

Heaven - our living Hope!

Part 5

By Pastor Grant Williams

Before we study what will be taking place during the Millennium Reign of Christ on earth... I want to give you a overview of a few key events that will be happening the 7 years leading up to it. During previous studies and in or current event times we have looked at the War of Gog and Magog in the book of Ezekiel while using all of God's Word for confirmation and greater understanding.

The majority of the nations that will be involved in this battle are going to be islamic nations that are against Israel today. After the War of Gog and Magog is when I believe based on God's Word is when that major peace treaty is going be signed based on Daniel 9:27. This is the 7 year Peace Treaty concerning the land of Israel.

Daniel 9:27 AMPC

27 And he shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for one week [seven years]. And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one-half years]; and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolator.

I believe that Israel will be disarmed during this time by the United Nations as part of the Peace Treaty. The weapons and weapon systems will be taken away as part of the negotiations of these islamic nations that came up against Israel during the War of Gog and Magog.

During the first 42 months of the Tribulation, the anti-christ from Mystery Babylon (Syria, Iraq and Lebanon) will begin to stock weapons and preparing for battle . At the end of the first 42 months of the Tribulation the anti-christ will invade Israel and take over Jerusalem. The Bible tells us that half of the city will go into captivity.



Zechariah 14:2 KJV

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Prior to 1967, Jerusalem was divided right down the middle between the arabs and the jews or the Jordanians and Israeli people. The eastern half of Jerusalem belonging to Jordan and the western half belonging to Israel. After the war it became united but the islamic world wants the entire city.



Why does the islamic world want Jerusalem?

Because Jerusalem contains the third most holiest site in islam, the Dome of the Rock. This city, according to Zechariah, will become a cup of trembling to all nations (referring to Armageddon) and God said all the nations that come up against Israel, I will judge!

Zechariah 12:2 KJV

2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:9 KJV

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

This judgement is not talking about the war of Gog and Magog, but the battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16 KJV

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.



During this battle, God gathers all the nations together in the plains of Megiddo. Jesus Christ is going to come back as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:11-16). He will set up His kingdom for 1,000 years and that event is important because it comes in 3 stages. Most people have never heard this, even those who have grown up in the church.

Revelation 19:11-16 KJV

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

Revelation 19:11-16 AMPC

11 After that I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse [appeared]! The One Who was riding it is called Faithful (Trustworthy, Loyal, Incorruptible, Steady) and True, and He passes judgment and wages war in righteousness (holiness, justice, and uprightness). 12 His eyes [blaze] like a flame of fire, and on His head are many kingly crowns (diadems); and He has a title (name) inscribed which He alone knows or can understand. 13 He is dressed in a robe dyed by dipping in blood, and the title by which He is called is The Word of God.

14 And the troops of heaven, clothed in fine linen, dazzling and clean, followed Him on white horses.

In verse 13, when Jesus comes back at the end of the Tribulation period, the Bible says that His garment is dipped in blood...

Revelation 19:13 KJV

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

I used to think to myself, maybe that's His own blood? It's not.

Isaiah 63:1-4 KJV

1 Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?

3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.

4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.



The Bible tells us that He goes into Bozrah which is just south of the Dead Sea and He treads the wine press alone. Jesus comes down to the earth by Himself and defeats the armies of the enemy in Bozrah. The reason to go to Bozrah? That is near Petra and that is where the Jewish remnant will be. Satan will make his final attempt to destroy the remnant but Jesus will fight the anti-christ armies and then return to heaven.

This is where we pick up the story in Revelations 19, when Jesus comes back, riding on that white horse, His garment dipped in blood and on His garment and His thigh is written, “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”.

Let’s get into the 3 stages of the return of the Lord. **The first stage is the Judah stage** and that is found in Zechariah 12:7-9

