future abomination of desolation as pointed out by Daniel, when the armies of Europe surround Jerusalem (Daniel 11:41). Jeremiah also wrote, “For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north [this German-led EU bloc] saith the Lord; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah” (Jeremiah 1:13).

Why is this European army surrounding Jerusalem? At this point, the main power of the Arab world will already be destroyed. This army has just conquered the king of the south and is probably there to keep peace in Jerusalem. The Holy Roman Empire will undoubtedly make some kind of a peace pact to protect Jerusalem.

It will look like the world is about to have peace. This European power will *enter* into Jerusalem.

At that point, this European power will double-cross the Jews (see Ezekiel 23). It will become one of the greatest double-crosses in the history of man. At this point, people will realize that Judah’s “wound” leads to a cataclysmic end! **SUDDENLY, IN A MOMENT**, the time of Jacob’s trouble begins—the worst time of suffering ever on Earth.

However, God will afford protection to those who truly repent.

JERUSALEM’S FINAL CAPTIVITY

“He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power

over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps [or at his feet]" (Daniel 11:42-43). This is all part of the destructive rampage of the king of the north.

The unprecedented scale of bloodshed and conquest by the king of the north greatly disturbs the Asiatic millions in Russia and China. They will not sit idle. "But tidings *out of the east and out of the north* shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (verse 44). Russia and China will ally themselves against the king of the north. This will be very troubling to the beast power.

"And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (verse 45). The great religious beast of Revelation 13 will move its headquarters to Jerusalem out of *fear*. This will probably include the political beast as well. Both of these powers know how violent Russia and their allies can be. They need to remember only as far back as World War II. That is why "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble" them.

Here is an end-time prophecy that includes Israel and Judah. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah were oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go" (Jeremiah 50:33). ISRAEL AND JUDAH WERE NOT OPPRESSED TOGETHER IN THEIR ANCIENT CAPTIVITY. This is a prophecy for the end time. Israel went into captivity in 718-721 B.C., while Judah's was over 100 years later, in 585 B.C.

"A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the Lord, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men" (verse 35). Then the king of the north will be destroyed. His headquarters at that time will probably be in Jerusalem.

“As God overthrew SODOM AND GOMORRAH and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein. Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon. The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, and pangs as of a woman in travail” (verses 40-43). The European Union then will begin to tremble. This is the same fear mentioned in Daniel 11:44.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed totally by fire from heaven. Soon Europe is going to suffer destruction and be left like Sodom and Gomorrah! It too will receive fire from heaven.

The religious church will try to solve its problems by moving to Jerusalem. But that move will fail. Only God can bring the world *peace*. That is just what He says He will do. And that peace will begin in Jerusalem.

Before that, however, the crescendo of global tension will hurtle toward its explosive conclusion. The united armies of the massively populated Asian bloc will make their entrance. GREAT DESTRUCTION IS ABOUT TO LEAD TO GREATER DESTRUCTION.

THE BATTLE OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 talk specifically about the Asian superpower—the kings of the east. Verses 17-21

of chapter 39 describe their coming judgment:” And you, O mortal, say to every winged bird and to all the wild beasts: Thus said the Lord God: Assemble, come and gather from all around for the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you—a great sacrificial feast—upon the mountains of Israel, and eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the earth Thus will I manifest My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see the judgment that I executed and the power that I wielded against them.” They will be the only other world power, besides the European Union. God has reserved them to destroy most of the European power.

God is going to dry up the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. Massive armies shall flow into the Middle East and Europe—heading toward Jerusalem.

That makes it very difficult for the European army to use nuclear power. It doesn’t make much sense to bomb yourselves.

There will be only two real military powers left at that time—the king of the north and the Russia-China axis. They will meet and be ready to clash in the plain of Megiddo—located in northern Israel, where there is a huge air base and a gigantic area to assemble armies.

Great military strategists will think they are making all these plans. But in truth, **THE SUPREME MILITARY STRATEGIST BEHIND ALL THIS IS GOD!**

This event in Megiddo leads to another chain reaction. They see the Messiah coming to this Earth and both armies decide to fight *Him*, instead of each other.

“For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem” (Joel 3:1). Judah and Jerusalem (a type of all Israel) are in captivity. “**I WILL ALSO GATHER ALL NATIONS**, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead

with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land” (verse 2).

God says, “I WILL GATHER all nations.” This is the same language used in Zechariah 14:1-2: “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle . . .” The Messiah gathers the main armies of the Asiatic millions and those of the Holy Roman Empire to Jerusalem.

It is there that the Messiah puts an end to warfare and brings peace to the Earth (verses 3-4).

It all STARTED with one half of Jerusalem being captured!

Though the armies will *gather* in the plain of Megiddo, the battle involving “all nations” will take place in the valley of Jehoshaphat. This deep valley, or ravine, borders Jerusalem on the east, between the city and the Mount of Olives. Today it is more commonly known as the Kidron Valley.

