

Restoring the Kingdom to Israel

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The contents in this book could change your life forever.

Before you begin reading, say a quick prayer, asking God to give you wisdom for today and the days still yet to come.

INTRODUCTION

Israel's destiny is the Kingdom of God. From the birth of the Jewish people as a nation at the first Passover, God chose Israel to be a Kingdom who would worship Him and bless the whole world.

*Exodus 19:5-6 - "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then **out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.** Although the whole earth is mine, **you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**" These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.*

Just as God commanded light into darkness in the beginning of creation, He chose Israel to be the light to the nations of the world. Moreover, the Prophet Daniel spoke of a day when the Kingdom will be handed over to the people of the Most High and Messiah will reign and rule over all the earth forever. (Daniel 7:27)

This book will explain the history of the Jewish people and God's Kingdom in a way that you may not have heard it before. So, say a prayer and ask God to grant you revelation so that His Kingdom might be fully restored to Israel and to you.

I

IN THE BEGINNING

God's plan for His Kingdom started long before He designated Israel as the only people chosen to carry forth this destiny.

Before the creation of this world and mankind, God's chief worship leader was an angel named Lucifer. But Lucifer desired to be like God and to sit on God's throne. Lucifer wanted to be worshipped and have authority over all things for himself. So he launched a rebellion against God which God speedily crushed. Lucifer was banished from Heaven along with the angels who had joined in his rebellion, and he became known as Satan, which means *the adversary* of God. (This occurred between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 and is reflected in more detail in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.)

Soon after this rebellion when God spoke creation into existence, Satan was thrown down to the earth in the form of a serpent. God created man to rule over Satan. His purpose for mankind has always been to have a Kingdom on the earth, displaying His sovereign authority

as Creator of the Universe by bearing His image, ruling the earth in accordance with His ways, and trampling His adversary. God granted Adam the keys to His Kingdom. (See Genesis 1-2.)

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve, who were made in God's likeness, took the advice of the serpent whom they were supposed to rule over, and in the interest of personal advancement, disobeyed God's instructions and displayed more of the adversary's likeness than God's. The desire for *knowledge of good and evil* drew them into rebellion.

Therefore, Adam and Eve were banished from Eden, just as God had told them would be the consequence for such self-righteousness. They lost the right to rule the earth with God and the keys to the Kingdom of God were taken from them. However, even in their punishment, God granted a ray of hope by promising that one of the woman's descendants, her seed, would crush the head of the serpent and re-possess the keys to the Kingdom of God for mankind. This promised descendant is who we have come to know as the Messiah—the Anointed One of God. (See Genesis 3.)

Was this calling fulfilled by one of their immediate sons? No. Adam and Eve's way of rebellion against God's ways very quickly became evident in their son Cain who killed their son Abel. (See Genesis 4.) As Adam and Eve

had more children and the generations continued down the line, it became evident that every thought in the minds of Adam and Eve's descendants tended to evil all the time. (See Genesis 6:5.)

A Remnant of One

Therefore, God started over again with a remnant of one man—Noah. God walked in relationship with Noah and instructed Noah to build an ark which would house a remnant of creation. Once Noah and his family were safe, God filled the earth with a great flood, killing and destroying everyone and everything that was not inside Noah's Ark. (See Genesis 6-9.)

As generations continued to be born, mankind proved to have an innate determination to rebel against God just like Adam and Eve had. Instead of desiring to rule the earth as a Kingdom for and with God, they took rebellion to a whole new level and gathered together to build a kingdom for themselves. In the likeness of the adversary, they put their *knowledge of good and evil* to work and built the Tower of Babel to make a name for themselves. This tower was their symbol of self-empowerment and rejection of God altogether. So, God scattered the peoples to the ends of the earth and gave them different languages in order to impede any further rebellions of this sort. (See Genesis 11.)

At this point, God's Kingdom destiny for mankind as His image bearers in the earth seemed hopeless.

One Chosen Man

Therefore, God again selected one man as a remnant to carry forth His Kingdom purposes for mankind—Abraham. God entered into a covenant with Abraham, sealed with blood sacrifices, through which He promised to bless Abraham by making Him into a nation of people—a Kingdom that would bless all the nations of the earth. (See Genesis 12, 15.)

Essentially, God exclusively transferred to Abraham the right to the keys to the Kingdom of God and the governing role originally bestowed to Adam and Eve. Now, the Messiah, who would crush the head of the serpent and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth, would come through one of Abraham's descendants.

Abraham believed God and because of Abraham's faith, God treated him as if he had a perfect record of righteousness, even though he was not totally without sin. Abraham's faith in God was evidenced by his actions of obedience. For example, he left everything he had ever known to follow God's call including his country, his father's household and traditions, and his ancestor's approach to religion and spiritual life. He set out looking to establish the Kingdom of God in the earth, no matter

what it cost him because he trusted in God's promise.

Now that the Messiah was going to be born through Abraham, was it Abraham's immediate son who would bear God's image and trample the head of the adversary? No. Abraham and his wife Sarah waited a long time for an heir, even past the point of her menstruation and child-bearing years. Eventually, angels visited them and told them that they would have a son and they were to name him Isaac. Through a miraculous conception, Sarah became pregnant at age ninety after being barren her whole life. Abraham was one hundred years old when their son Isaac arrived.

After a while, God tested Abraham's faith to see if he would falter in obedience as Adam and Eve had. God told Abraham to go to Mount Moriah and offer his firstborn and only son Isaac as a sacrifice. They journeyed for three days and Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice. According to any concept of *knowledge of good and evil*, this made no sense, but Abraham did as God said and passed the test. After this, God promised that on this very same mountain, He would provide the fulfillment of all He had promised. (Read Genesis 22.)

God's covenant with Abraham was transferred exclusively to his son Isaac. Then, through another miraculous conception, Isaac and his wife Rebekah had

twin sons Esau and Jacob. Esau was the elder and apparent heir. However, the birthright of inheriting the right to the keys to the Kingdom of God was foreordained by God to pass to Jacob, the younger brother. Long story short, through a series of events, Esau rejected his birthright and sold it to Jacob for a bowl of lentils. Therefore, God's covenant with Abraham transferred exclusively from Isaac to Jacob, whose name God later changed to Israel.

Israel had twelve sons who had sons and daughters and became the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob's favorite son, Joseph, had two dreams from God showing that the rest of his family was going to bow down to him and serve him. Jacob, as God's covenant carrier in his generation who knew the prophecies and promises given his fathers, took note of this. It is possible that Jacob considered that Joseph might be the promised Messiah who was going to be entrusted with the keys to the Kingdom of God. Joseph's brothers however, rejected Joseph entirely and threw him in a pit to leave him for dead before selling him to some Gentiles passing by. The Gentiles brought Joseph to Egypt to serve as a slave. After many years and a series of divinely orchestrated events, Joseph was appointed second in command to Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the world at that time. Pharaoh also changed Joseph's name to Zaphnath-Paaneah in order for

him to seem less Hebrew and more Egyptian. (See Genesis 41:45.) Soon after this, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to acquire food because there was famine in the land of Canaan where they were still living. After all the years that had passed and the changes that had taken place, Joseph's brothers did not recognize Joseph at first but considered him to be a leader of the Gentiles. But when they finally did recognize him as their brother, they were grieved and asked for his mercy and forgiveness.