Zechariah 12:7-9 KJV

7 The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.

8 In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them.

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

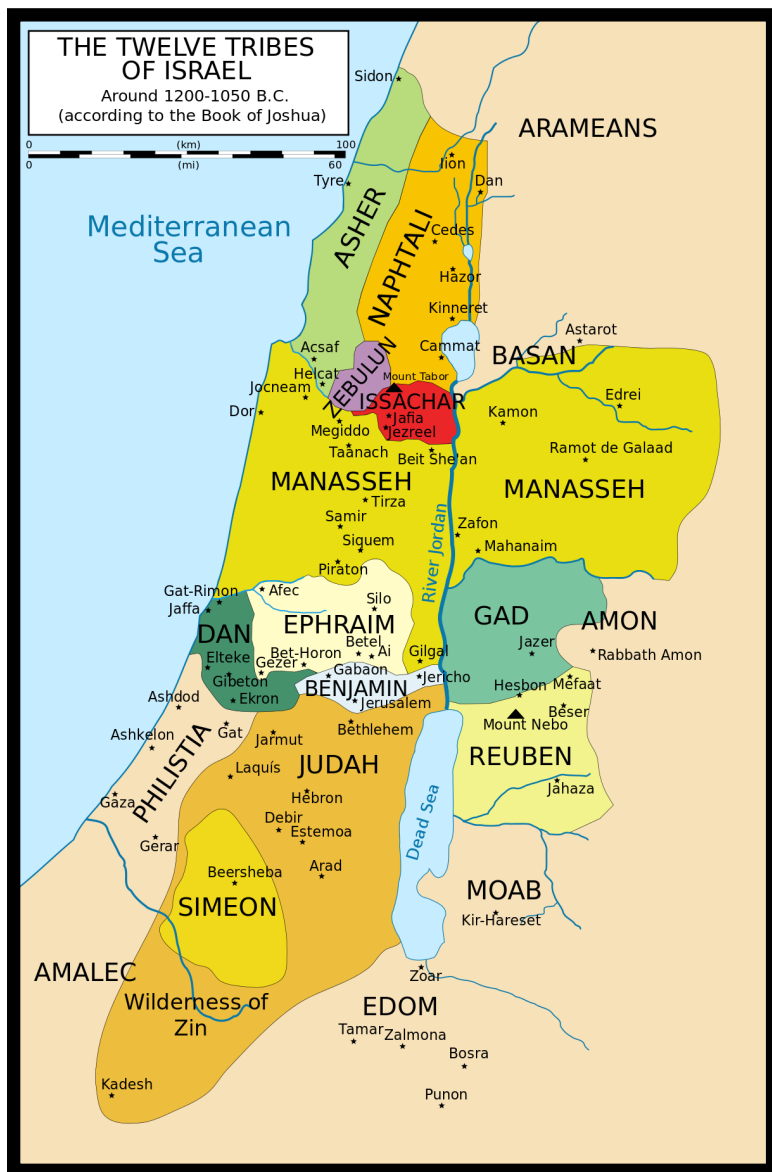
Verse 7 says, The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, why? why Judah first? Because that is His tribe, that is His territory, that is where He is from. He is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Revelation 5:5 KJV

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The area of Judah goes down to the area of Edom where He will fight the enemy in Bozrah and rescue the remnant. (Pictured on page 7) This is also the area going north up to the area of Bethlehem and Jerusalem where Jesus and King David were born. So, Jesus will come and save a remnant there in Judah.

The second stage is the Bozrah Stage. Jesus goes down to Bozrah as we just learned in Isaiah 63:1-4. Isaiah 63:1-4,



***Isaiah 63:1-4...** “I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.”*

This is the picture of Jesus Christ, the messiah, literally coming back to battle with the sword of His mouth wiping out the armies of the antichrist who are going after a remnant in Petra.

The third stage is where you and I come in, the Jerusalem Stage.

Zechariah 14:4 AMPC

4 And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from the east to the west by a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south.

This is the part where **we get involved....** (1 Thessalonians 4: those who were alive and those who had died- IN CHRIST and have gone up in the rapture.)

Revelation 19:14 KJV

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

You and I are part of the army of Heaven! We come down for that final battle with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! This final stage, the Jerusalem Stage starts right at the Mount of Olives, and this is very important. There is a passage in the Bible that says that the blood will be up to the horses bridle...

Revelation 14:20 KJV

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. (200 miles)

What is this referring to? a river of blood so high and long that it comes up 6 feet? In ancient times measurement was given by referencing the comparison to the knee of the horse, the hip of the horse or the bridle of the horse. I believe from studying the greek and cross referencing other Bible passages that this is stating that the bodies will be piled up everywhere and to the height of the horses bridle.



In previous series and during current events we've learned about the Jezreel Valley. This is where Megiddo is located and this area is significant because the Battle of Armageddon will be fought here. Megiddo is a city located in the territory given to the Israelite tribe of Manasseh when they entered the Promised Land. The word itself is translated from the Hebrew means to slaughter or cut off.

