

“Let Us Build...Let Us Make...”

Zionism's Finest Hour

or

Zionism's Final Hour?

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven [*lit.*, ‘the heavens’]; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; *and THIS they begin to do: and NOW nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*” (Gen. 11:4-6).

(This article has to do with “Babylon,” as seen throughout Scripture, beginning in Gen. 10, 11, but centering on what Scripture calls, “Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth,” as seen in Rev. 17-19a [*cf.* Isa. 47:1-15].

The former has to do with *a city in the Mesopotamian Valley*, later with *a kingdom [a city-state] in that part of the world*, then with *a worldwide kingdom in the end time*.

The latter has to do with *a metaphorical use of Babylon*, referencing “Israel” in the nation’s present harlotrous condition [Rev. 17:18; *cf.* Jer. 22:8; Matt. 23:37; Luke 13:33, 34; Rev. 11:8; 14:8; 16:19].

And this article has to do centrally with the latter, with *Israel*, as the nation continues playing the harlot during modern times, continuing, with the passage of time, to become more and more firmly entrenched in their current harlotrous position, progressively distancing themselves more and more from any thought of fulfilling their calling relative to the nations of the earth.

And, as in past time, Israel’s current association with Gentile nations only continues to *magnify* their position in this respect.

Then, there is an unanswered question raised by this article:

How much farther will God allow Israel to go in the preceding respect before He steps in and effects the type corrective action necessary to bring about the prophesied changes seen numerous places throughout Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets?)

On February 21, 2019, an Israeli company launched a small unmanned spacecraft from Cape Canaveral, enroute to the moon — a feat that the president of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, called, “Zionism at its finest.”

And, after taking a rather indirect route (several increasingly elongated orbits around the earth, necessary because of the limited rocket power used) this Israeli spacecraft reached and began to orbit the moon six weeks later. But the computer-controlled landing attempt was unsuccessful. The spacecraft crashed on the moon’s surface.

(Had the mission been successful, Israel would have joined three other nations which had accomplished this feat, with one nation also placing men on the moon as well—the United States, Russia, and China.)

Questions that need an answer:

HOW could any of the preceding have anything to do with Israel’s calling as God’s witness to the nations (Isa. 43:1ff)?

Or, viewing the matter from an opposite perspective, *HOW* could any of this be anything other than a further move by the Jewish people away from anything connected with fulfilling their calling?

Then, referencing President Reuven Rivlin’s statement, “Zionism at its finest,” note the *ONLY* type Zionism which could possibly be in view, which *could ONLY be a Zionism in connection with the present existence of the Jewish nation.*

In this respect, the statement *CAN’T possibly reference a true Biblical Zionism, for the present Jewish nation, dwelling in their own land, is COMPLETELY out of place.*

Those comprising this nation, dating back to its founding on May 14, 1948, have reentered an “empty, swept, and garnished” house (Matt. 12:43-45).

A people left desolate have returned to a land left desolate *BEFORE it is time for them to return* (Matt. 23:38, 39).

They have returned to a *desolate land, APART FROM repentance, conversion, cleansing, a restored theocracy, or their Messiah dwelling in their midst.*

The Jewish people, *in their present condition, through natural, humanistic means, have sought to emancipate themselves and reestablish Jewish sovereignty in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

And the preceding *IS a form of Zionism. But, again, WHAT type Zionism? And WHAT will be the end of the matter?*

True Biblical Zionism involves the Jewish people returning to the land ONLY following a Divine work, having to do with BOTH the people and their land; and this restoration will occur ONLY through Divine intervention and power at the end of Daniel's Seventy-Week prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27).

In this respect, the form of Zionism seen in the world today, in connection with the present Jewish nation in the Middle East, *can ONLY have to do with a Zionism COMPLETELY foreign to the way Scripture presents the matter.*

True Biblical Zionism would have to do with a Divinely restored nation fulfilling their calling as God's witness to the Gentile nations. A Zionism of this nature would have the Jewish people carrying the message of the one true and Living God to the nations of the earth, with the nations being blessed through Israel.

ANY other type Zionism can ONLY be a false Zionism, through which the masses are being misled relative to what is being stated and taught about the Jewish nation in the Middle East today.