The God of Israel received great glory on a global basis during this time. Joseph had God-given wisdom and was a righteous image-bearer for God with no record of sin according to Scripture. When this was combined with Joseph's position of authority, Joseph was responsible for feeding the whole world during a time of global famine. However, God had a different kind of Kingdom in mind for His people than worldly influence, political power, and philanthropy. He had a plan to bring forth image-bearers who were second to no one but Him, the way it had originally been in the Garden of Eden. Furthermore, Jacob prophesied that the scepter of God's Kingdom would be carried not through his son Joseph but through Judah. (See Genesis 49.)

One Chosen Nation and Kingdom

Later, after Jacob's descendants had multiplied through the course of several generations, God chose the whole

nation of Israel for His purposes. God sent Moses to deliver them from Egyptian slavery. God worked miracles for Moses as His servant so that the Jewish people would see the power of the Kingdom of Heaven follow Moses as His chosen servant. Finally, after nine plagues of judgment against the Egyptians and their false gods, Moses told Pharaoh that God was going to send the Destroyer to kill all the first born sons in Egypt. At the same time, Moses told the Israelites to slaughter a lamb for each household and paint the lamb's blood on the doorpost of their homes. When God saw the blood on the doorposts, He would *pass over* the house and not allow the Destroyer to enter. Instead of death, God now required His people to dedicate to Him every firstborn male as a priest of God. This would mean that almost every Jewish household would have a priest in it to keep the ways of God constantly before all of His people. (See Exodus 1-13.)

After their deliverance from Egypt, God instructed the Israelites to wash and ceremonially cleanse themselves so that He could enter into covenant with them. At Sinai, God's power appeared in an all-consuming fire over the Mount, and wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone. The Israelites were afraid of God because they recognized that God was too holy for them to approach on their own and knew that they would die if they

entered God's presence or spoke to Him directly. Therefore, they requested that Moses be the Mediator between them and God, and God granted their request. From this point forward, according to the law, the Jewish people could not approach God directly but required a Mediator to stand between them and God. In their generation, it was Moses, but Moses promised that in keeping with Israel's need for a Mediator, God would appoint a Prophet like Moses, the Messiah, who would speak the words of God and be the One to whom Israel must listen even more closely than they did Moses. (See Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5, 18.)

It was at Sinai that God gave His people the Torah and entered into covenant with Israel which was sealed with the blood of sacrifices. (See Exodus 19-24.) The Torah instituted the commandments, statutes, and rules and which God required the Israelites to keep and obey. The Torah also established the sacrificial system by which Israel could atone for their sins through blood sacrifices. When individuals or the collective community of Israel committed violations of the Torah, either knowingly or unintentionally, the Torah system requires the shedding of the blood of an unblemished sacrifice to atone for their sins. The Torah commands that at God's designated place for sacrifice, the sins of the people must be confessed as they lay their hands upon a spotless

sacrificial lamb, transferring their sins to the lamb. Then, the lamb is slaughtered, shedding its blood as atonement and dying the death penalty in the place of the person who had committed error. According to the Torah, only blood can make atonement for the soul. Without the shedding of blood, there is no atonement. (This is why Jewish people do not eat blood and why kosher butchers drain blood the way that they do to this day.)

Leviticus 17:11-12 NKJV - "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." Therefore I said to the children of Israel, "No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood."

Through obedience to the Torah, God had granted the keys to His Kingdom, to righteousness, and to eternal life exclusively to Israel out of all the peoples of the earth.

Leviticus 18:5 - "Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live [have eternal life] by them. I am the LORD." (See also Deuteronomy 4:1, 40, 5:33, 6:24-25, 8:1, 16:20, 30:16, 19.)

If Israel listened to God and obeyed the Torah, they would be His royal Kingdom people and would rule the earth. God would raise Israel high above all nations to

display His wisdom, righteousness, and holiness as a blessing to all the earth.

*Deuteronomy 4:6 - Observe them carefully, **for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations**, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."*

On the other hand, if Israel went the way of Adam and Eve, displaying the likeness of God's adversary through disobedience to the Torah, then there would be consequences. In fact, the Torah specifically outlines the blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. (Please read Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28.)

A New Generation

Unfortunately, the Israelites in the wilderness repeatedly questioned Moses' authority as God's only appointed Mediator. As the consequence for such insolence, God was ready to destroy the Israelites and start all over again with a remnant of one man—Moses. But Moses interceded for Israel and God did not destroy them. It was at this time that the Levites proved faithful to God, siding with Moses and the Lord, even if it meant slaying their own rebellious family members. For this, the Levites were appointed as the only ones who would serve in God's Temple, rather than the firstborn from every

Jewish family. With this change, out of all the tribes of Israel, only one tribe was allowed to draw near to God instead of a priest from every household. (See Exodus 32-33, Numbers 3.)

After one year in the wilderness, it was time for Israel to inherit the Promised Land. Moses sent twelve spies into the Land to bring back a report. Although all twelve agreed that it was a good land, only two of the spies believed that God was able to give it to them. The people of Israel rejected the report of the two spies and agreed with the unbelief of the ten spies. As a consequence for this rebellion, God was again ready to disinherit the people of Israel and start over with only Moses by multiplying Moses' descendants into a new generation which would inherit His promises and His Kingdom. However, Moses again interceded for Israel. Therefore, God decreed that Israel would have to stay in the wilderness for forty years until the entire generation from twenty years of age and older had died. None of them would be allowed to inherit the Promised Land. Their children, who had no *knowledge of good and evil*, would possess it. After God told them of this consequence, they tried to take the Promised Land for themselves but this attempt was miserably defeated. (See Numbers 13-14, Deuteronomy 1:29.)

Towards the end of their wilderness journey, when they

were about to engage in battle on their way to inheriting the Promised Land, the Israelites again rebelled against God and Moses. By this point, the former generation had almost entirely passed on, and the new generation became impatient, thinking that God had brought them this far only to let them die without fulfilling His promises. For this, God unleashed venomous serpents against them which bit them with lethal bites. However, God instructed Moses to lift up a pole with a bronze replica of the serpent on it so that anyone who looked with faith at the bronze snake would be healed and would live. (See Numbers 21.)

After God gave Israel the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership, there were times when Israel did well in obeying the Torah and remained faithful to God. At other times however, they revealed the likeness of the adversary as in Adam and Eve's rebellion and failed to adhere to God and His ways. When they failed, adversaries were allowed to rule over them for a time but when they sincerely cried out to God for mercy, God delivered them. During this time, the Jewish people's devotion to God and the Torah waned. Everyone did what was right in their own sight, according to their own *knowledge of good and evil*, and often according to the ways of the pagan nations. (See the Book of Judges.)

