

# Introduction to the End-Times

## 2. Signs of the End-Times



Signs are a part of every day life, they tell us where to go, what to do and how to behave. Signs are designed to inform us so we have time to make choices. In order for a sign to exist, someone had to have the foresight to warn or inform those who follow. For example, if you were driving a car down the highway and the bridge was out ahead. If you ignored the warning about the bridge, you put yourself in danger.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus warned the Pharisees about their failure to recognize signs. And in the process, they crucified the Messiah, and 37 years later Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed.

2. He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';

3 "and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. Matthew 16:2-3

God in his mercy uses signs to warn people about coming events, so preparations can be made. Before Jesus came into the world, God through the prophets gave very specific information regarding the Messiah and so when His Son came, Israel would be prepared to accept Him. Jesus healed the blind, lame and lepers. He raised the dead, and was Himself resurrected, a sign to Israel, he was their Messiah and Savior. Israel could choose to accept or reject the signs, their choice to reject Christ as Messiah has resulted in two thousand years of misery for the descendents of Israel.

In the End Times, God again deals with Israel. Gabriel informed Daniel over 2500 years ago his people Israel and city of Jerusalem would be the center of world focus (Daniel 9:24). They would serve the role as God's prophetic clock. In the End-Times, God would restore the Jews to the land of Israel.

### 1. Israel as a sign



One of their clearest signs presented in scripture, of the end-times is the nation of Israel. Before Israel even entered the land, under the leadership Moses, the future of the nation was declared. Moses told Israel if they were obedient as a nation, they would be blessed above all the nations of the world.

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. Deuteronomy 28:1 (1450 B.C.)

#### *Israel Scattered*



Moses also warned Israel, if they rebelled against the Lord, they would suffer rebuke. The nation, even before they entered the land learned from Moses, about their future.

64 "Then the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known-wood and stone.

65 "And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

66 "Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

67 "In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see. Deuteronomy 28:64-67

In A.D. 70, 37-years after Israel rejected Christ as Messiah, as foretold in the book of Daniel (Daniel 9:26), over 1,000,000 Jews died at the hands of Romans under the General and future emperor Titus. Sixty

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years after Titus, Hadrian massacred another 580,000 Jews who had rebelled against Rome. Hadrian was determined to erase the history of the Jewish people from the world. Hadrian renamed Jerusalem and Judea, Jews were no longer allowed in the area. The people of Israel were scattered throughout the Roman Empire fulfilling the words of Moses written 1400 years earlier.



Arch of Titus celebrating Roman victory over Jerusalem

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. Daniel 9:26 (539 B.C.)

The history of the Jewish people for the last 2000 years continues to fulfill what Moses said would happen to Israel. The Jewish people have maintained their identity, but were at the mercy of the nations, they suffered at the hands of the Byzantines, Crusades, Muslims, Europeans, Russians and most recently the Nazi's. Moses warned Israel in verse Deuteronomy 28:66, "*Your life shall hand in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life*".

### *Israel gathered*

Moses also promised Israel they would one day be gathered after they scattered and they would be restored to the land of their fathers, the land of Israel. They would be blessed even more then forefathers.

- 1 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you,
- 2 "and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,
- 3 "that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you.
- 4 "If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. Deuteronomy 30:1-4 (1450 B.C.)

The gathering of the Jews in Israel today was foretold 3400 years ago, even before Israel ever possessed the land of Israel. One of the most prophesied events in scripture is the end times gathering of Israel. (See Jeremiah 30:3, Isaiah 11:10-16, Isaiah 14:2, Ezekiel 36-37, Joel 3:1-2) Ezekiel writes,



Jews gathered from Ethiopia fulfilling Isaiah 11:11

8 "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.

11 "You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'  
12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.  
Ezekiel 38:8 (592 B.C.)

According to Ezekiel, after a long period, in the "latter days" (Last days) Israel would return to a land "Long" desolate. The people of the "New" nation would be collected from many *nations* and *many people*. The people are living in safety in un walled villages, in a formally desolate lands. This description can only match the present day state of Israel. The Jewish nation is gathered from many people and nations, after an almost 2000-year period of desolation.

In May 1948, after the death of 6,000,000 Jews in Nazi Germany, the world out of sympathy for the Jewish descendents of voted small Jewish nation into existence in the land of Palestine. Palestine was the name given the land by Hadrian almost 1900 years earlier

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when he tried to erase memory of the Jewish people and their land. The Jewish descendents choose the name Israel for their new nation.