And the promotion of this *false Zionism, as long as it is continued, can ONLY result in three interrelated things:*

1) *Trouble in the Middle East because of the problem, escalating with the passage of time in an exponential manner, which can only be directly related to the problem (ref. the Book of Jonah).*

2) *Israel remaining in her present role, "Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth."*

3) *The Jewish people kept from realizing their calling as God's witness to the nations (Isa. 43:1-10), resulting in God's blessings for both Israel and the nations being withheld.*

And the latter, according to the typology of the Book of Esther, is not ONLY a continuing sin against God BUT against the nations of the earth as well (Esther 1:10-19).

(Note that current efforts in Israel to rebuild the Temple and reinstitute the Mosaic Economy are efforts *by an unclean nation playing the harlot.*

Think how this would / will play out, with an unrepentant and unbelieving priesthood aligning itself with the rest of the nation and dealing with all that would / will be involved in their association with the Temple — *uncleanness aligning itself with holiness.*

The Jewish people are about to rebuild their Temple, which will exist and be operational during most of the first half of the Tribulation, then destroyed, along with the city of Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation [Dan. 9:26; Matt. 24:15-21; Luke 21:20-24; Rev. 11:1, 2].

The millennial Temple though will subsequently be built by Messiah Himself, following His return, at a time following Israel's cleansing [Ezek. 40ff; Zech. 6:11-15].

As well, a New Covenant, replacing the Old, will be made with Israel at this time [Jer. 31:31-33; Ezek. 40ff; Zech. 6:12, 13].)

Thus, promoting the Zionism that presently exists *may actually be MORE anti-Semitic than pro-Semitic.*

And, on an even larger scale, *this may be even MORE anti-God and anti-human-race than not*, for, as previously stated, harlotry and consequent sin against both God and the nations exist under the present form of Zionism, which centers around blessings being withheld from not only Israel but from the nations of the earth as well.

And all of this would have *NOTHING* to do with befriending or not befriending the Jewish people. A person can befriend anyone apart from partaking of their deeds, actions. And, in this respect, one could easily befriend the Jewish people apart from ascribing to Zionism, as it currently exists.

Then and Now

In the light of current events, with a false Zionism rather than a true Zionism in view, the text from Gen. 11 may address the issue at hand more so than about any other text in Scripture.

Following the Flood during Noah's day, the Lord came down and acted when man's endeavors had to do with the heavens.

Is the world about to see something very similar occurring during modern times, with an out-of-place Jewish nation moving into and making its mark out in the heavens?

What is the connection? How can Israel's endeavors to venture out into the heavens today be seen in a similar respect?

That's what the remainder of this article is essentially about, showing that Israel's latest venture may very well be a point in Israel's actions that God is not going to allow the nation to move beyond. And, *IF so*, the numerous prophecies regarding Israel and the nations, seen throughout Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets, are about to be fulfilled.

And, to show that we can only be at or very near God's time piece striking midnight in this respect, this will be done through viewing two points in time, separated by over four millenniums — Babylon's *BEGINNING* in Genesis and Babylon's *END* in Revelation.

(Israel has had a space agency since 1981, though never before doing anything of the nature that has presently been done.

And because of how and the extent this can only further move the Jewish people away from God's plans and purposes for the nation, this move [and that which can only emanate from this move], as previously stated, may very well be as far as God will allow the Jewish people to go before He steps in and brings about the necessary changes, with His actions, in a respect, paralleling those seen in Gen. 11 over four millenniums ago.

This complete scenario may very well have to do with one oft-overlooked facet of the days of Noah, relating things which are to be repeated in the days of the coming of the Son of Man [Luke 17:26, 27].)

Beginning and End of Babylon

As previously seen, the first mention of Babylon in Scripture,

the things associated with Babylon's beginning, appears in Gen. 10, 11; and the final mention of Babylon, the things associated with Babylon's end, appears in Rev. 6-19.

The former is used in *a literal respect (a city built in Shinar by Nimrod [the grandson of Ham] following the Flood)*, and the latter is used in both *a literal and a metaphorical respect (referring to the kingdom of Antichrist [the final form of Babylon] and to Israel [the harlot — "Babylon the Great..."] scattered throughout this end-time kingdom)*.

(The reference to a literal kingdom of Babylon in the end-time is depicted by the fourth part of the great image [Dan. 2] or the fourth great beast [Dan. 7].