A Human King

Eventually, Israel asked God to give them a King so that they could be like all the other nations. In this, they were partially right and partially wrong. They knew they were supposed to be a Kingdom for God on the earth, but they were rejecting God as their rightful King. Nevertheless, God granted their request and appointed a man named Saul from the tribe of Benjamin as the first King of Israel. With their first human King, would Israel fulfill their destiny as a Kingdom of God on the earth? No. Saul did well at first in remaining true to God. Soon however, he disobeyed God's instructions, and the Kingdom was taken from him and given to David, a simple shepherd boy from Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah. (See 1 Samuel 1-15.)

David was a man after God's own heart. God entered into covenant with David through which He exclusively transferred the right to the keys to the Kingdom of God to one of David's sons and his direct descendants. Even though it was the tribe of Levi who was chosen to minister to God in His earthly Tabernacle and Temple, God's selection of David was consistent with the prophecy of Jacob that the Messiah of Israel would come through the tribe of Judah. Judah would hold the scepter of God's Kingdom. God would be a Father to David's descendant, the Messiah, establishing His Kingdom forever.

*2 Samuel 7:12-16 - "When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and **I will establish his kingdom.** He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son.** When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.**" (See also Psalm 89; Isaiah 22:22-23.)*

Unfortunately, soon after this, David made some royal missteps against the Torah and God's ways by committing adultery. God would have been justified in putting David to death for his sins and revoking His covenant with David, but He never did. Even though there were short-term consequences within David's family and in Israel for David's errors, David was quick and sincere about admitting his faults, turning from his sins, genuinely entrusting himself to the Lord's mercy, and offering the blood sacrifices required by the Torah for the atonement of his soul. In spite of his sins, this is what made David a man after God's own heart.

Then, during the times of David's son Solomon, Israel had a taste of what it would be like to be the Kingdom designed by God to bear His image and be a blessing to the whole world. The Temple was built in Jerusalem on the very same mountain where Abraham had offered Isaac and where God promised provision for His Kingdom. Now that God had chosen the one place on earth where acceptable sacrifices could be offered to Him, Solomon offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep and goats in recognition of the high importance of blood sacrifices and the atoning power of blood for the sins of the people Israel. (See 1 Kings 8:63.) The glory of God filled the Temple, and people came from far and wide to worship the God of Israel and to hear the God-given wisdom of Solomon. This was the closest Israel had come so far to having a Kingdom which bore God's image and blessed the whole world.

However, Solomon was neglectful about obedience to God's instructions and gave way to rebellion in his own life, particularly through intermarriage with Gentile women who led him astray by their worldly ways. This insubordination resulted in the Kingdom of Israel being split in two after his lifetime. Ten out of the twelve tribes of Israel abandoned David's royal line to form the northern kingdom, while two tribes carried on with David's line to form the southern kingdom.

Both the northern and the southern kingdoms began to adopt the practices of the pagans in the land. The northern kingdom's rebellion against God and His ways went from bad to worse until the kingdom was scattered among the nations by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.E. in accordance with the consequences outlined in the Torah. The kings of the southern kingdom had a little more success. Some were good, some bad; some were faithful, and some wretched. But eventually their collective disobedience led to their scattering and exile to Babylon, in accordance with the consequences outlined in the Torah. Jerusalem was overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and the Temple of the God of Israel was destroyed on the 9th of Av, in the year 586 B.C.E.

In the centuries leading up to the destruction and exile of the northern and southern kingdoms, God faithfully sent Prophets to both kingdoms to warn God's people of what would happen to them if they did not repent. Unfortunately, through the years, the Jewish people not only refused to heed the words and warnings of God's Prophets, but they persecuted and killed most of the Prophets for saying things that they didn't want to hear. In due time, the words of the Prophets came to pass. (See the Books of Kings and Chronicles.)

A New Covenant

In spite of Israel's exile from the Land, God's Prophets

revealed God's plans and promises for the future. Most significantly, God promised to enter into a New Covenant with Israel which would prevent this cycle from recurring again.

Jeremiah 31:31-37 - "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar--the LORD Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will Israel ever cease being a

nation before me." This is what the LORD says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the LORD.

The New Covenant between God and Israel would not be like the covenant God had established with them at Sinai when He gave the Torah through Moses. God would extend a great mercy to His chosen people through the New Covenant. In the New Covenant between God and Israel, God would give them a new heart and a new spirit, writing the Torah on their hearts, so that they would no longer be inclined toward Adam-and-Eve-style rebellion. Additionally, God would forgive all of their disobedience to the Torah and no longer remember their sins against them. This would mean that there would no longer be any divinely instituted consequence for their error and rebellion, including the sins of their ancestors. This way, God's people would be able to obey Him from the heart and fulfill their God-given destiny as His image-bearing Kingdom blessing all the earth.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (See also

Ezekiel 11:19-21)

However, the Prophets also warned that anyone who does not enter into the New Covenant will continue to be judged according to the Torah, God's existing covenant with Israel through Moses. This means that their sins and the sins of their ancestors will continue to be remembered against them unless blood sacrifices are offered as atonement.

In the same way that God's existing covenants were established through God's chosen men Abraham, Moses, and David, God promised through His Prophets that the New Covenant would be given to Israel through His Servant, the Messiah.

Messiah, the Righteous King of Israel

The Messiah is the Righteous Branch and Servant of God who becomes the New Covenant between God and the Jewish people to draw them back to obedience to God so that they can fulfill their destiny as His Kingdom. The prophecies reveal that the Spirit of the Lord would continually guide the Messiah and He would bring with Him the power of God for healing the sick and working miracles in the earth. Since the Messiah would crush the head of the ancient serpent and possess the keys to the Kingdom of God, Israel would be able to become a blessing to the whole earth and extend the Kingdom of

God even to Gentiles.

Isaiah 11:1-2 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD. (See also Isaiah 61:1-3.)

Isaiah 42:6-7 - "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness." (See also Isaiah 35:3, 45:5-9.)

God promised to send the Messiah to establish justice in the earth as God's anointed King who would rule His eternal Kingdom. (Read Daniel 7:27; Psalm 2:6, 22:27.) The Messiah would individually fulfill God's purpose for Israel to be a light to the nations so that all Israel would enter into God's Kingdom and promise.

Returned Exiles Prepare for their King

At the appointed time after the Babylonian exile, God allowed many of the scattered Jews to return to the Promised Land. (See Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai.) Out of fear that the increasing lukewarm devotion of Jewish

people to God and the Torah would result in a repeat of God's judgment against the Jewish people, a group of religious leaders, scribes, and scholars formed in 167 B.C.E. and called themselves Pharisees. Later, in the first century B.C.E. the Houses of Hillel and Shammai were established to train Jewish men in Jewish matters. These men instituted many rules which either added regulations for obeying the Torah or negated the need to adhere to the Torah as strictly as it was written by Moses. Plus, they did so in spite of the fact that Moses explicitly commanded that nothing be added to his words in the Torah or taken from them and the people of Israel agreed to have curses come upon them if they did not adhere to the Torah as Moses commanded.