### 2. Jerusalem the focus of world attention

Jesus Christ was with His disciples in the Temple, and said the following, days before he was betrayed and killed on the cross, regarding the city of Jerusalem.

37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 "See! Your house is left to you desolate;  
39 "for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' " Matthew 23:37-39

Jerusalem, as the seat of Jewish authority and power rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus specifically talks about a relationship he had with Jerusalem, who has constantly rebelled against His authority killing the prophets. Jesus says Jerusalem would undergo a period of desolation after their rejection of Him. However Jesus promises to return to Jerusalem in the future, when the people of Jerusalem acknowledge, He is Messiah.

In the book of Zechariah 520 years before the birth of Jesus, Zechariah foretold the worldwide central focus of Jerusalem, when it was a barren forgotten city. Destroyed by Babylon in 586 B.C., the Jews of Persia preferred the safety of Persia, rather than return to a defenseless city without walls. Zechariah however wrote, the world would one day be gathered against the city and its Jewish inhabitants in the latter days.

2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

3 "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

9 "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah 12:2-3,9-10 (520 B.C.)

Even before Jesus was born, Zechariah through the Holy Spirit saw the Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming when Israel would acknowledge Jesus is Messiah. Israel rejected Jesus the Messiah at his first coming, as both Isaiah (Isaiah 53) and Daniel (Daniel 9:26) foretold. Israel in the end-days would understand their mistake, and repent and call out to Jesus the Messiah, who would return in power as foretold, when Israel recognized Him in the last days. Zechariah wrote, Israel would look on "*Me, whom they pierced*".

#### *Why is Jerusalem so important?*

- 2100 B.C., over 4000 years ago, Abraham was sent to the city of Jerusalem. God told Abraham this land is given to his descendents forever. God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob regarding the city of Jerusalem.
- 1000 B.C.. Abraham descendent, David would conquer the city from its Jebusite occupants and make it the capital of his nation. Later, God would instruct David, on Mt. Moriah (The Temple Mount) a Temple is to be built by his son Solomon.
- In 586 B.C. the Babylonians destroy the city and temple, 70 years later the Temple is rebuilt and the Jews are allowed to return.
- 63 B.C. the Romans conquer the city of Jerusalem, making it of the Roman Empire.
- A.D. 33, Jesus Christ is crucified by the Romans after He is rejected as Israel's Messiah.

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- In A.D. 70, the Romans under Titus conquer the city. They destroy the city and Temple, 1,000,000 Jews are killed.
- A.D. 132, The Jews under the leadership of Bar Kochba rebel against the Romans, and attempt to establish a kingdom. The Romans, led by Hadrian crush the rebellion and 580,000 Jews are massacred.
- The Romans rebuild the city, renaming it Capitolina Aelia, and they rename Judea, Palestine after the Philistines.
- A.D. 325 Rome becomes Christian when the Emperor Constantine proclaims himself Christian and his kingdom Christian. Jerusalem and the Holy sites under Helen, Constantine's mother are uncovered.
- A.D. 638 The Muslims conquer the city of Jerusalem from the Byzantines (Romans) and proclaim it a Muslim city.
- A.D. 687 Muslim's build the Dome of the Rock over the site of the Temple Mount, proclaiming Islam is the final and true religion.
- A.D. 1099, Christian Europe conquers Jerusalem from the Muslims and the Muslims retake the city 89 years later under Saladin.
- A.D. 1865 Jews start migrating to Jerusalem from Europe in preparation of the Messiah.
- A.D. 1918 Western allies, under Allenbie conquer Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks, successors of the Muslims.
- A.D. May 1948, Jewish state is established, with Jerusalem declared an International city, by the United Nations, after six million Jews die in the Holocaust. The same day five Arab armies attack the new state of Israel and loose the war, Jews declare Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish people. East Jerusalem with the Temple mount remains under Arab control.
- A.D. 1967, Jews take possession of East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount after the Muslim nations attack Israel. Israel for the first time in over 2000 years, as an independent nation, has control of the Temple Mount site.
- Today, Jerusalem is an important city to over ½ of the world's populations; 1.3 Billion Muslims, 1 Billion Catholics, 1 Billion Protestants and 20 million Jews. The world views the problems in Jerusalem between Muslims and Jews as key to world peace.
- Growing pressure in Jerusalem by orthodox groups to tear down the Muslim, Dome of the Rock and rebuild the Temple, make Jerusalem the focus of world attention and battle as Muslim vow to defend their "Sacred Sites".