This final form of the great image or great beasts — the kingdom of Antichrist — will, as the kingdom existed in its previous three forms, be a city-state [*i.e.*, a kingdom encompassing both a capital city and territory]. The previous three forms existed in the Mesopotamian Valley; the fourth and final form will exist worldwide, though centered once again in the Middle East.

This is the kingdom which, *EXACTLY as seen in Daniel and in Revelation, will be destroyed when the Stone strikes the image at its feet in Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45, when Christ returns and treads the winepress in Rev. 19:11-21.*

And the one described through a metaphorical use of Babylon — *the harlot woman in Rev. 17-19a* — dispersed throughout the Babylonian kingdom, seen in its final form, will be destroyed at the same time.

Then, with Israel's repentance, conversion, cleansing, and restoration, *the harlot woman will no longer exist.*

Thus, Rev. 6-19 is about *the COMPLETE and UTTER destruction of Babylon* — both the kingdom itself and the harlot woman in this kingdom.

The WHOLE of that associated with Babylon is to be UTTERLY destroyed, NEVER to rise again [Rev. 19:3, 17-21].

For information on the great image and the four great beasts in Dan. 2, 7, refer to Chapters IX, X in the author's book, *Middle East Peace — How? When?*

The material in the remainder of this article is not about the final form of the Babylonian kingdom under Antichrist but about the final form of this kingdom as it relates to Israel, the harlot woman, associated with this man's kingdom.

And, the association of the Jewish people with this man's kingdom in the end times lends itself to spiritual lessons being drawn from this whole scenario, extending from Babylon's historical beginning in Genesis to Babylon's prophesied end in Revelation.

(Note that Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian kingdom, forming the first part of the image in Dan. 2, is where the Jews were taken captive [beginning about 605 B.C.], not only beginning the Times of the Gentiles but bringing about an end to the O.T. theocracy as well.

And the Jewish nation, throughout the Times of the Gentiles, with only remnants returning from this captivity, have had an inseparable association with this Babylonian kingdom. And this association can be seen carried to the end of the Times of the Gentiles through that revealed in the seventh of eight visions opening Zechariah's prophecy [5:5-11].

The seventh vision in Zechariah's prophecy had to do with "the woman in the Ephah." For information on this vision, providing Israel's connection with the end-time kingdom of Babylon, refer to Chapter I, pp. 13-20, in the author's book, *Mystery of the Woman*.)

Israel Today

"Israel" — over six million Jews in the land in the Middle East, forming the present Jewish nation — as previously stated, is *out-of-place*, actually, *the MOST out-of-place nation in the world today!*

At the time of Abraham's call from Ur of the Chaldees, God decreed that the nation emanating from his loins through Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons would be *the nation exercising the rights of primogeniture, as His firstborn son* (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 4:22, 23).

God, through Abraham and his progeny — through Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons — would bring forth a nation, the Jewish nation, the nation of Israel. *God would place Israel in the land in the Abrahamic Covenant, and God would deal with all of the other nations through Israel.*

Israel would be the ruling nation through which God's Word would be given, through which the Redeemer would come, and through which material and spiritual blessings would flow out to the nations of the earth.

Israel would be blessed, and the nations in turn would be blessed through Israel.

BUT, the blessings seen in the Abrahamic Covenant were conditioned on the Jewish people obeying the Mosaic Covenant given 430 years later at Sinai.

IF the Jewish people obeyed the covenant given through Moses at Sinai, God would place them in their own land at the head, above all nations, with the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant being realized (Lev. 26:3ff; Deut. 28:3ff).

However, *IF* the Jewish people did not obey this covenant, God would remove them from their land and place them at the tail, below all nations, with the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant being withheld (Lev. 26:14ff; Deut. 28:15ff).

1) God Remained True to His Word

And the latter — because of Jewish disobedience over centuries of time, with repentance not forthcoming — is *EXACTLY* where Israel finds herself today, not just the Jewish people in the land forming the present nation of Israel but the Jewish people still scattered among the nations as well (only about two-fifths of world Jewry is presently in the land).

Centuries ago, because of covenantal disobedience, God, true to His Word, as previously seen, uprooted the Jewish people from their land and drove them out among the nations (Lev. 26:33-39; Deut. 28:64-68).

And God did this to effect repentance through persecution at the hands of the Gentiles.

2) That which Israel Has Done

God has been working with the Jewish nation throughout Man's history, not only since the call of Abraham in Ur of the Chaldees (4,000 years ago) but dating back behind that all the way to Adam (6,000 years ago).