*Deuteronomy 4:2 - Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.
(See also Deuteronomy 12:32, 27:26.)*

Some of the rules instituted at this time are still observed by Jews all over the world because they became the basis for Rabbinic Judaism as it exists today. However, these regulations are not the New Covenant which God promised to Israel. They were put in place for Jewish people everywhere to observe as they await the Messiah—the coming King of Israel.

During this time, the Roman Empire took over the world

and Herod was placed over the Jews as their ruler, calling himself the King of the Jews. But at this point, the Jewish people did not resemble a Kingdom at all. Many of them were still scattered in the nations, and in the Promised Land, they were subjected to Gentiles ruling over them. Plus, instead of a real King of their own, they had the Sanhedrin, a religious judicial court generating more and more rulings and regulations for how good Jews needed to live. God's purpose of Israel to be a blessing to the Gentile nations had all but been forgotten as they continued to live under the suppression of Rome and focused on maintaining religious order. However, there was eager expectation for the Messiah's arrival, partly because of the desire for liberation from foreign kings but mostly because of the words of God's Prophets.

2

THE TIMELINE OF MESSIAH

According to the Book of Daniel, which was written during the time of the Jewish people's exile in Babylon, God gave an exact timeline for the arrival of the Messiah. Daniel was reading the prophecies of Jeremiah and understood that God had ordained seventy years of exile in Babylon for the Jewish people. Moreover, Daniel calculated that the seventy years was almost complete. So, Daniel prayed and fasted and then, the angel Gabriel appeared to Daniel to give him understanding about the things to come and the arrival of the Messiah.

*Daniel 9:24-27 - **Seventy "sevens" are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven "sevens," and sixty-two***

"sevens." It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two "sevens," the Anointed One will be put to death [cut off, excommunicated/karet] and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one "seven." In the middle of the "seven" he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

In the days of Daniel's writing and the way that the Great Sanhedrin would have been calculating, a "seven" (some translations call it a "week") refers to a period of seven years. In those times, a year was 360 days based on the lunar calendar. The "time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" took place in 445 B.C.E. when, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes of Persia, a decree was issued which permitted the rebuilding of the Temple of God in Jerusalem. (See Nehemiah 2:1-5.) Gabriel revealed to Daniel that starting from the time of this decree, a timeline of seventy sevens, or 490 years, which was unequally divided into 7 sevens, 62 sevens, and one more seven which is divided into two half-sevens. The

Messiah would be cut off after the 7 sevens and 62 sevens, or 483 years, equaling 173,800 days. Accordingly, in the way they would have calculated, 445 B.C.E. plus 173,800 days reveals that the Messiah would be put to death around the year 33 C.E.

The Prophet Isaiah also gave some insight into what the death or "cutting off" of the Messiah was going to entail. The Messiah, the Righteous Branch, would suffer for the sins of the unrighteous.

*Isaiah 53:2-12 ESV - For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. **He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not***

his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous [justifying them before God], and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

According to the Prophet Isaiah, God's righteous Messiah would be rejected by the Jewish people and all

of mankind because every person had turned away from God like sheep without a shepherd, in the likeness of Adam and Eve's rebellion. Even though the Messiah would be innocent of evil, He would be inflicted with the punishment of God that the people deserved. Like a spotless sacrificial lamb, the sins of the people would be laid upon the Messiah, and His soul would become an offering of atonement. According to Jeremiah, the Messiah's righteous atonement would grant His followers a status of righteousness before God. This was something that the Jewish people had consistently proven was unattainable by human effort. (See Jeremiah 23:5-6.) According to Malachi, the Messiah's ministry would be preceded by a forerunner. This messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah by coming in the spirit of Elijah, the prophet of Israel who had turned the hearts of the Jewish people back to God. (See Malachi 3:1, 4:5.)

Messiah's Birth

At the exact time prophesied by Daniel; Gabriel, the same angel who had visited Daniel, visited the earth again. This time Gabriel came to visit a young Jewish woman from the tribe of Judah named Miriam who was betrothed to Yosef, both of whom were direct descendants of King David. Similar to how angels had told Abraham and Sarah about their upcoming miracle birth, Gabriel told Miriam that even though she was a

virgin, she would conceive a child by the power of the Spirit of the LORD, and she was to name Him Yeshua. The name Yeshua means God saves, because Miriam's son would save the people from their sins.

*Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel [which means God with us.]***

In accordance with the prophecies, God came to dwell with His people. Because Yeshua was conceived by the power of the Spirit of the LORD, God was His Father. Yeshua was also the seed of a woman descended from Eve—the One who would crush the head of the adversary. Yeshua was formed in the womb in God's exact likeness to be God's perfect human image-bearer and King to reign on the eternal throne of David.

*Luke 1:32-33 – [Gabriel speaking to Miriam]: "He [Yeshua] will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. **The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.**"*

This son of Miriam was born in Bethlehem, the prophesied birthplace of the Messiah according to the Scriptures and all of the priests and Torah scribes in that

day. (See Micah 5:2) He is the One anointed by God to bring the Jewish people into the New Covenant.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Yeshua was circumcised on the eighth day in accordance with the Torah and grew up to manhood in submission to His Jewish parents. Because the Holy Spirit guided Him from the heart, He never rebelled against God like Adam and never disobeyed God's ways or laws as given in the Torah, intentionally or unintentionally. From the womb, Yeshua was perfectly righteous and blameless before God, and God walked with Him.

Elijah Comes

Before the start of Yeshua's ministry, a man named Yohanan went throughout the wilderness of the Jordan in the spirit of Elijah. He cried out, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!" and administered mikvehs

to symbolically wash people from their sins. For this, people referred to Yohanan as "the Immerser." Yohanan openly admitted that he was not the Messiah but that he was the voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Messiah to come. (See Isaiah 40:3.) Later, when Yohanan saw Yeshua, he cried out, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Messiah's Kingdom Message

Yeshua had one simple and clear message, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!" Yeshua proclaimed it exclusively to Jewish people by teaching in synagogues throughout Israel, in the Galilee region, and at the Temple in Jerusalem, encouraging them to turn from their sinful ways and live for God. (See Isaiah 9:1-2.) Also, in a similar way to how God had worked miracles for Moses so that the Jewish people would believe that he was God's appointed servant, God worked miracles through Yeshua, demonstrating the power of the Kingdom of God. In accordance with the prophecies pointing to the Messiah, the sick were healed, the blind saw, the deaf heard, the lame walked, the dead were raised, and good news was proclaimed to the poor. In fact, in every circumstance, Yeshua's words, teachings, and actions demonstrated God's likeness, holiness, mercy, and righteousness.

Yeshua was not on a self-promotional "Messiah Tour of

Israel" but rather, preferred to keep His identity concealed so that only those who had an ear to hear and a heart to perceive that Yeshua spoke the words of eternal life which were from God and not the words of the *knowledge of good and evil* or rules and regulations like the religious leaders.