The Jezreel Valley is also where Queen Jezebel was killed (2 Kings 9) for killing God's Prophets. In addition, inside the Jezreel Valley is the plain of Megiddo which is known as the great battlefield of Palestine. Many decisive battles, especially in ancient times, have been fought in or near this area.

To the south of the Jezreel Valley is the Kidron Valley which also used to be known as the Valley of Jehoshaphat. In the book of Joel, it was prophesied by the Prophet Joel that God will bring the Judgement in the valley of Jehoshaphat.

Prophet defined by 1828 Webster's Dictionary:

- 1. One that foretells future events; a predictor; a foreteller.**
- 2. a person illuminated, inspired or instructed by God to announce future events; as Jeremiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel etc.**

A Prophet is never wrong - NEVER WRONG !

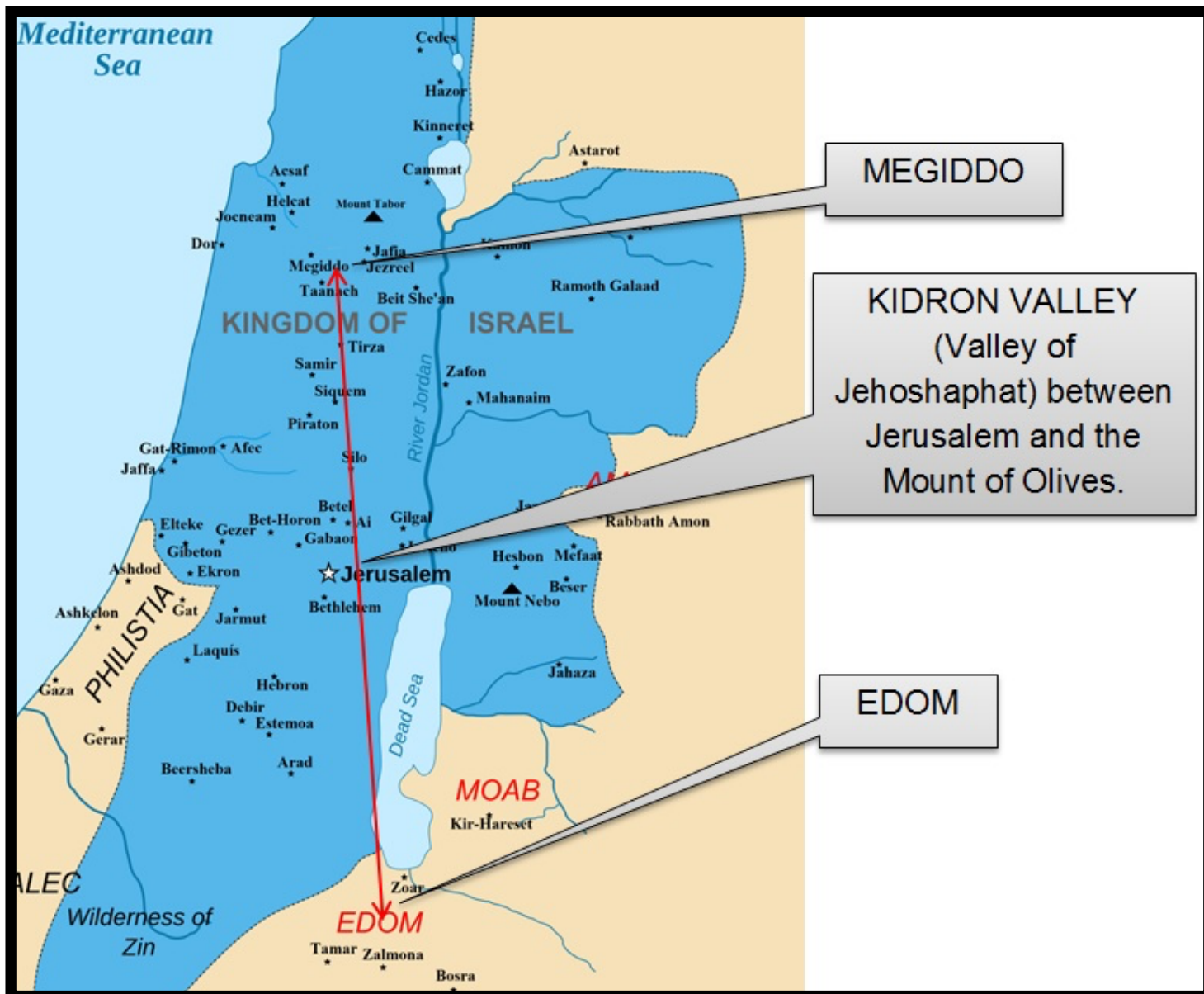
Joel 3:2 AMPC

2 I will gather all nations and will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and there will I deal with and execute judgment upon them for [their treatment of] My people and of My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and [because] they have divided My land.

