

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

At the beginning of each page of the Prophecy Section of this journal I ask this question, and explain God's timetable for the second coming of Jesus Christ. That timetable is Daniel's '70th Week'. The first four pages of my Prophecy Section correspond to four links in a divine 'prophetic chain':

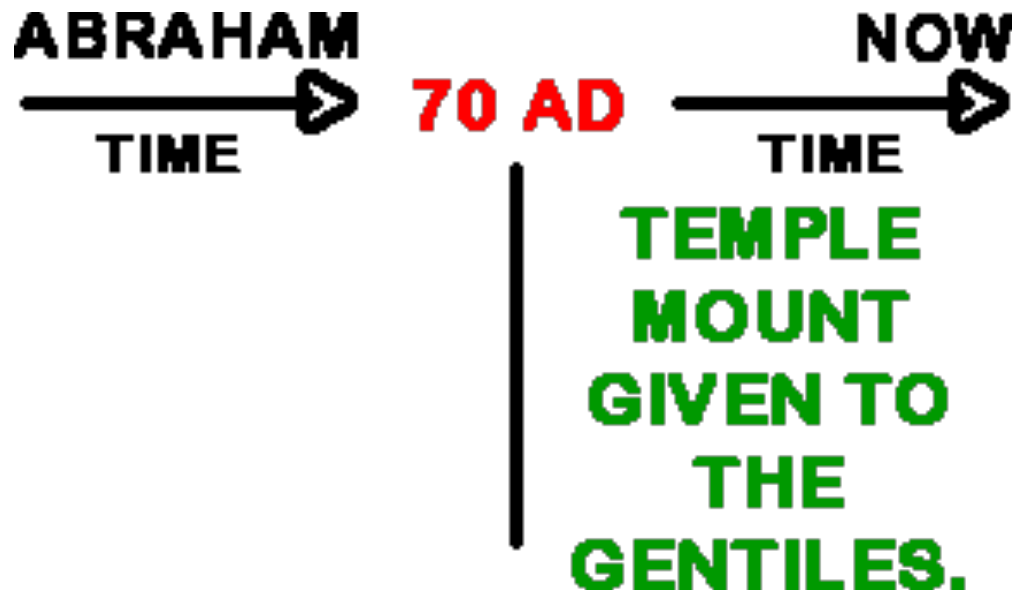


A side-by-side comparison of the three versions of Jesus' Olivet Discourse (from Matthew, Mark and Luke), combined with an examination of the four visions of John's Little Book (in Revelation chapters 11-13), leads to the undeniable conclusion that Daniel's 70th Week is the 'Great Week of the Abrahamic Covenant':