This said, Yeshua never rebelled against the Torah nor did He encourage anyone else to do so. Moreover, Yeshua raised the standard of obedience to God to be one that cut through to the motives of the heart, not just a measure of external actions. According to His teachings, looking at a woman lustfully is the same as committing the act of adultery and anger against someone is the same as committing the act of murder. The only way for His followers to be able to live up to such an impossible standard would be for them to be reborn by the Spirit of the Lord in keeping with what God promised in the New Covenant.

John 3:3-6 - Yeshua replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus [a Pharisee] asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Yeshua answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh

gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

From the beginning of mankind, God desired humble and childlike trust and submission to His commands so that His Kingdom could be established in the earth. God had found this kind of faithfulness in Abraham and this was exactly what Yeshua demonstrated and taught. However, mankind (both Jew and Gentile) had proved that this standard of obedience was humanly impossible and this is why the need arose for a new heart and a new spirit through the New Covenant. As such, Yeshua promised that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, would be sent from Heaven to dwell inside His followers to enable them to live out God's commands and His teachings and participate in the Kingdom of God.

Messiah's Authority

Yeshua's followers, who were all Jewish, came from every kind of Jewish household and lifestyle. They regarded the depth of Yeshua's understanding of the Scriptures, His miracles, and His mercy and compassion for people as confirmation that He was the Son of God. They openly recognized and acknowledged Yeshua as the Messiah, the promised Anointed One of God, and the Prophet like Moses whom Israel must listen to.

The religious leaders of Israel, however, did not follow

Yeshua or accept Him as the Messiah. By this time, the leaders of the Sanhedrin were meeting regularly in the Temple, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Messiah due to Daniel's prophecy. They had created many rules as a supplement to the Torah which they claimed were the keys to righteousness. Yeshua did not submit Himself to their rules and pointedly rejected the ones which were a contradiction of the Torah.

Some of the religious leaders were so consumed with maintaining traditions and observing their religious rules that they had forgotten that being an image-bearing Kingdom for God is God's main purpose for Israel. Others among the religious leaders, even though they desired to be freed from Roman rule, loved money and had procured positions of political influence for themselves by working the system. Leaders like this desired to "keep the peace" by maintaining the status quo. (See Isaiah 56:7.) Other Jewish leaders were looking for the Messiah to come and establish His Kingdom on the Day of the Lord with great terror by overthrowing their Gentile oppressors. For them, Yeshua's teachings of humility, sacrificial love, and mercy did not fit the profile of the Messiah they were looking for.

Similar to how the Israelites had repeatedly spurned Moses' authority, these religious leaders rejected Yeshua as their King because they lacked faith to see how God

was fulfilling His promises right before their eyes.

All of these religious leaders conspired together to stir up false accusations against Yeshua as a deliberate attempt to prevent the Jewish people from following Him. In a move to maintain their own authority, they sought to trap Yeshua in His words and find contradictions against the Torah in His life and teachings. However, they could not because He was blameless and without fault. Then, Yeshua told this parable:

*Matthew 21:33-45 - "Listen to another parable: **There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. [See Isaiah 5.] Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'***

what will he do to those tenants?"

"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they [the religious leaders] replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

*Yeshua said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? **Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.**"*

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Yeshua's parables, they knew he was talking about them.

From this point forward, the religious leaders sought to put Yeshua to death.

Knowing in advance that all of this must take place, Yeshua told His followers that He would be handed over to the religious leaders, and then to the Gentiles, and would be put to death. That night, Yeshua prayed to ask God if there was any other way to offer atonement for His people but according to the Scriptures, there was not. So, He submitted Himself to the will of God, knowing

that it must be fulfilled that He would be *hated without cause*. (See Psalm 69:4.)

In their jealous zeal against Yeshua, the religious leaders must have completely forgotten about Daniel's prophecy because the events which followed fulfilled the words of Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the other Prophets of God. These men paid off one of Yeshua's followers to betray Him. Yeshua allowed the religious leaders to arrest Him on charges of blasphemy for claiming to be God's only Son and prophesying that the Temple would be destroyed. Of course, this wasn't blasphemy because it was true, and He wasn't a false prophet because what He said came to pass. Yeshua could have put a stop to this unjust treatment, but instead, in accordance with the Scriptures, He did not open His mouth in self-defense. Like Abraham faithfully offering Isaac, on the same mountain, God offered Yeshua. Like Isaac carrying the wood of his own sacrifice, Yeshua carried His cross.

Messiah Cut Off

As events proceeded, the religious leaders in Jerusalem and High Priests Annas and Caiaphas, representatives of Israel on behalf of the Jewish people, declared Yeshua to be guilty as a blasphemer. He was excommunicated from Israel—literally cut off/*karet*—in accordance with the punishment for blasphemy given in the Torah and in fulfillment of the prophecies. The Jews were limited,

however, in that they were not allowed to carry out the death penalty. They were subject to Roman rule, and only Roman authority could put someone to death. So they brought Yeshua before Pontius Pilate and Herod, the Roman rulers over Jerusalem and Judea, demanding that Yeshua be crucified. Like Joseph's brothers had rejected Joseph and thrown him in a pit, the religious leaders rejected the idea that Yeshua was destined to rule over them and instead threw Him into the grave. Like Esau, they failed to recognize the significance of their birthright by placing higher priority on matters of this world than the purposes of God's Kingdom.

Then, on the day of Pesach/Passover, at the same time that the Passover lambs were being slaughtered, in the very year that Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would be put to death, Yeshua HaMashiach, the eternal Passover Lamb, was slaughtered and shed His blood. Yeshua was beaten, whipped, and scourged until He no longer resembled a human, and then He was hung upon a tree to die a horrifying, brutal, cursed death. (See Psalm 22.) During His crucifixion, He prayed, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do," and with His dying breath, He cried out, "It is finished!" knowing that His blood provided complete atonement for mankind's sin.

It was not just Jews who killed Him, it was all of mankind—all of the descendants of Adam and Eve who,

being more inclined to the ways of the adversary, didn't want God to rule over them and be their King. Even Yeshua's own disciples abandoned Him in His death because, according to their *knowledge of good and evil*, this just didn't make any sense.

God's plans for His Kingdom on the earth again looked hopeless.

The King with the Keys

But on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures, before Yeshua's body had seen any decay, God raised Him from the dead. (See Psalm 16.) Yeshua served as the eternal Passover Lamb so that He *passes over* anyone who believes in Him and by faith, covers their soul with His blood to protect them from the Destroyer, namely death. Like the snake on the pole that Moses held up in the wilderness, Yeshua's death on a tree became salvation and healing for all who would look to Him. Anyone who now believes in Him as the Suffering Servant and Messiah of Israel is redeemed from the curse of the Torah which means that their sins and the sins of their ancestors are no longer held against them by God.