Joel 3:12 AMPC

12 Let the nations bestir themselves and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there will I sit to judge all the nations round about.

The prophet Joel is speaking of the anti-christ and his armies making a last surge to take the remnant and the city of Jerusalem in the Valley of Jehoshaphat but Jesus Christ and his army wipes them out.



2 Thessalonians 2:8 KJV

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Remember, the bodies of His enemies will be piled up everywhere (Revelation 14:20). God’s Word also tells us that the Tribulation (7 years) is to destroy the sinners out of this earth.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 AMPC

6 *[It is a fair decision] since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with distress and affliction those who distress and afflict you,*

7 *And to [recompense] you who are so distressed and afflicted [by granting you] relief and rest along with us [your fellow sufferers] when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire,*

8 *To deal out retribution (chastisement and vengeance) upon those who do not know or perceive or become acquainted with God, and [upon those] who ignore and refuse to obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

9 *Such people will pay the penalty and suffer the punishment of everlasting ruin (destruction and perdition) and eternal exclusion and banishment from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 KJV

6 *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*

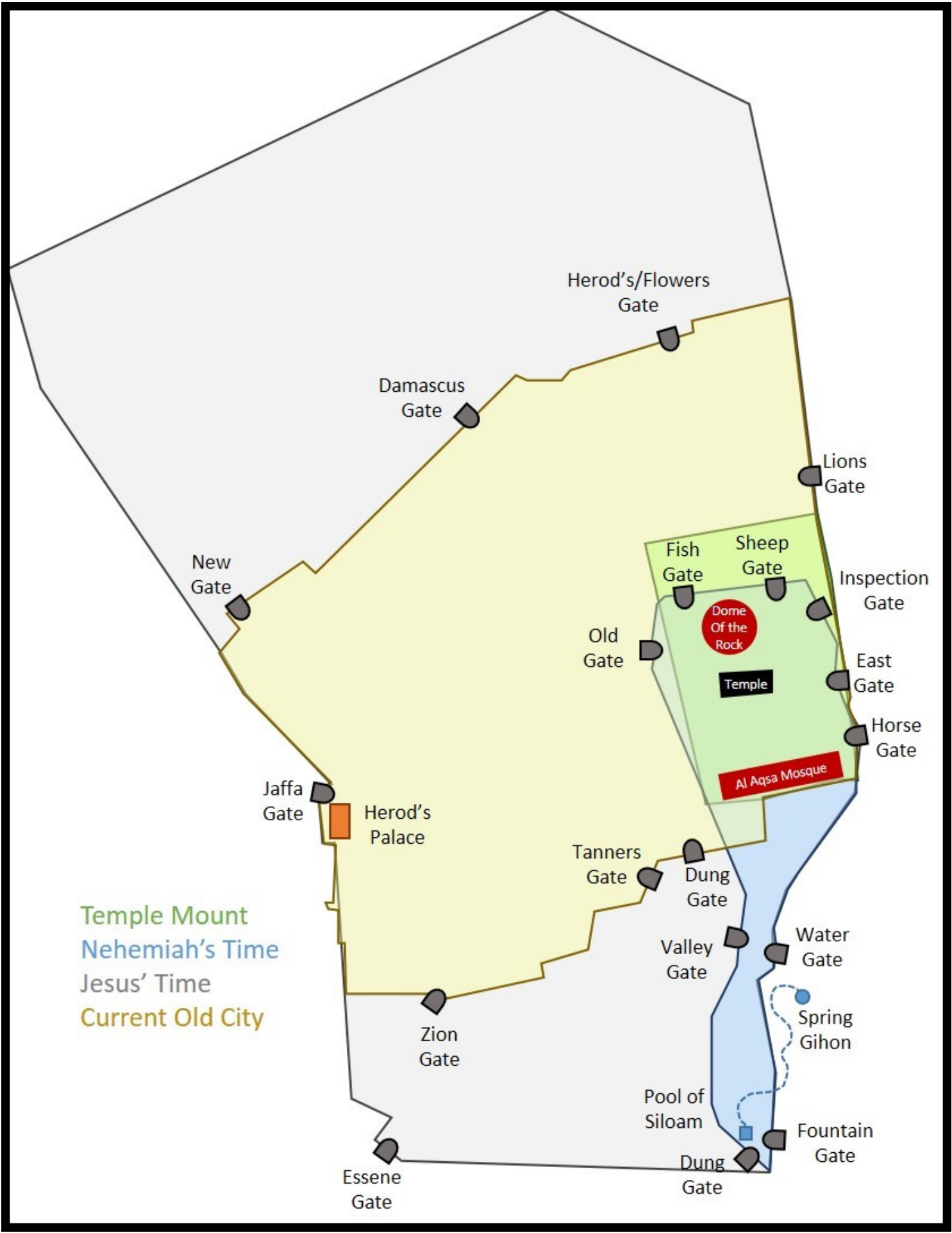
7 *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