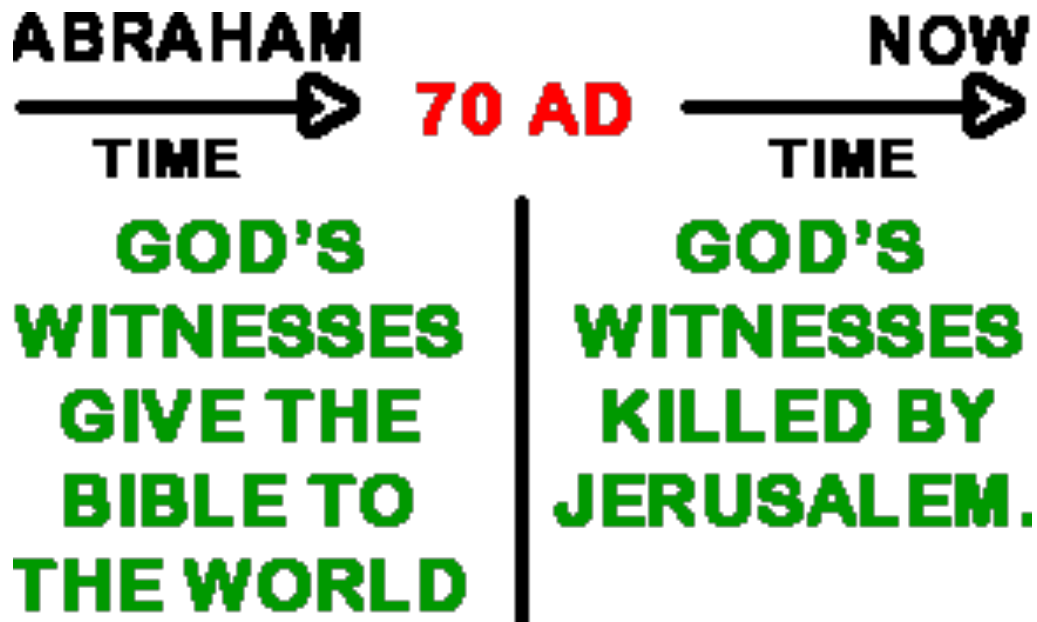


If John's 'Little Book' did not exist, I myself would feel compelled to embrace one of the other two major views on Daniel's 70th Week; either Post-Millennialism or Dispensationalism. But John's Little Book does exist. I present the four visions from that 'Little Book' in the four diagrams below:

1) THE TEMPLE AND THE COURTYARD (Revelation 11:1-2)



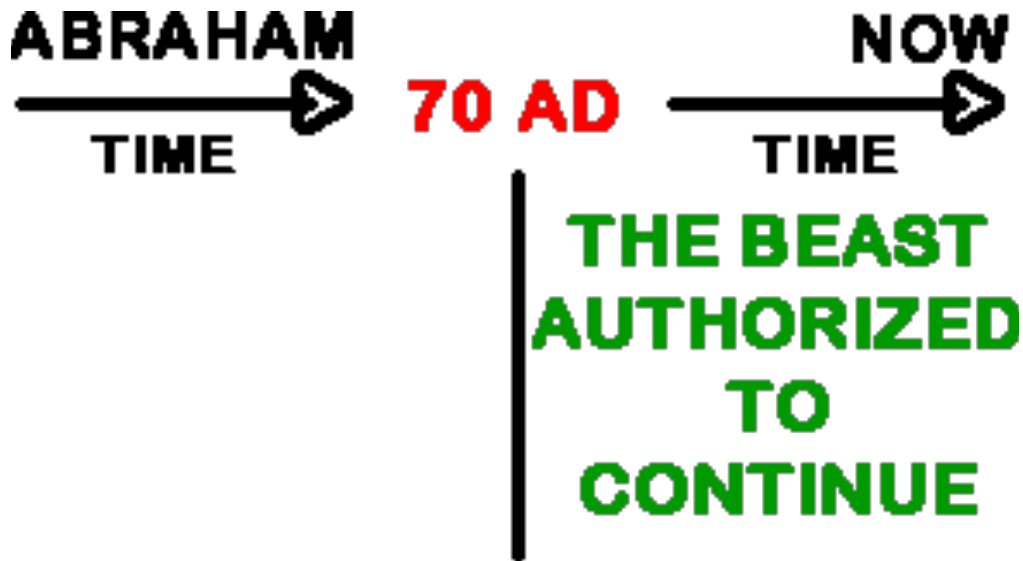
2) THE TWO WITNESSES (Revelation 11:3-12)



3) THE WOMAN, THE CHILD AND THE DRAGON (Revelation 12)



4) THE BEAST FROM THE SEA (Revelation 13)



THE WOMAN, THE CHILD AND THE DRAGON

Found within John's Little Book is the broadest and fullest single prophecy about Israel that can be found. There are many prophecies about the nation of Israel and its people throughout the Bible. But there are none as powerful and complete as the third vision of 'John's Little Book': the vision of 'The Woman, the Child and the Dragon' (found in Revelation chapter 12).

In this vision we are shown Israel's history in terms of the two halves of Daniel's 70th Week. This vision is divided into three parts:

Part 1) The Woman (Israel) gives birth to a special Child during the first half of Daniel's '70th Week'; the promised Seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ. And that 'Child' then completes His work on earth and is taken up to heaven.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven. A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried in labor and in pain to give birth.

And another sign appeared in heaven. Behold, a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who has ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there for **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**. Revelation 12:1-6

Part 2) After the woman's Child was taken to heaven, we are shown what He did there:

And war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought. But they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation, and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ have come. For the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Revelation 12:7-12

At the cross both the Father and the Son cooperated in providing the possibility of atonement and forgiveness for sinful people. And at the same time they shut Satan out of any further discussion about the matter. And so a defeated Satan no longer had any legal standing before the throne of God, and was cast out of heaven and down to earth.