Israel, seen in the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:7-21), in the loins of Abraham at the time he was called while still in Ur (cf. Ex. 12:40, 41; Heb. 7:9, 10), had already existed for 430 years when Moses led them out of Egypt. And their existence could only date back behind Abraham through Shem to Adam.

(The 430-year sojourn of the Israelites though only dates back to the beginning of the nation in connection with Abraham and the Abrahamic Covenant, not back behind that to the beginning in connection with man's salvation and blessing preceding man's creation and fall.)

Note that Christ was slain from before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). And, slain as the Paschal Lamb, with Israel as the only nation which could slay this Lamb (Ex. 12:1ff), Israel has to be seen as present at this time as well.

Understand or explain this? Man is not asked to understand or explain something of this nature, only believe it.

This nation, through which God has worked after one fashion or another over the past 6,000 years, was called into existence to be the channel through which God would bless all of the other nations, physically and spiritually.

However, things have gone awry through Israel going awry, and God eventually drove His people out among the nations to effect correction — through Gentile persecution, ultimately effecting repentance, allowing God to act and set things back on track through restoration.

Israel was driven out among the nations in this manner 2,600 years ago. And Israel, *YET to repent*, has suffered through persecution after persecution throughout centuries, extending into millenniums, with God's blessings, accordingly, being withheld throughout this time from both Israel and the Gentile nations.

(Note that *because of Israel's very PRESENCE in the world, blessings in connection with this nation exist today. BUT*, these are *FAR, FAR* removed from the blessings which God, according to His Word, has in store for the nations following Israel's repentance and restoration.

And, understanding *the place which Israel occupies in God's economy in this respect* will also answer any questions about *curses* mentioned in Gen. 12:3 as well.)

Then, moving into modern times, Gentile persecution of the Jewish people was somewhat brought to an apex during the Holocaust, though, because repentance was not forthcoming during or at the end of this Holocaust, *a higher apex and far greater*

Holocaust awaits Israel.

The past Holocaust, rather than bringing about the nation's repentance following the death of some 6,000,000 Jews, formed somewhat the catalyst for the existence of what is today an unrepentant nation consisting of over 6,000,000 Jews in the Middle East.

At the end of WWII, the surviving Jews throughout Europe had lost everything. The survivors knew little to nothing about who had died, or who was still alive. And, with everything gone — their property, belongings — *they were literally a wandering people without a home, without a place to go.*

And, finding themselves in this situation, it was only natural that their thoughts would turn toward the land in the Abrahamic Covenant, which was then under British rule and control. And it was only natural that the Jewish people acted as they did, eventually forcing the British to relinquish their rule and control, with a Jewish nation resulting, declaring their independence May 14, 1948.

Though there was immediate war with the surrounding Arab nations, Jews, even before the declaration of independence, were already streaming in from Europe and other parts of the world.

And Jews from all parts of the world have continued to stream in during the seventy-one years since that time (seventy-two years [spring, 2019], using the 360-day year which Scripture uses), resulting in about two-fifths of the world's Jewish population presently residing in the land, forming the current nation of Israel in the Middle East.

BUT, a problem exists, a MAJOR problem!

The Jewish people, during a time when the heavens are CLOSED, through NATURAL means, have sought to emancipate themselves and resume Jewish life in the land of Israel.

And, doing this, the Jewish people have not only reentered their land at the *WRONG* time but under completely *WRONG* conditions as well — *through natural power, unrepentant, unconverted, without cleansing, and without their Messiah.*

The Jewish people — completely ignoring the nation's condition, the reason that they had been scattered among the nations — have sought to *emancipate themselves and resume Jewish life in an "empty, swept, and garnished house, BEFORE the time, seeking, through*

natural means, to bring all related matters to pass (e.g., healing of the land, the nation, a rebuilt Temple, etc.).

Then, in line with what has been done, as previously stated, the Jewish people have done this *while the heavens are CLOSED relative to God dealing with them in this respect.*

Jacob, in the type, *COULDN'T return back to the land while the heavens were closed. He tried, and God stopped him* (Gen. 28:15-31:3).

And matters would have to be seen *THE SAME WAY with Israel in the antitype today. IF this were not the case, the type would be broken, which is an IMPOSSIBILITY.*

(True, a remnant has returned to the land in modern times, while *the heavens are CLOSED.* But this has been done *through a man-made Zionist movement.* This has *NOTHING* to do with God turning back to and restoring His people to their land.