When you and I, the saints come back to Jerusalem with Jesus Christ it will not look like it did before these wars began. The walls will be damaged but according to the Prophet Ezekiel in Chapter 46, the Messiah will be coming through the eastern gate.

This is very interesting...currently, the Eastern Gate is sealed but, every other gate in the city of Jerusalem is currently open.



Temple Mount
 Nehemiah's Time
 Jesus' Time
 Current Old City

Why is the Eastern Gate closed? Jewish rabbis describe the Messiah as a great military leader who would be sent by God from the east. He would enter the Eastern Gate or Golden Gate and liberate the city from foreign control. To prevent this, the muslims (when under their control) sealed the gate and put a muslim cemetery in front of it believing that a holy man would not defile himself by walking through a Muslim cemetery. Little did they know, they were fulfilling prophecy by doing this.

In the Six Day War, some members of the Jewish military suggested catching the Jordanian defenders of the city off guard by blowing open the sealed Eastern Gate. But the leader of the group, an Orthodox Jew, had vehemently protested the idea, stating that “the Eastern Gate can be opened only when the Messiah comes.”

In 1917 Muslim leaders in control of Jerusalem tried and failed to break the prophecy and open the gate. On the exact day the workmen were preparing to demolish the ancient stone, the hand of God intervened and the city of Jerusalem passed out of Muslim control into the hands of the British.

The Bible says that this gate is for the Prince. The gate has been opened, the Prince has gone in it and the gate was shut. Then it will be opened again for the prince.

Ezekiel 44:3 KJV

3 It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate, and shall go out by the way of the same.

Ezekiel 46:2 KJV

2 And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate without, and shall stand by the post of the gate, and the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate: then he shall go forth; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening.

Ezekiel 46:8 KJV

8 And when the prince shall enter, he shall go in by the way of the porch of that gate, and he shall go forth by the way thereof.

Ezekiel 46:12 KJV

12 Now when the prince shall prepare a voluntary burnt offering or peace offerings voluntarily unto the Lord, one shall then open him the gate that looketh toward the east, and he shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, as he did on the sabbath day: then he shall go forth; and after his going forth one shall shut the gate.



When you read these prophecies it says that when He has come through the gate, the gate will be sealed and then be opened. That is exactly what is going to happen. This is the place that Jesus rode the donkey through. There used to be a 3-tiered rent coming from this gate to the Mount of Olives.

That is the gate that Jesus rode on the donkey through which at that time was known as the Golden Gate or Kings Gate as they were saying Hosannah to the King !

Matthew 21:9-10 KJV

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

Jesus has already been through the gate. The original gate that Jesus rode through is directly under the current Eastern Gate.

This is an important place. The Jewish people are buried facing the Eastern Gate so when the Messiah comes they will rise up and follow Him in.

But, the only people who will be there to follow Him in will be those who are truly born again, who believe in what Jesus did on the Cross and live today for that risen Savior. When Jesus Christ, the Messiah comes back everything will be and look totally different... After Jesus touches down on the Mount Of Olives and takes over the city of Jerusalem, everything that you see today will look drastically different.



These are the changes in Israel that will take place. First, starting with the 12 Tribes of Israel, they will be given the land from the sea of Egypt all the way to Damascus.