Jehoshaphat means “judgment of the Eternal.” The rebellious and unrepentant nations of this world will be judged there by God for their disobedience!

The world’s armies will converge on Jerusalem to fight The Messiah. It is not the “battle of Armageddon” as some mistakenly assume. That is because it will *not* take place at Armageddon! It all revolves around *Jerusalem*.

Zechariah 14:12-13 graphically describe this supernatural confrontation at Jerusalem with the world’s armies. They will turn against each other in mistrust and fear as their very flesh decomposes and their eyes cease to see!

That is almost too much blood to even imagine. However, the Asiatic armies alone have 200 million soldiers.

THIS IS HOW GOD WILL “PLEAD WITH THEM”—IN THE ONLY LANGUAGE THEY UNDERSTAND!

Just the mention of these prophecies ought to frighten men into repentance. But men have no idea of how hard and rebellious they are!

“And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the Lord, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 31:9). God’s fiery furnace will be in Jerusalem! This is where God will refine His created Family.

After the dust settles from this incredible conflagration, The Messiah will establish His government in Jerusalem. Global peace will finally break out!

What looks so gloomy and dark in Jerusalem today is almost ready to start this chain reaction. It will lead to the greatest event ever to occur in history, not just the history of this Earth, but the history *of the universe*—THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST! Thank God that glorious event is about to explode on this planet! What a momentous time to be alive!

FOUR

Looking to New Jerusalem

AFTER ALL OF JERUSALEM'S BLOODY HISTORY, GOD HAS GLORIOUSLY good news. "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain; And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field" (Isaiah 40:3-6). This is describing an Elijah type so was to bring this message before the Messiah. "Every mountain and hill shall be made low" is obviously a prophecy for this end time.

There is still another job to be done. "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" (verse 9). The margin reference

in my Bible gives the correct translation: “O THOU that tellest good tidings to Zion” and “O THOU that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem.” THIS IS THE JOB OF GOD’S PEOPLE TODAY We deliver good tidings to sinning Zion and to Jerusalem. We are to “say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!” WE ARE DOING THAT TODAY—RIGHT NOW!

Herbert Armstrong thought God would have him fulfill this prophecy of Isaiah 40:9. Here is what he wrote in his “Personal” in the October-November 1980 *Plain Truth*: “The Arab world wants the Old City of Jerusalem back into Arab control. Some nations contend Jerusalem should be made an international city. But the State of Israel has control, having wrested it from Jordan in the war of 1967.

“What has been happening in Jerusalem since the Israeli takeover in that war?

“I have been somewhat personally involved in events there since that war.

“Immediately after the death of my wife of 50 years, April 15, 1967, I flew to Jerusalem. I had two urgent reasons. I had seriously wanted to buy time on Radio Jerusalem, then owned and operated by the State of Jordan. Also I wanted to get away from Pasadena immediately into a totally different environment to ease the grief of losing the companionship of my beloved wife and partner in God’s work.

“I wanted not only to go on Jerusalem Radio, I wanted to manipulate the increase of its power to 1 million watts to give coverage over the entire Middle East. At Amman, Jordan, and in Jerusalem, in conference with the Jordanian government and its radio management, I arranged for a price for a choice time on an extended contract whereby our monthly payments for that time would finance the Jordan government in the purchase of German Telefunken equipment to boost the station power to this maximum

wattage. It was one of the largest contracts for purchase of radio time ever signed.

“On Sunday morning, June 4, 1967, I left my home on our campus in England for London airport to fly to Amman to broadcast in person that evening, the first broadcast on this new contract. En route to the airport we heard on the car radio the sensational news that the Six Day War had started early that morning. No planes were allowed to get through to Beirut or to Amman. My broadcast on Jerusalem Radio never got started. By the following Friday, June 9, the Old City of Jerusalem was in Israeli hands

“A MESSAGE (Isaiah 40:9-10) IS YET TO GO BY A SERVANT OF GOD TO THE CITIES OF JUDAH. IN WHATEVER WAY GOD WILLS, IT SHALL GO.”

Mr. Armstrong was trying so hard to fulfill this prophecy. HE KNEW A SERVANT OF GOD HAD TO DO IT IN THIS END TIME. God prophesied it would happen! Now we have been commissioned by God to do this job.

This prophecy shows we are very close to the end. We are ALREADY INTRODUCING God to the cities of Judah. YOU DON'T INTRODUCE SOMEONE UNLESS HE IS ABOUT TO APPEAR! That is how wonderful our message is. We are already INTRODUCING the new Ruler who is to rule Jerusalem for 1,000 years!

The fact that this prophecy is being fulfilled means the Messiah's return is imminent. We are feeling the intensity! This is Jerusalem's *only* hope! This is mankind's *only* hope! This is more tremendous than anything mankind has ever imagined. Isaiah does more than just call it “GOOD TIDINGS.” He says, “BEHOLD YOUR GOD!”

If we can catch this vision before Christ returns, we will be given a magnificent reward. “Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him” (verse 10). God has a reward for YOU if you do His work.