The casting of Satan out of heaven, after **God's mercy triumphed over judgment**, is one of the greatest themes of the Bible:

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! Isaiah 14:12

Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I (Jesus), if I am lifted up from the earth (upon a cross), will draw all people to Myself. John 12:31-32

And when the Holy Spirit has come, He will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Of sin, because they do not believe in Me. Of righteousness, because I go to my Father and you see Me no more. Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:8-11

This second part of the vision also defines 'the Great Tribulation'; the coming of Satan's unrestrained rage down to the earth around 69 AD. The following two verses sum it all up:

Those who see you will gaze at you and consider you, saying 'Is this the one who made the earth tremble? Who shook kingdoms? Who made the world like a wilderness, and destroyed its cities? Who did not open the house of his prisoners?' Isaiah 14:16-17

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath. Because he knows that he has a short time.
Revelation 12:12

At this point it should be added that the Pharaoh of Egypt, whom Moses confronted in the book of Exodus, is a picture of Satan. He too would not let his captives go. Even after he had been defeated, and his kingdom ruined, he chose to attack the Hebrew people; even plunging his armies into the 'Red Sea' of God's judgment.

Part 3) This part explains the persecution that both the Jewish people and Christians have experienced since 70 AD; during the second half of Daniel's 70th Week. It is the result of a defeated, enraged Archangel who has been cast down to earth; knowing that his eternal doom in the Lake of Fire is certain. Since then he has been stirring up hatred for the Jewish people and Christianity ever since.

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the Woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the Woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent.

So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the Woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the Woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon spewed out of his mouth.

And the dragon was enraged with the Woman. And he went to make war with the rest of her offspring (Christians), who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:13-17

SATAN THE LAWYER

This casting of Satan out of heaven and down to earth is one of the great themes of the Bible. And in order to understand it, we must first understand that God's universe is like a great courtroom; where righteousness, truth and justice must be served. In that 'courtroom' the Son of God has stood as an 'attorney' advocating for His perspective.

On the other side, Satan has stood as an advocate for his cause. In fact the name 'Satan' means 'adversary'. And this adversarial relationship between Satan and God has been going on for a long time. This is why Satan had access to the

throne of God until 70 AD; because he had a legal right to present his 'case' before the 'Judge', God the Father up until then.

We see Satan's legal right to promote his cause throughout the Bible. For instance, God's plan to establish a righteous eternal kingdom could not have been fulfilled if, after having commanded Adam not to learn right from wrong in Eden (Genesis 2:15-17), if Satan would not have been given access to Eden and permission to tempt Adam and Eve. Satan was granted this access to Eden because it was necessary in order to fulfill all righteousness.

We also see this Satan's legal standing in the book of Job, where he reserved the right to test Job's obedience through poverty and suffering. And God allowed this to happen to Job (Job 1:6-2:10). And we also see it in the necessity that the Son of God be tested by Satan, before entering into His public ministry; after 40 days of fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

And we see Satan's legal standing again in the life of the apostle Peter:

And Jesus said 'Simon, Simon! Indeed Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail. And when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren'. Luke 22-31-32

From the moment of his first rebellion against God, Satan depended upon a knowledge of right and wrong to tempt his fellow created beings (both angels and men), and to challenge God's governance of the universe. Indeed Satan's intention was to test the moral fiber of the Son of God Himself; the One whom the Father has appointed to be 'the Lord': the Father's 'chief executive officer' in the fulfillment of His eternal plans. It was Satan's intention to challenge the Son of God, and to bring down His kingdom by bringing about His moral downfall.

This is why God commanded Adam and Eve not to learn the difference between right and wrong in Eden. Instead God was commanding them to simply acknowledge, trust and believe the Creator. And God's plan was that, as Adam and Eve evidenced love for their Himself by simply believing Him and being thankful for all that He had given to them, the Spirit of God would enter into their bodies and share with them all of the glorious attributes of God; the love of God Himself flowing out of their hearts.