Ezekiel 47:13-23 KJV

13 Thus saith the Lord God; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions.

14 And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another: concerning the which I lifted up mine hand to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance.

15 And this shall be the border of the land toward the north side, from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad;

16 Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazarhatticon, which is by the coast of Hauran.

17 And the border from the sea shall be Hazarenan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And this is the north side.



18 And the east side ye shall measure from Hauran, and from Damascus, and from Gilead, and from the land of Israel by Jordan, from the border unto the east sea. And this is the east side.

19 And the south side southward, from Tamar even to the waters of strife in Kadesh, the river to the great sea. And this is the south side southward.

20 The west side also shall be the great sea from the border, till a man come over against Hamath. This is the west side.

21 So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel.

22 And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall beget children among you: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

23 And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord God.

These divisions will be done in horizontal sections. Each tribe will be given their land as it extends out towards the Mediterranean Sea. Jerusalem is going to be enlarged as well. It will be one large square and it will be leveled off and straightened everywhere.

Isaiah 40:4 KJV

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

Jerusalem, now being made a giant square will also have 12 gates surrounding the city according to the Prophet Ezekiel.

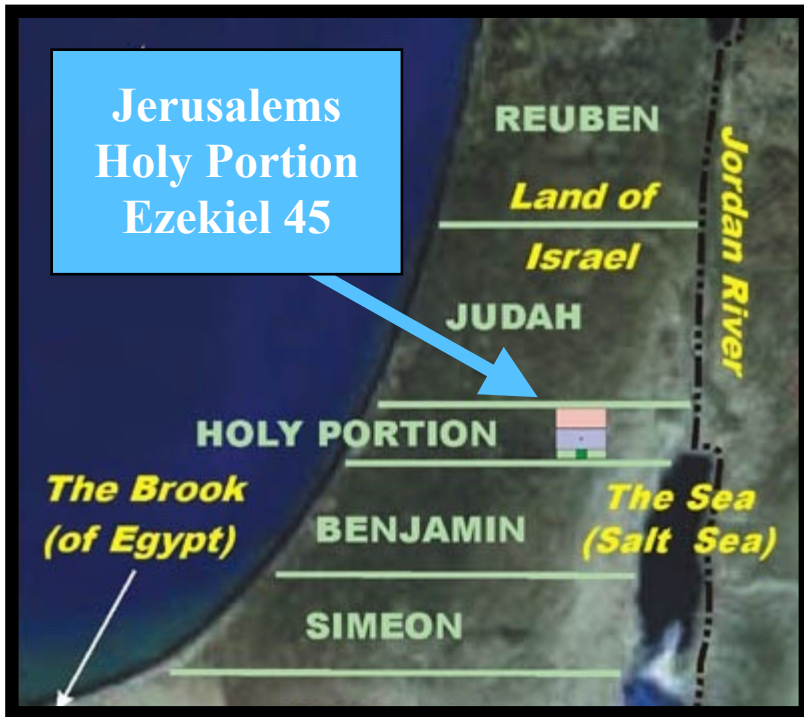
Ezekiel 48:31-34 KJV

31 And the gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of Judah, one gate of Levi.

32 And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan.

33 And at the south side four thousand and five hundred measures: and three gates; one gate of Simeon, one gate of Issachar, one gate of Zebulun.

34 At the west side four thousand and five hundred, with their three gates; one gate of Gad, one gate of Asher, one gate of Naphtali.



This is not talking about heaven or the new Jerusalem, we are talking about the Jerusalem that will be built during the one thousand year reign of Christ. Ezekiel goes on to give great detail of the walls surrounding the city. The outer walls of the city in that day will have carvings of palm trees and cherubim.

Ezekiel 41:18-19 KJV

*18 And it was made with cherubims and palm trees, so that a palm tree was between a cherub and a cherub; and every cherub had two faces;
19 So that the face of a man was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side: it was made through all the house round about.*

The cherubim will have 2 faces, the face of a lion and the face of a man. Why? Because Jesus came in the form of a man to be the Messiah but now He is coming as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. This will be carved all over the city walls during the Millennial Reign.

Revelation 5:5 KJV

*5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: **behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

The Prophet Ezekiel then gives us the dimensions of the Temple in great detail...God is very specific, He's not ambiguous.