Yeshua's resurrection proved that the offering of His blood and His life as atonement for sin had been accepted by God. Through His resurrection, Yeshua reversed the curse of Adam, crushed the head of Satan, and was

granted the keys to the Kingdom of God. In accordance with the prophecies, the scepter of God's Kingdom would remain with the line of Judah and the seed of David. The stone the builders (Jews) rejected had become the cornerstone and the only Mediator between God and mankind. (See Psalm 118.) Although the nations (Gentiles) had raged against Him, God bestowed upon Yeshua the right to sit at His right hand with all authority in Heaven and on earth. (See Psalms 2 and 110.)

Through all of this, God was again starting with a remnant of one Man—Yeshua, the promised Messiah of Israel. Moreover, God did this while remaining totally faithful to the Torah and every promise He had made to the Patriarchs and Prophets of Israel.

Yeshua's disciples, who were initially all Jewish, would now be called upon to fulfill God's original purpose for Israel and as such, Yeshua gave them the keys to the Kingdom of God. After this, He ascended to Heaven from the Mount of Olives and promised that He would return to the same place in order to fulfill the remaining Scriptures about the Messiah, the conquering King and Judge of all the earth, who ushers in the HaOlam Haba (the world to come.)

When Yeshua arrived in Heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God. Ten days later, the Holy Spirit was poured out from Heaven to all who believed in Yeshua.

Similar to how a consuming fire dwelt over Sinai when the Torah was written on tablets of stone, flames of fire hovered over the heads of Yeshua's followers as the Torah was written on their hearts. (See Joel 2:28-29.) Thousands of Jews from all of the nations of the earth were in Jerusalem for Shavuot and witnessed this event and they too believed Yeshua to be the Messiah of Israel. Then, similar to how the Jewish people had cleansed themselves before entering into covenant with God at Sinai, these Jews were cleansed in the mikvehs right there at the Temple and then they were also filled with the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 12:10 - "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."

The New Covenant between God and Israel which had been sealed with the blood of Messiah, was now fully established and functional. Similar to the covenant God had with Abraham, the righteousness through God's New Covenant with Israel would now be attained through faith in Yeshua. (See Habakkuk 2:4.)

In the days and years that followed, the good news of Yeshua the Messiah was initially spread only to Jews.

After about ten to fifteen years, Yeshua's Jewish followers came to understand that the New Covenant was also intended to be extended to Gentiles as long as they believed in Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel. From then on and including now, anyone in any nation, Jew or Gentile alike, who confesses the name of Yeshua and believes in their heart that God raised Him from the dead will have their sins blotted out. Their name will be written in the Book of Life, and they will be included in the resurrection of the righteous. (See Daniel 12:1-2.) Similar to the ark of Noah, the New Covenant offers deliverance from judgment for those whose sins have been forgiven by Yeshua's atoning blood.

At the exact time of Yeshua's crucifixion, there was a great earthquake, and the veil in the Temple of God was torn from top to bottom. From that day forward, the Sanhedrin never met in the Temple again because the Chamber of Hewn stones where they met had been cracked beyond repair by the earthquake. (See Shabbat 15a.) Following Yeshua's death and resurrection, the religious leaders paid off Romans and Jews to spread lies that Yeshua had not actually been raised from the dead and that His body had been stolen by bandits. However, for the next forty years, the scarlet thread which was placed on the door of the Temple sanctuary on the Day of Atonement and which turned white when the scapegoat

carrying the sins of Israel was released, never turned white again, and the miracles which the Jewish people had experienced at the Temple became inconsistent until they also stopped entirely. (See Yoma 39b.)

Then, in 70 C.E., on the 9th of Av, the same day that the first Temple had been destroyed in 586 B.C.E, the Temple of God in Jerusalem was completely demolished. Not one stone remained in place. It was in this same year that the Oral Torah was assembled by the Pharisees who then disbanded in 73 C.E. In further fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy, the Temple sacrifices and offerings were put to an end. Since the Torah does not change and is still in effect for the Jewish people, this means that according to the Torah, without a Temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, there is no longer any chance of blood atonement for the souls of Jewish people which adheres to God's requirements. According to the Torah and in contrast to the common orthodox Jewish practice today, a chicken sacrificed on Yom Kippur is not an adequate atoning sacrifice and no sacrifice is acceptable anywhere other than on the Temple Mount.

3

THE NON-KINGDOM – PART ONE

Like Joseph becoming unrecognizable to his brothers over the passage of time and seeming to be a leader for the Gentiles, it is understandable why Jews have not been able to recognize Yeshua for who He truly is—their Jewish brother. If you haven't figured it out by now, the person I am referring to as Yeshua the Messiah of Israel, is the person you have probably heard of as Jesus Christ. The question is, how could the Messiah of Israel become so foreign to His own people, the Jews?

For starters, in the times of Yeshua, Greek was the predominant language in the world. It was so widespread in these centuries that even the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek and became known as the Septuagint. The word "Christ" is the Greek word for Messiah and was commonly used even by His first followers. Then after about ten years of the good news of Yeshua the Christ spreading almost only to the Jews in the earth at that time, people started calling followers of Yeshua "Christians" and there was much confusion over

whether or not these Christians were a sect of Judaism or a whole new religion.

For the next 300 years, Jews and Gentiles placed their faith in Yeshua as their King as the Messiah of Israel and demonstrated the power of the Kingdom of God on the earth. Christianity was outlawed and many Christians were martyred for claiming to follow a King other than Caesar. Some Jewish followers of Yeshua were persecuted by zealous Jews accusing them of blasphemy for calling Yeshua the Son of God.

Then in 313 C.E., Constantine became the Emperor of Rome, he also appointed himself as the head of the Christian faith. While Constantine's own profession of Christian faith was often a source for speculation, he also appointed the Nicene Council over the religious matters of his Empire. Unfortunately, the members of this council were anti-Semitic and swiftly determined that all Jewishness should be removed from Christianity, degrading the Jews as "odious" and "Christ-killers." They simply made up the name "Jesus" in place of Yeshua because Yeshua sounded too Jewish. They also changed His mother Miriam's name to Mary and began to worship her. Additionally, other beliefs and practices were instituted during this time which Yeshua and His earliest followers would not have regarded as kosher. For example, they abandoned the Hebrew calendar and

Feasts of the Lord and instead created Christmas and Easter. These were and are observed on the days which had previously been the days for worshipping Sol Invictus, the Roman god of the sun, and Ishtar, the Roman goddess of fertility. They converted pagan temples into churches and appointed priests through bribery and cronyism. Leaders were given titles like Father, Master, and Pope even though Yeshua had specifically instructed His followers not to call anyone father or master except God alone. These priests dictatorially told people what to do and quickly became the only ones with access to the holy books while the people had no Bibles of their own to read so as to contradict them with the truth. Since these leaders were pagans and were accustomed to worshipping multiple gods for sun, rain, fertility, etc., they nominated people from Christian history whom they considered to be great workers for God and revered them as saints that people could pray to when they needed something, even though Yeshua is the only God-appointed Mediator between God and man. The city of Rome was appointed as the head of the global Christian Church rather than recognizing Jerusalem as God's chosen place for His name. At the same time, Constantine's mother toured the Holy Land and built churches on every spot she deemed historically significant to Christianity. Constantine's zeal for political power mixed with his questionable

profession of Christian faith diverted the focus of Christianity toward establishing a world empire rather than the Kingdom of God. Christianity became paganized, a far cry from Yeshua's life and teachings, and Yeshua's followers lost the miracle power from Heaven which put the Kingdom of God on display.