This is why Satan has now been cast out of heaven and down to earth in a defeated rage; because God has now provided a way of forgiveness for a sinful human race that was deceived by Satan into joining him in his rebellion. And this is why Israel and the Jewish people are hated around the world to this day; because they brought the 'Child' (the Seed of Abraham) into the world. The Lord Jesus has overcome Satan and provided a path of forgiveness for sinners, because He has loved both righteousness and mercy. This is now what God the Father says about His victorious Son:

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. Psalm 45:6-7

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many. For He shall bear all their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong. Because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors. And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:11-12

JESUS IS ISRAEL'S 'JOSEPH'

With this vision God also points us back to the second dream of Joseph in Genesis 37:9. The sun, moon and garland of stars in Joseph's dream correspond to the sun, moon and garland of stars upon the Woman of Revelation 12. This is not a coincidence. God is pointing to the many amazing parallels between Joseph's relationship with brothers, and Jesus' relationship with His 'Jewish brothers'.

1) Joseph was especially loved and favored by his father, Jacob. And Jacob had given Joseph a 'coat of many colors' signifying this special affection. In addition, Joseph had two dreams, both of which indicated that he would be served by his brothers. Because of these things, Joseph's brothers hated him.

In a similar manner Jesus also declared to His fellow Jews that He was 'God's favorite Son', and that He would 'rule over His brothers' some day:

The high priest said to Him 'I put you under oath by the living God. Tell us if you are the Christ; the Son of God'. Jesus said to him 'It is as you said. Nevertheless I say to you: Hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, coming on the clouds of heaven'. Then the High Priest tore his clothes, saying 'He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?' They answered and said 'He is deserving of death'. Matthew 26:62-66)

2) Both Jesus and Joseph were turned over to Gentiles to be put to death. Both Jesus and Joseph suffered for crimes that they themselves did not commit. And both Jesus and Joseph were 'resurrected' from their punishments to be seated at the right hand of 'Pharaoh'. And because of the worthiness of both men, they became 'Saviors'; not only for their Jewish brothers, but for the Gentile world as well.



JOSEPH CAST INTO A PIT BY HIS BROTHERS

3) In the case of both men, their brothers assumed that they were dead; but they were not. And because of this Joseph was able to act, unrecognized by his brothers when they came to Egypt for food, to pressure them to admit their past sin against him. Joseph knew that if his brothers were unwilling to confess their guilt, there could be no possibility of restoration and peace with God.

And today, unknown to Israel, Jesus has placed His 'cup' in 'Benjamin's sack' as well (Genesis 44). Today the people of Israel, already having come through over 1900+ years of Satanic persecution, are surrounded by enemies on every side. Now antisemitism is running rampant in the United States; the 'Christian nation' that Israel once looked to for support.

And now Satan is riling up the nations of the world to have one final 'go' at the Jewish people and Israel, while the Jewish people do not realize that their 'Brother' is allowing these things to happen. He is working to bring them to acknowledge their national sin against Himself.

Zechariah provides a picture of the circumstances that will finally bring Jewish national repentance:

Behold the day of the Lord is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem. The city shall be taken, the houses rifled and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley. Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee, as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You." Zechariah 14:1-5

And when Israel finally recognizes their Brother, it will be a time of both salvation and sorrow:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications. And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son; and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. Zechariah 12:9-10

A STIFF-NECKED PEOPLE

God declared (in the book of Exodus) that the people of Israel tend to be stubborn and rebellious:

And the Lord said to Moses 'I have seen this people. And indeed it is a stiff-necked people'. Exodus 32:9

For the Lord had said to Moses "Say to the children of Israel 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst and consume you'".

Exodus 33:5

But the apostle Paul wrote about a time when 'all Israel shall be saved':

For I wish not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn ungodliness from Jacob. For this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Romans 11:25-27 (Isaiah 59:20-21)

I don't think that Paul was foretelling a time when every Jew in Israel will have been saved simply because they were biologically Jewish. Rather, I believe that Paul was foretelling a time when every citizen of Israel will be a repentant Jew; and thus both biologically and spiritually Jewish:

For then I will take away out of the midst of you those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no more be haughty because of My holy mountain (Zion). I will also leave in the midst of you an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth. Zephaniah 3:11-13

Many Christians do not appreciate this fact, and honor Israel and the Jews indiscriminately. And they even label those who do not join them as 'antisemitic'. But God makes His opinion about this false adoration of Israel and the Jewish people clear. In fact, He is going to compel the Jewish people themselves to reject it:

Unless the Lord of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom. We would have been made like Gomorrah (completely destroyed). Isaiah 1:9, Romans 9:29

While it is clear that the primary motivating force behind hatred for Israel and the Jews is Satanic, nevertheless some of the Jewish people have also managed to generate this hatred toward themselves. As I read various anti-Jewish comments on the internet today, those attacking Israel and the Jews invariably point to the fact that Jews are often behind many of the world's most evil activities. They point to Jews who are leaders in banking, government, the media and entertainment, and industries such as pharmaceuticals. And they point to Jews who are deeply involved in the World Economic Forum (WEF), and its pursuit of world dominance.

But to label all Jews as evil, based upon the wickedness of some Jews, is clearly dishonest. Nevertheless Jewish evil is so widespread and over the top, that one cannot help but understand some antisemitic arguments. And this is exactly what God Himself says:

Therefore say to the house of Israel "Thus says the Lord God: I do not do this (save you) for your sake, O house of Israel, but for my holy Name's sake; which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name which has been profaned among the nations; which you have profaned in their midst. And the nations shall know that I am the Lord" says the Lord God, "when I am honored in you (through My dealings with you) before their eyes." Ezekiel 36:22-23

In my opinion these words stand as a warning against both Jewish pride, and an antisemitism that serves Satanic rage. Those who would use examples of Jewish wrongdoing to justify persecution of Israel and the Jewish people, should remember what God said to the Gentile world through Jeremiah, when He first began to use Babylon to punish the nation of Israel:

"For behold, I **begin** to bring evil on the city (Jerusalem) which is called by My name. And should you (Gentile nations) be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished. For I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth" says the Lord of hosts. **Jeremiah 25:29**

FOR THE SAKE OF THE FATHERS

In Romans 11 Paul wrote about God's ways with Israel. And he said that Israel would ultimately be saved because of God's love for Israel's 'fathers'; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob being the first of many 'forefathers' of Israel. Writing to his Gentile audience in Rome, Paul said:

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake. But concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. **Romans 11:28**

Even though both Joseph and Jesus have loved their Jewish brethren dearly, it is ultimately out of a love for their 'fathers' that they have blessed them.

"And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up My hand to give it to your fathers. And there you shall remember your ways, and all your doings wherein you have been defiled. And you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that you have committed.

And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have worked with you **for My name's sake**; not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel" says the Lord God. **Ezekiel 20:42-44**

"For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your filthiness. And from all your idols will I cleanse you.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments, and do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will also save you from all your uncleanness". **Ezekiel 36:24-29**

AN INVITATION TO JEWS

To my Jewish reader I would say this: I am not speaking to you as a member of any Christian denomination. I am an independent Christian. For many centuries false Christians have impoverished Jews and shed their blood, driving many Jews away from **their own Messiah**.

Now, with their weak apologies, they would invite you to join in their 'ecumenical movement' and the pursuit of world 'oneness' and peace. They would deceive you again, if possible, regarding the true nature of Christianity. And they would cheat you out of your portion in the rapidly approaching kingdom of David.

Whether or not you choose to listen to their words (versus their actions) is up to you. I would simply encourage you to 'go over their heads'. Read the New Testament for yourself. Let Jesus speak to you directly through His own words, and then speak back to Him in prayer. You will find that He is nothing like those who have abused you in His name.

I speak as a biblical Christian. I know that I am a wild 'Gentile branch', grafted by God's mercy into a 'Jewish tree' (Romans 11:17-22). I know that the promised 'Seed of Abraham' has brought blessing upon all the nations of the world. In light of that fact I would plead with you; discover what your Jewish heritage is really all about.

Israel gave 'birth' to the promised 'Seed of Abraham' and Savior of the world over 2000 years ago. Since then both because Israel's 'Child' defeated Satan, and because of Israel's national sin, the Jewish people have been under a demonic attack for over 1900 years. But David's Son has not forgotten His 'brothers'. He is coming back to pour out tremendous blessing upon a repentant Jewish nation and its land. The prophet Isaiah foretold this glory of Israel's 'Child' many years ago:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder. His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end; upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9:6-7