It *CAN'T*; reference the type in Gen. 28:15ff. To associate this with a work of God, from a Biblical standpoint, would be *IMPOSSIBLE.*

Also, in the previous respect, *note the place and importance of types in the O.T.* God has *PLACED these types throughout numerous parts of the O.T. to help explain the antitypes.* And these types are *IMPORTANT BEYOND DEGREE, for they will, numerous times, open up and cast a flood of light on the various antitypes.*

And individuals ignoring these types would provide a, if not "the," primary reason for all of the confusion surrounding Israel today.)

As previously stated, the Jewish people have returned to their land *while the heavens are CLOSED, BEFORE the time.*

They have done this during *a time when God is NOT dealing with the Jewish people in this respect and BEFORE the end of Daniel's Seventy-Week prophecy, BEFORE the end of the full 490 years.*

Israel *COULDN'T return BEFORE the end of the full 70-year Babylonian captivity, as seen in both Jeremiah and Daniel; and, in like manner, Israel CAN'T return BEFORE the end of the full 490 years seen in Daniel and Revelation.*

But, as dealt with previously, a Jewish nation presently exists back in the land before the end of Daniel's Seventy-Week prophecy, *BEFORE the end of the full 490 years.*

God has *allowed* this to occur, though He has *NOT orchestrated*

it. And He has allowed this to occur in order to bring about an end to His 6,000-year work among the Jewish people.

He has *allowed* the Jewish people to enter into their land, reclaim large parts of their land, rebuild their cities; and God will even *allow* them to shortly rebuild their Temple.

Then, with the Jewish people *seemingly* on the verge of bringing in the Messianic Era, as they even now envision the end result of all these things, *God is going to bring ALL of it crashing down.*

Following a seven-year covenant being made between the Beast and Israel, the Temple will be rebuilt, or finished, during the opening year, with sacrifices being offered once again (Dan. 8:13, 14; 9:26, 27). And when this man breaks his covenant through entering this Temple, declaring himself to be God, and putting an end to the sacrifices, God will, at that time, bring it all crashing down.

This man will destroy the Temple, Jerusalem, other Israeli cities, and seek to destroy the Jewish people from off the face of the earth (Isa. 6:11; Dan. 9:26; Matt. 24:15-21; Luke 21:20-24). And those Jews who do not escape into surrounding Gentile nations will either be killed or sold as slaves throughout these nations (Isa. 6:13; Joel 3:6).

Then this man, during the next three and one half years will attempt what Hitler attempted in Europe, but he will attempt this *worldwide*.

Hitler attempted to produce a Jew-free Europe, slaying some 6,000,000 Jews in the process (two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population). This man will attempt to produce a Jew-free world, slaying some 9,000,000 or more Jews in the process (two-thirds of the world's Jewish population [Ezek. 5:7-12; Zech. 13:8]).

The Jewish people going through this time will find themselves in a Holocaust so severe that the past Holocaust will pale by comparison. But this future Holocaust (events during and immediately following the final seven years of Daniel's Seventy-Week prophecy) is what it will take to bring about the Jewish people's repentance.

And this is EXACTLY what God is about to bring to pass.

The Jewish people, uprooted from their land and placed in this type position *will seemingly have lost EVERYTHING.*

They will have gone FROM a nation in their land about to, in their eyes, bring in the Messianic Era TO a despised and rejected people without a nation and land, hunted like animals, and under the sentence of death.

They will be unable to move about as before; they will no longer have safe lodging places or the ability to purchase food. And before it is over, as previously stated, two-thirds of the Jewish population of the earth will perish — hunger, disease, the sword.

But this is what Scripture records that it will take to get Israel's attention, ultimately bringing about their repentance.

And God is going to take matters to these extremes in order to bring this to pass.

That is HOW important God deems Israel's repentance!

3) *That which Christians Have Done*

Christians during the closing years of the present dispensation have done a rather strange thing. Rather than understanding different things about the present existence of a Jewish nation in the Middle East in the light of Scripture, *they have turned the whole thing around*; they have sought to understand and interpret Scripture in the light of past and current events in the Middle East, which has produced mayhem in Biblical interpretation.