Moreover, as years of Church history progressed, the Protestant Reformation took place through which many people rebelled against some of the more egregiously wrong practices in the Church. A man named Martin Luther was the most notable reformer during this time, and he wrote many books and papers which Biblically proved the error of the ways the Christian Church had adopted. Unfortunately, Martin Luther was anti-Semitic so some of his later writings encourage people to eliminate Jews from the face of the planet even though the Holy Spirit most definitely did not reveal this to him. It was Martin Luther's writings which Hitler used to justify his actions against the Jews during World War II. The Reformation has also resulted in the establishment of various denominations or divisions within the global Christian community which are separated because of disagreements about theological matters.

4

THE NON-KINGDOM – PART TWO

After the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 C.E., the Jews who survived the Roman attack were scattered out of the Promised Land. Jerusalem's name was changed to Aelia Capitolina and the Province of Judah was renamed Syria Palaestina by the Roman Emperor in order to remove all trace of Jewishness from the Land. Then, after the Bar Kokhba Revolt in 132-135 C.E., led by a man whom many Jews believed might be the Messiah, the Jewish people were scattered to the four corners of the earth. At that time, a temple to the Roman god Jupiter was erected on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Romans were merciless to the Jews.

Around 200 C.E., during a short window of religious reprieve under Emperor Marcus Aurelius, the Oral Torah/Law, also called the Mishnah or Jerusalem Talmud, was written down by Judah HaNasi. Although it had previously been forbidden to write down this Oral Law, HaNasi disobeyed this custom for the sake of preserving the small remnant of Jewish people that

remained in the earth. He had both a fear that Jewishness would become extinct and wise perception that the window of opportunity to spread Jewish teachings under Roman rule would be short-lived.

During this time, Judaism and Christianity were both illegal and heavily persecuted until Constantine became the Roman Emperor and declared himself to be a Christian. With this, Christianity was transformed overnight from being outlawed to being socially advantageous. By the end of Constantine's rule, it was practically against the law to not profess to be a Christian, and those who refused to convert to Christianity were forced to pay a fine. This resulted in most of the people within the borders of the Roman Empire claiming to be Christians even though they weren't. Combine the ignorance of the people with Constantine's anti-Semitic council and trouble was brewing for the Jews. This did indeed begin what became a horrific and long-lasting line of treacherous history of persecution against the Jews—something Yeshua never did because it would entail persecuting Himself. The lines became blurred between religion, government, and conquest and people started claiming to do things in the name of Jesus or in the interest of God, the Church, or the Christian faith.

Accordingly, Jewish life became more focused on

survival of community. The focus of Judaism became the preservation of traditions and teachings of the rabbis rather than actual faithfulness to God and adhering to the Torah. The Babylonian Talmud was assembled in around 500 C.E., and the rabbinic system was firmly established following the Oral Torah and teachings of the rabbis. Although it is claimed that this Oral Torah goes back all the way to Moses, there is no mention of it in all of Scripture, and as I mentioned earlier, Moses explicitly commanded *not* to add to or take from his words. Additionally, because the Oral Torah was assembled after the death and resurrection of Yeshua, parts of it are written for the specific purpose of denying Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel. Stories about Yeshua are presented in a way which disqualifies Him from His rightful throne. This includes referring to Him as Yeshu, which means "may his name be blotted out" as an aggressive slander against Him. Jewish leaders strictly prohibited Jews from believing Yeshua, particularly by saying that to believe Yeshua is to renounce their Jewishness, which is a lie. Nonetheless, they encouraged the entire Jewish community to treat Jewish followers of Yeshua as if they were dead. All of this is to say that the Jewish people were again led by their leaders into empty worship as they had been in the past.

Isaiah 29:13 - The Lord says: "These people come

near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."

Isaiah 6:9 - He [the LORD] said [to Isaiah], "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'"

Moreover, it became widely accepted that the Scriptures and the Oral Torah cannot be understood without a rabbi present to interpret it. While this creates job security for rabbis and has led to the excessive veneration of rabbis of past generations, it devalues the intelligence of the common Jew. Even though some of the rabbis were indeed brilliant men of wisdom and honor, without the Holy Spirit dwelling in them through participation in the New Covenant, their understanding and interpretation of the Scriptures is veiled and often in error. However, their training gives them an easy way of rejecting any ideas which contradict their teachings. Additionally, Synagogue services departed from the midrash/debate-style format which encouraged participation from Bar Mitzvahed men of every household and instead became more focused on painstaking adherence to the traditions of Judaism mixed with rabbinic speeches and pontifications about Jewish matters. This has resulted in

several divisions within Judaism that run the gamut from the intensely strict in observance of traditions to the incredibly lax in permissiveness to a degree that unquestionably violates the Torah.

Understandably, the battle of the Jewish people to survive in the midst of hostile Gentile nations has resulted in the Jewish adoption of an "us against the Gentiles" mentality and sometimes even more specifically, an "us against the Christians" mindset. God's purpose for Israel of being His image-bearing Kingdom and a source of blessing to the Gentiles has been nearly eliminated from Jewish life. While the Jews have made enormous contributions to the world through their expertise, inventiveness, and philanthropy, these do not reflect the type of Kingdom blessing that God has intended for His people to bestow upon the earth. As a matter of fact, even though the Jews supposedly accept the yoke of God's Kingdom upon themselves as they recite the Shema, almost nothing else about modern Judaism resembles a Kingdom. Even the Jewish hope of the Messiah coming to make all things right includes the expectation not of blessing but of God's judgment against the world on behalf of the Jewish people.

5

THE FAITHFUL REMNANT

History reveals that both Christianity and Judaism have been vulnerable to trying to become something that God never intended for mankind. God does not want people full of religion, traditions, or the *knowledge of good and evil* trying to make a name for themselves in the earth through their own means of attaining influence. God's purpose for mankind has always been for us to live by the power of His Spirit so that we may establish His eternal Kingdom, display His likeness through simple obedience and faithfulness, and rule over His adversary.

Religious leaders of both Judaism and Christianity have, for the most part, missed the point and purpose of God and have been poor representatives of His message, and His righteousness, holiness, and purity. The Jewish leaders have, for the most part, become consumed with seeking knowledge, observing tradition, and towing the line in their adamant refusal to consider Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel. The Christian leaders have, for the most part, been unaware of God's true purpose for Israel

and the significance of the Jewishness of Yeshua and His Kingdom. Therefore, the Christian message has been altered to be one of "get saved or you're going to hell" while many professing Christians live lives which bear no semblance to the God of Israel or the Torah and lack miracle power to demonstrate God's Kingdom.