THE GLORY OF JERUSALEM

God will choose Jerusalem yet. “Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 1:17). As we will see, this choice will extend into new Jerusalem and eternity. The whole universe will be ruled from Jerusalem. When God chooses a city, *expect* it to be SPECTACULAR BEYOND ANYTHING MAN CAN EVEN IMAGINE!

Once the Messiah comes, He will establish His headquarters in Jerusalem. For a thousand years, this revitalized and renewed city will serve as the headquarters of the whole Earth. “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).

It’s almost time to start rejoicing. “Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her” (Isaiah 66:10). Soon everybody will be rejoicing over Jerusalem. She is going to have an “abundance of ... glory” (verse 11). “For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees” (verse 12). Peace, *instead of blood*, will flow out of Jerusalem LIKE A RIVER! Jerusalem has been flowing with blood for most of the last 6,000 years. What a glorious change we are about to see. “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (verse 13). In this present evil world, there has been unparalleled suffering in that city.

SHORTLY, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL LOOK TO JERUSALEM FOR COMFORT. WHAT A CHANGE!

“And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies. For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many” (verses 14-16). God is pleading with man now to hear His Word. Soon He will appeal to them with a sword—the only language man seems to understand. If only man would listen now and escape the nuclear sword!

God is offering you a chance now to live and rule in this city with Him in the near future! That is exciting enough to make us faint, if we truly understand it.

God will reach into the lives of every repentant person on Earth—from Jerusalem.

“In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be *as God*, as the angel of the Lord before them” (Zechariah 12:6-8). Those leaders in Jerusalem then are going to be “as God.” That means Christ and all of His rulers speak as God does!

“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” (verses 10-12). God will correct all of humanity by getting them focused on God and Jerusalem!

You must know someone deeply before you can MOURN for them like that. THIS WORLD WILL FINALLY GET TO REALLY KNOW THEIR GOD! This world's religions do not know God. They think they do. BUT LOOK HOW DEEPLY AND INTENSELY THEY WILL KNOW GOD THEN! THIS IS THE GREATEST NEWS WE COULD EVER HEAR!

EARTH THEN RULED BY GOD

Daniel 2 gives us a broad view of the prophetic progression of the ruling governments over this world, right up into this time when the Messiah will rule. In verse 44 we read: “And in the time of those kings [the kings of the north in this context], the *God of Heaven will establish a kingdom* that shall never be destroyed, a kingdom that shall not be transferred to another people. It will *crush and wipe out all these kingdoms*, but shall itself last forever.”

We are extremely close to the end of man's governments, which have brought utter corruption, misery and death upon the Earth. God is about to step in and establish His government, led by the Messiah, administered by His faithful people, a government that will last forever. Daniel 7 also speaks of this time. Verses 13-14: “As I looked on, in the night vision one like a human being came with the clouds of heaven; He reached the Ancient of Days and was presented to Him. Dominion, glory, and kingship were given to Him; all peoples and nations of every language must serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and His kingship, one that shall

not be destroyed.”

This is that Messiah who will rule forever! He, of the line of King David (Isaiah 11:1, 10-11) will fulfill God’s promise to David of an *eternal line* ruling on his throne (2 Samuel 7:13; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 33:17).

“But *wait for Me*—says the Lord—for the day when *I arise* as an accuser; when I decide to gather nations, to bring kingdoms together, to pour out My indignation on them, all My blazing anger” (Zephaniah 3:8). Indeed, we continue to *wait*, patiently, for that final coming of the Messiah to bring justice to the surface of the Earth! He will establish His temple in Jerusalem, and from there instruction and *peace* will be spread across all the Earth.

And the many peoples shall go and say: “Come, let us go up to the Mount of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob; that He may instruct us in His ways, and that we may walk in His paths.” For instruction shall come forth from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Thus He will judge among the nations and arbitrate for the many peoples, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war (Isaiah 2:3-4)

RULE FROM JERUSALEM NEVER ENDS

The glorious future of Jerusalem will not end after the thousand years of the Millennium. God tells us it will serve a special purpose for all eternity. The promise that was made to David and reconfirmed by the Prophet Jeremiah will be fulfilled. God will rule upon the throne of David, which is actually His throne (Isaiah 9:6). Verse 7 states, “Of

the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

After the Messiah returns, the throne will be moved back to Jerusalem. There will be *endless* growth of God’s government. IT WILL GROW FOREVER!

“Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see *Jerusalem* a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby” (Isaiah 33:20-21).

At that time, Jerusalem will be a quiet habitation. Some may think these verses refer to the Jerusalem of the Millennium, but notice: Jerusalem is described as a “tabernacle that *shall not be taken down*.” The Jerusalem of the Millennium will be taken down. But the Jerusalem described in Isaiah 33 is a tabernacle that shall not be taken down. This can only be referring to a *new* Jerusalem, which will last forever. From there, God’s rule will extend out into the universe—from the very throne of David in Jerusalem!