They have sought to show that the existence of the present Jewish nation in the Middle East is a work of God, bringing to pass either select promises or all His promises in the Old Testament having to do with a regathering of His people back to their land.

And this is not something taught by some offshoot or minor branch of Christianity. This is something taught throughout what could only be seen as mainstream Christendom, taught by those often looked to as the main prophecy teachers of the day.

a) *Several Examples of the Preceding*

Note the vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezek. 37. And attention is called to this chapter because Ezek. 37 invariably

forms a base part of Scripture to which almost anyone turns when attempting to show that the present existence of an Israeli nation in the Middle East is a work of God, restoring His people, in accordance with certain or all of His Old Testament promises to do so.

In a respect, the manner in which most Christians who deal with these things view Ezek. 37, particularly the first fourteen verses, is very telling about Biblical interpretation and understanding among Christians during the times in which we live.

Also, beginning with Ezek. 37 as a base section of Scripture on the subject, subsequent Scripture dealing with the same subject can ONLY be understood in a manner in line with the way that the base is understood.

Thus, note where misinterpretation at the base point can ONLY lead a person on corresponding Scripture elsewhere.

Go wrong at a base point, and one can ONLY find himself going wrong at subsequent, related points.

The vision of the valley of dry bones (vv. 1-10) is interpreted by the Lord Himself (vv. 11-14). And, according to the Lord's Own interpretation, this vision has to do with "the whole house of Israel" *being restored to the land, at the same time, following the restoration of spiritual life (cf. vv. 5, 6, 8-10, 14; translate "spirit" [v. 14] "breath").*

And, as seen in parallel Scripture (e.g., Ezek. 36:24-38, leading into ch. 37), *a restoration of this nature can occur ONLY in connection with the nation's repentance, conversion, and cleansing — something completely foreign to anything seen in the Middle East today.*

As well, "the whole house of Israel" would include not only ALL living Jews BUT the dead raised and restored with the living. Note a base type dealing with Israel's restoration (cf. Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32).

And further, *this restoration could ONLY occur following Messiah's return, along with the matter being controlled and directed by angels (Matt. 24:29-31).*

Then, beyond that, *this restoration would be to a healed land.*

As well, *this restoration would be immediately before the destruction of Gentile world power, with the armies of the earth gathered in the land of Israel against a restored Israel, with the nation's Messiah present in their midst.*

And this is exactly what Ezek. 38, 39 goes on to relate. The

restoration seen in these two subsequent chapters is the same restoration previously seen in Ezek. 37 (38:8, 11, 14, 16; 39:9, 13).

And Messiah, present when Israel is restored (ch. 37), is seen present when Gentile world power is destroyed as well, in chapters 38, 39 (38:20), treading the winepress (Isa. 63:1-6; Joel 3:9-17; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:17-21).

Note how the named armies in Ezek. 38:2-6, comprised of descendants of the three sons of Noah, *are identified in the only other place in all Scripture where this is possible — Rev. 20:8.*

The words, Gog and Magog in Ezek. 38:2, used in connection with the nations comprising this army, are used together *ONLY ONE other place in ALL Scripture, in Rev. 20:8.* And in this verse, the expression “Gog and Magog” parallels an immediately preceding expression, “the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth.”

Gog parallels “the nations,” and *Magog* (a son of Japheth, who was to be *enlarged, i.e.,* populate most of the earth [Gen. 9:27]) parallels the remainder of the expression, referring to the location of these nations, nations “which are in the four quarters of the earth.”

Thus, comparing Scripture with Scripture, using Scripture's own built-in interpretation, *Gog* in Ezek. 38:2 *can ONLY* have to do with “nations,” and *the land of Magog* immediately following *can ONLY* have to do with the location of these nations, which is clearly stated to be “in the four quarters of the earth.”

(Though Gog and Magog in Ezek. 38:2 and Rev. 20:8 have to do with two separate battles against Israel, separated by 1,000 years, this would have *NOTHING to do with understanding the use of the two names in Ezek. 38:2 in the light of the same usage of these two names in Rev. 20:8.*

Rather, since these are the *ONLY* two places in *ALL Scripture* where Gog and Magog are used together in this respect, *to ignore this would be to ignore Scripture's own built-in method of interpreting itself.*)

Then, in Ezek. 40-48, the Messianic Era follows (as previously seen following the Lord's Own interpretation of the vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezek. 37 [vv. 15-28]), which is where the Messianic Era occurs in Scripture — following Israel's restoration to her land (ch. 37b) and following the destruction of Gentile world power after Israel has been restored (chs. 40-48).

b) *But...*

But in spite of all the preceding, Bible teachers and students today are quick to interpret the Lord's Own interpretation in Ezek. 37.