But in spite of all of this, God has always maintained His faithful ones in the earth who live for the Kingdom of God and experience His miracles regularly. There have been Jews who have turned from the traditions of their fathers to place their faith in Yeshua as their Messiah and enter into the New Covenant. There have been Gentile followers of Yeshua who have been courageous enough to stand up to the religious authorities and against the wrong practices in the Church. These were the ones who trust God like Abraham, often risking and sacrificing their lives to do so. These are the ones who, like the Prophets of God in the Scriptures are with Yeshua in His eternal Kingdom worshiping the Lamb of God who sits on the eternal throne in heaven.

To be clear, the solution is not the eradication of religion or politics, nor is it increased "tolerance" for ways which violate God's ways and the Torah, or philanthropy which eases the harshness of the lack of God's Kingdom in the earth. In fact, in the times to come, there will be increasing pressure towards a worldwide, government-

enforced religion which will violate many aspects of God's commands. When Yeshua returns to the earth as Israel's conquering King, He will execute judgment on all of these things.

In the meantime, the only way to serve God which adheres to God's original plan for mankind and His purpose for Israel is to enter into the New Covenant through faith in Yeshua the Messiah. He is the only Mediator between God and man and the only One who can grant His followers the indwelling Holy Spirit and eternal life in the world to come. This is the only way that our sins can be atoned for and the only way that we will be able to live holy lives devoted to His Kingdom.

Please don't leave your eternal inheritance to chance because you are towing the line of the community and following "the majority rules" approach to reason. Biblically speaking, the majority has rarely been right. Think for yourself. Pray for yourself. Know for yourself that you have been chosen by God to inherit all that He has for you in His Kingdom through faith in Yeshua as your Messiah and LORD.

6

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM TODAY

Perhaps you have never heard the story of the Scriptures or the Kingdom of God or Yeshua the Messiah told in this manner before. Perhaps you have referred to Him with contempt as Yeshu for the blotting out of His name when the truth is that if you reject Yeshua as the Messiah, then it is your name which will be blotted out of the Book of Life. So, it is time to ask yourself: If Yeshua truly is the Messiah, the One who will return to fulfill the remaining prophecies of the Day of the LORD and judge the whole world, what will you tell Him?

What you believe about Yeshua is a matter of eternal importance. The adversary has deliberately attempted to skew the way that Jewish people perceive Yeshua so that you will go the way of Adam and Eve and be banished from the inheritance that is rightfully yours. The ancient serpent continues to work through the *knowledge of good and evil* just as he has from the beginning. For example, instead of a forbidden tree, the *knowledge of good and evil* has taken the form of erroneous religion with its

rules, regulations, and empty promises. Plus, anyone with any *knowledge of good and evil* would be seriously challenged by the fact that Yeshua has been presented as the evil leader of the Gentiles who have so mercilessly persecuted the Jews throughout the centuries rather than the One sent by God to the Jewish people to extend His mercy through the New Covenant.

But now that you have heard, what will you do about it? What do you believe? Who are you going to follow?

When the Jews in Yeshua's day claimed that they had access to the Kingdom of God and the age to come because they were descendants of Abraham, Yeshua informed them that biological relation to Abraham is not enough to qualify. First of all, as Jews in Moses' covenant, righteousness is required. This is something that no one has been able to attain through their own attempts to obey the Torah. Plus, the Torah requires atoning blood sacrifices and there is presently no Temple in Jerusalem. God Himself provided the atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins by sending Yeshua. So now, what is required is to *be like* Abraham—be one doing the things that Abraham did by trusting God wholeheartedly with your whole life. Just like Abraham left his father's household and religious superstitions, Yeshua requires that we be willing to leave everything behind to be His disciples, seeking only after the Kingdom of God and not

our own plans and purposes for our lives. It is also worth noting that when you place your faith in Yeshua as your Messiah, you do not lose or disown your Jewishness in any way. In fact, most Jewish followers of Yeshua discover that being Jewish finally makes sense and experience a revival of their Jewishness.

Many Jews often ask—if Messiah has come then why is there no peace on earth? It is a reasonable question, particularly given the remaining prophecies pertaining to Yeshua the Messiah's return when He will demolish all adversaries and usher in total shalom in the world to come. However, the answer is simple: It's for your sake. Yes. There's not peace on earth yet because Messiah Yeshua is waiting for YOU to believe that He is the Messiah of Israel. In fact, He will not return until all of the true Israel is saved and Jerusalem cries out to Him, "Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai!" meaning, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!" (See Psalm 118:26.) Until then, the peace Yeshua gives is in the heart and for your eternal soul. He came the first time to give His followers peace with God through His atoning blood. God tarries in bringing forth the Day of the LORD as a great mercy to all of mankind and particularly the Jewish people in order to give you time to repent and turn to Yeshua. This is because the consequence for rejecting Yeshua as the Messiah is an eternal fire of

torment that never goes out. (See Isaiah 66:24.)

Consider this statement of one of the most well respected rabbis in Jewish history before his passing: *When Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai fell ill, his disciples came to visit him. When he saw them, he began to weep. His disciples said to him, "...why do you weep?" He said to them: "...two paths are before me, one to Gan Eden (Garden of Eden) and the other to Gehinnom (hell) and I do not know upon which I am to be led—shall I not weep?"* (See the Gemara in Berakhot 28b.) If this leader of Rabbinic Judaism had no idea whether he would inherit eternal life in the world to come or not, how can you place your trust his teachings? As beloved as your rabbis may be to you, they do not hold the keys to the Kingdom of God.

Your Next Steps

If you believe that Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel, then your next step is to repent of rejecting Him, and ask Him to forgive you. Like Joseph extended forgiveness to his brothers when they finally recognized him even though they had rejected him and left him in a pit for dead, Yeshua is full of mercy for anyone who finally comes to see Him for who He really is. Then, repent of living your life in your own way and for your own gain. Be baptized in water like being submerged in a mikveh to wash away your sins forever, and ask Yeshua to bring you into the New Covenant, fill you with His Spirit and be your

Messiah and King. Start talking to Yeshua about everything, and listen for the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit guiding you into all truth. Acquire a Bible with a B'rit Hadasha (New Covenant/Testament), and read the words and teachings of Yeshua for yourself. Be prepared for the possibility of rejection or persecution from friends and family and from the powers that be in this world. Walk with Yeshua on a daily basis, one day at a time, standing firm until the end, and you will learn His ways, His faithfulness, and His mercy.

If you are not quite sure how to process all of this, then I challenge you to earnestly seek God and ask Him to show you without a doubt whether or not Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel. Be willing to accept whatever answer God gives you and be willing to follow through in your life and actions with whatever is revealed to you. I challenge you to do your homework, read the B'rit Hadasha for yourself, seek the truth and be willing to follow the truth wherever it leads you.

THE FULL REVELATION

The secrets unveiled in this book have the power to change your life forever.

Pray.

Ask God to reveal the truth to you.

Ask God to somehow unquestionably confirm to you whether or not the information in this book is true.

Act upon whatever God reveals to you, no matter where it leads you.