Zechariah warned of a day when all the nations would be gathered against Jerusalem. Revelation tells us at the end of this age, the armies of the earth will march toward Jerusalem and gather north of the city in a place called Armageddon, the hills of Megiddo. (Revelation 16:13) Here the rejected Messiah will save his people, when they call out to Him. (Zechariah 12:10)



### 3. The Coming Third Temple

Jesus was leaving the Temple with His disciples heading toward the Mt. of Olives, when he told them about the coming events concerning Jerusalem and the Temple.

1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.  
2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matthew 24:1-2

Here Jesus warned them about the coming destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 when Romans destroyed both the city and Temple and 1 million Jews lost their lives.

Jesus also talked about a Third Temple, one which can only be rebuilt on the Dome of the Rock the Third Most Holy site to Islam. Jesus talking about the end said,

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14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), Matthew 24:14-15

In verse 14, Jesus speaking about the end makes reference to the *Abomination of Desolation, Daniel and the Holy Place*. The Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel is the



coming end-times desecration of the Jewish Temple (Daniel 8:13, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11). The Holy Place is referring to the rocky hill, Mt. Moriah. There Abraham was sent (Genesis 12:7), David purchased, and Solomon built the Temple. In order to have an Abomination of Desolation, which Daniel referred to, you first need a Temple. Before you can have a Temple the Dome of the Rock must be torn down. The Muslim world might object to this.

Jesus also warned what would follow the Abomination of Desolation, a period of unequalled horror in the history of humanity.

21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Matthew 24:21-22

Paul in writing about the Antichrist and the end-times makes it clear there needs to be a Temple. Paul writing before the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple, talked about the end of the age.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed,

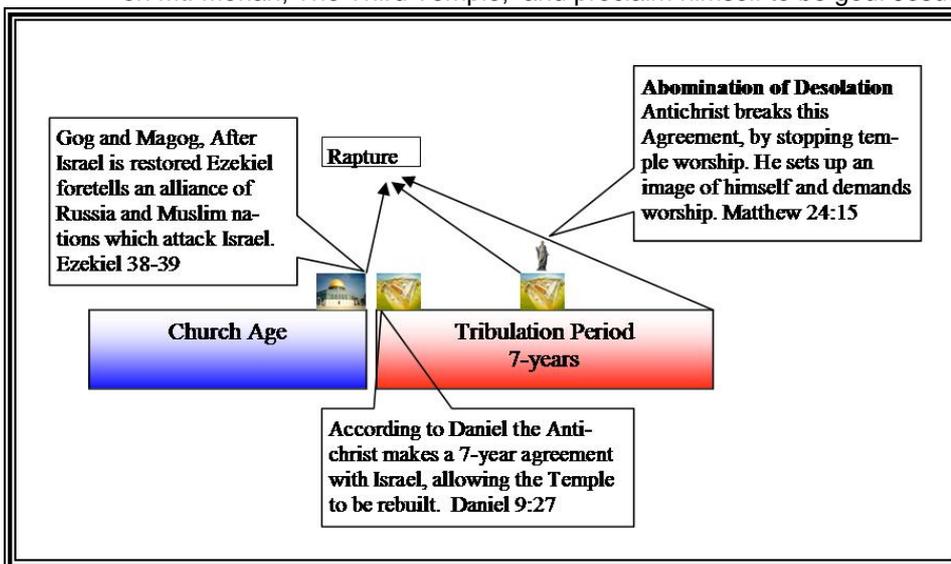
the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2 Thes 2:3-4

The "Day" Paul refers to the Day of the Lord, the End-times. The "man of sin" is the Antichrist, referred to in Revelation and Daniel. What this individual does in the last days is enter the Temple on Mt. Moriah, The Third Temple, and proclaim himself to be god. Jesus refers to this act as the

"Abomination of Desolation". Paul is speaking about the very thing Jesus talks about in Matthew 24:15. The problem is this, in order for this to be fulfilled, the Jewish Temple needs to be built. For the Jewish Temple to be built the Dome of the Rock needs to be removed.