They attempt to understand the vision (vv. 1-10) in the light of past and current events in the Middle East, events having occurred since May 14, 1948. And, doing this, they are then somewhat forced to interpret the Lord's interpretation (vv. 11-14) in order to make it line up with the way that they look upon and understand the preceding ten verses (vv. 1-10).

Then, doing this, the restoration of the Jewish people in Ezek. 38, 39 is seen as a present, on-going restoration, with the battle in these two chapters associated with this present restoration and usually seen occurring at a time either before the Tribulation begins or sometime during the first half of the Tribulation.

In short, mayhem has been introduced through an improper understanding of the existence of the present Jewish nation, trying to align Ezek. 37:1-10 with this improper understanding, and interpreting the Lord's Own interpretation (vv. 11-14) in order to make it fit into all of this.

And this improper handling and understanding of these fourteen verses is carried over into the next two chapters, for the restoration seen in ch. 37 is the same restoration seen in chs. 38, 39.

As well, as previously seen, Scripture's own interpretation of Ezek. 38:2-6, in Rev. 20:8, has also been completely ignored, which only adds to the existing confusion.

Had the Lord's Own interpretation of ch. 37 been followed, and had Scripture's own interpretation of Gog and Magog in Ezek. 38 been followed, *the whole of Ezek. 37-39 could ONLY have been seen after a COMPLETELY different fashion, which would be a CORRECT fashion.*

And, doing this, Bible teachers and students would not be so quick to attempt to align Middle East events which have occurred since May 14, 1948 with Bible prophecy pertaining to Israel's restoration to her land.

In fact, *they would KNOW better, NOT making this mistake.*

But the preceding is *far from what has occurred and is occurring*

among Bible teachers and students. They, through the type error which has been detailed, have, for all practical purposes, destroyed what is in these three chapters, along with material in three introductory chapters, dealing with the same thing (chs. 34-36).

Then, note the negative impact this can only have on properly understanding corresponding Scripture elsewhere.

And, as well, all of this type teaching, drawn from these chapters in Ezekiel, is being used to promote and foster a completely wrong understanding of Zionism in connection with the present Jewish nation in the Middle East.

And that's where we are in today's Christendom, with Biblical teaching surrounding Israel — present and future— skewed to varying extents because of what the preceding does at the base.

This type erroneous understanding of Scripture *can ONLY negatively affect practically everything about any proper understanding of the place which Israel occupies in God's plans and purposes, both present and future.*

(For more information on the preceding, refer to App. III, "Ezekiel Thirty-Seven—Thirty-Nine," in the author's book, *O Sleeper! Arise, Call!*)

4) *Israel's Venture into the Heavens*

Though Israel has possessed a space agency since 1981, events beginning February 21, 2019 were a "first" for the nation.

Thus, *things are NOW quite different.* The nation has moved out into space and sought to effect an Israeli presence on the moon.

And this latest venture — because of the far-reaching goal and ramifications involved — *could ONLY be the beginning of subsequent related events which will ONLY move the Jewish people even farther away from their calling as God's witness to the nations, possibly more so than any other one thing which has been done in modern times (e.g., note the Jewish attitude following the failure of their space ship to land on the moon: "If at first you don't succeed, you try again" [Netanyahu]).*

And because of the preceding, God may very well look upon the nation's latest move in a very similar manner to that seen in Gen. 11:6: "*...THIS they begin to do: and NOW nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*"

If so, this could very well be the point which God will not allow Israel to move beyond (cf. Amos 9:2; Obad. 1:4).

Israel's latest move — "Zionism at its finest" — may be where it all ends in one respect and begins in another.

(In the preceding respect, note the name which the Jewish people gave to their earth-moon venture — "*Beresheet*."

Beresheet is the first word in the Hebrew text of Genesis, meaning "in beginning," used to portend *a new type beginning for Israel — "a golden age of Israeli involvement in space."* And, as previously alluded to, *this sought-after new beginning may very well result in an END instead, with a TRUE new beginning THEN rising like a phoenix out of the ashes.)*

God's dealings with Babylon may be about to come full-circle, which, according to Scripture *WILL occur in the end times*. And, to bring these dealings full-circle, as previously stated, God may be about to come down again, as He did in Gen. 11, to complete His work of setting things right in this respect.

This *IS* going to happen one day, for the Prophets have spoken! *BUT*, is Israel's current action the catalyst to bring this about?

"Time," which is *ALMOST* up, will tell!

Israel Yet Future

Again, regardless of exactly how Israel's latest endeavour may be looked upon by God, the Prophets are clear. *God WILL step in at some point in time, which can ONLY be quite soon, and bring about changes through events seen in Rev. 6-19.*

And within these fourteen chapters, there are two complete chapters and part of a third (chs. 17-19a) — which form the capstone to the numerous places where Israel's harlotry is dealt with in Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets — detailing how this will all be brought to an end, *with true Zionism THEN seen "at its finest."*

And, again, that day CANNOT be far removed!

The Spirit's search for the bride during the present dispensation *can ONLY be ABOUT over!*

The present dispensation *can ONLY be ABOUT complete!*

God's resumption of His dealings with Israel *can ONLY be at hand!*

God's time-clock relative to Daniel's Seventy-Week prophecy *can ONLY be ABOUT to resume!*

The Times of the Gentiles *can ONLY be ABOUT to end!*

And the sceptre *can ONLY be ABOUT to change hands!*

But ALL in God's time, which can ONLY be at hand!

(Babylon, and *ALL things which pertain to this system* — the harlot woman within this system [Rev. 17-19a] and the final form of the political system [Rev. 19b] — *WILL one day be COMPLETELY DESTROYED.*

The Prophets have spoken, providing God's timing, along with numerous details, clearly revealing ALL that God wants man to know about the matter.

The entire system, which began under Nimrod in Gen. 10, 11, *will be UTTERLY DESTROYED, NEVER to rise again.*

The FINALITY of the harlot woman's DESTRUCTION:

"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever" [*her smoke rose up with respect to the ages of the ages, i.e., Israel's destroyed harlotry will NEVER appear again throughout the endless ages of eternity* (Rev. 19:1-3; cf. 18:1-24)].

The FINALITY of the political system's DESTRUCTION:

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on

the horse, and against his army.

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh" [Rev. 19:17-21; cf. Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45].)

THEN, and ONLY THEN, will Israel and the nations occupy their proper place on the earth within a theocracy.

THEN and ONLY THEN will the 3,000-year-old prayer for the peace of Jerusalem be realized (Ps. 122:6).

(Babylon and its destruction — *the COMPLETE system, Israel and the nations in the end time* — is mentioned *FAR more often* in the Prophets than many realize, which would account for its place and prominence, leading into the Messianic Era, in the Book of Revelation [chs. 17-20a].

At times, the reference has to do with *the political system, the kingdom of Antichrist* [Jer. 50, 51; Dan. 2, 7]; other times it has to do with *the harlot woman, Israel* [Isa. 47; Zech. 5:5-11].

But, invariably, *in practically ALL, if not ALL instances*, there is enough resonance seen in the text to include *BOTH*, for, in a respect, the two are seen as inseparable [much like Isa. 53, with enough resonance in the text to not only reference Christ but Israel as well].

Note how the preceding would be set forth in Rev. 17-20a, with the name of the political system used four times in connection with the harlot woman [17:5; 18:2, 10, 21; cf. 14:8; 16:19]. In these chapters, *the complete Babylonian system is brought to an END, UTTERLY DESTROYED* — *the woman FIRST* [ch. 19a], *THEN the political system* [ch. 19b].

And the Messianic Era THEN follows the destruction of the complete system [ch. 20a].

And this would be the correct order, as also seen in Ezek. 36b-48, or elsewhere in Scripture where these events appear [e.g., Rev. 14:8-20; 16:19-21]. Israel is restored to the land *AFTER the harlot is destroyed* [chs. 36b, 37], *BEFORE the destruction of Gentile world power* [chs. 38, 39].

THEN, the Messianic Era follows [chs. 40-48].

As well, note something about interpretation on the preceding:

DON'T interpret the Lord's clear interpretation of Ezek. 37:1-10 [in vv. 11-14 — "these bones are..."].

And DON'T interpret the Lord's clear identification of the harlot woman [in Rev. 17:18 — "the woman which thou sawest is..."].