Today, there is an active movement to rebuild the Jewish Temple. Many in Israel,



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see the Dome of the Rock, as Islam's only claim to Jerusalem, therefore many see its destruction as a way to free Jerusalem from Islam's claim. Many religious Jews want to build a Third Temple as their right and obligation to God. Many in this camp, blame Israel's problems on their lack of obedience by building a Temple.

The building of a Third Temple is by no means an easy task. In order for this to occur, Islam as a major power must have its ability to threaten Israel removed. The Third Temple could only be built, following a conflict with Islam.

For this reason, Daniel in the 70 Weeks prophecy, Daniel 9:27 informs us this Temple agreement will be made with many and confirmed with military might. The agreement allowing Israel to rebuild the Temple is the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week, or the Tribulation period.

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9:27

### 4. The Coming invasion of Gog and Magog



The Muslim nations understand the risk to the Dome of the Rock, and have threatened Israel with world war if the Dome was destroyed to make room for a Temple. This Islamic invasion into Israel was in fact the subject of Ezekiel's vision over 2500 years ago.

Ezekiel wrote in period of Israel upheaval, when Israel was under the Babylonian threat. Ezekiel was a priest taken captive by the Babylonians to the land of Babylon in 597 B.C. God Used Ezekiel to write a message to Israel and the world about their future.

In this message, God told Israel they would again be gathered as nation in the "Latter time" after a long period of desolation. They would be gathered from many nations and people. Ezekiel explains the gathering of Israel from the nations in chapters 36 and 37.

In chapter 38 and 39, after Israel is gathered, Ezekiel refers to a coming invasion into Israel in the "Latter days" after Israel is gathered from the

nations.

8 "After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.  
Ezekiel 38:8

Only two times in Israel's history was the nation gathered back into the land, the first time following King Cyrus of Persia's defeat of Babylon in 539 B.C. and the second, the ingathering of the current nation of Israel.

Ezekiel mentions specific nations, which today are enemies of Israel and have threatened to annihilate the Jewish state. Ezekiel specifically mentions Persia and its allies of Gog and Magog to the North. Persia, is known as Iran today, and nation far North or Israel which is an ally of Iran is Russia.

1 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.

5 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;

6 "Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops-many people are with you. Ezekiel 38:1-6

Iran and Russia, are involved a scenario that many see, including Jews and Christians as the next major Bible prophecy about to be fulfilled. Iran one of the wealthiest oil countries with no lack of natural resources, claims it wants a nuclear reactor for peaceful energy purposes. Iran has also developed missiles capable of reaching Israel and Europe. Russia has built the reactor, which is

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has not yet been activated with nuclear fuel. However, Russia has agreed to supply the reactor with fuel once the UN agrees. (IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency)

Iran is also the sworn enemy of Israel, threatening to annihilate the Jewish State in the future. Israel along with the United States has threatened to attack Iran with the military option if they insist on their nuclear ambitions.

Iran has also threatened to attack Israel if Israel moves on the Dome of the Rock. Time is ticking on a conflict between Israel and Iran. The problem for Israel is this; do they wait for Iran to acquire nuclear weapons before they respond? On the other hand, do they attack Iran and upset the world?

Over 2500 years ago, Ezekiel wrote about this coming conflict between Israel and its enemies in the "Latter days". Ezekiel also wrote about people in the day this prophecy is fulfilled looking back to the words spoken by the prophets.

16 "You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

17 'Thus says the Lord God: "Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?" Ezekiel 38:16-17

The day when these events take place, people will open the Bible, the book of Ezekiel and see the God of Israel is in control. The world will see The God of Israel is the "True" God as this Russian/Islamic invasion into Israel is defeated.

23 "Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord." ' Ezekiel 38:23

Following the defeat of Gog and Magog in the land of Israel, Ezekiel gives the instruction of building the Millennium Temple, when the "Glory of the Lord" will come to his Temple. (Ezekiel 40-43) The war of Gog of Magog could very easily be the result of Israel destroying the Dome of the Rock with world and Islamic outrage. The planned invasion could very well be to restore Muslim control of the Dome of the Rock. In their desire to destroy Israel, the Muslim nations are defeated.

After this war and Israel's victory over Islam, Israel would then begin construction of the Third Temple with a worldwide agreement. This would begin the tribulation period.