During the Millennium Reign of Christ, the size of Jerusalem will be 50 miles x 50 miles. The city will be rebuilt during this time period of Bible Prophecy because of the destruction that took place during the last 42 months of the Tribulation.

Life during this Millennium Reign will be very different. The Bible says in Zechariah that the people who survived the Tribulation will be coming up to Jesus and asking Him questions and going to see him...

Zechariah 13:6 KJV

6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

Zechariah 8:23 KJV

23 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

In addition, those who survived will have to come up to the city of Jerusalem to worship during the Feast Of Tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:16 KJV

16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

We will be going to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, this is in the Bible! During my teaching, preaching and conferences over the years I will mention things regarding Hebraic roots that are in christianity such as the feasts which people will tell me - that's all been done away with... not it's not, read the Bible during the Millennial Reign Of Christ. In Zechariah 8:23, where they *take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew*, that is the Tallit or the prayer shawl that they are wearing.

When the Bible speaks about celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, that is one of the 7 Feasts of Israel that is perpetual even in the Millennial Reign. In the book of Ezekiel there is a priesthood during the Millennial Reign., (priests and levites) and the sons of Zadok are ministering in the Temple, faithful Priests at they time of David and Solomon).

Ezekiel 44:15 KJV

15 But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord God:

Ezekiel 48:11 KJV

11 It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray.

In the time of Israel's captivity in Babylon (605-535 BC), God gave Ezekiel the prophet a message for His people, explaining the many reasons their nation was going to be destroyed and the people taken captive. Remember, Isaiah spoke of this 150 years earlier about repenting unless judgment would come. He said from the top down (religious leaders and those who they were training - the people) were sinful, loaded with iniquity and evil.

Isaiah 1:1-20 AMPC

1 The vision [seen by spiritual perception] of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah [the kingdom] and Jerusalem [its capital] in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: I have nourished and brought up sons and have made them great and exalted, but they have rebelled against Me and broken away from Me.

3 The ox [instinctively] knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib, but Israel does not know or recognize Me [as Lord], My people do not consider or understand.

4 *Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised and shown contempt and provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger, they have become utterly estranged (alienated).*

5 *Why should you be stricken and punished any more [since it brings no correction]? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint (feeble, sick, and nauseated).*

6 *From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness or health in [the nation's body]—but wounds and bruises and fresh and bleeding stripes; they have not been pressed out and closed up or bound up or softened with oil. [No one has troubled to seek a remedy.]*

7 *[Because of your detestable disobedience] your country lies desolate, your cities are burned with fire; your land—strangers devour it in your very presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by aliens.*

8 *And the Daughter of Zion [Jerusalem] is left like a [deserted] booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, like a besieged city [spared, but in the midst of desolation].*

9 *Except the Lord of hosts had left us a very small remnant [of survivors], we should have been like Sodom, and we should have been like Gomorrah*

10 *Hear [O Jerusalem] the word of the Lord, you rulers or judges of [another] Sodom! Give ear to the law and the teaching of our God, you people of [another] Gomorrah!*

11 *To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me [unless they are the offering of the heart]? says the Lord. I have had enough of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts [without obedience]; and I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of he-goats [without righteousness].*

12 *When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you that your [unholy feet] trample My courts?*

13 *Bring no more offerings of vanity (emptiness, falsity, vainglory, and futility); [your hollow offering of] incense is an abomination to Me; the New Moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure— [it is] iniquity and profanation, even the solemn meeting.*

14 Your New Moon festivals and your [hypocritical] appointed feasts My soul hates. They are an oppressive burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them.

15 And when you spread forth your hands [in prayer, imploring help], I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood!

16 Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes! Cease to do evil,

17 Learn to do right! Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, and correct the oppressor. Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together; says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;

20 But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Jeremiah said for every command (the 10 commandments) not repented for, 7 years would Gods people be in bondage or captivity. Just as the prophet spoke, Gods people did not repent and stayed in their iniquity so they were taken into captivity for 70 years. Then, Daniel was praying for the release and reminding God in Chapter 10 of His promise to release His people after 70 years in captivity as we have studied.

The main reason above all the rest for the punishment was they had weak priests or weak pastors, who refused to stand against the evil of their time **and lead the people into Gods truth.** This is what God said to the “Never Wrong” Prophet Ezekiel in chapter 22 of this great book.

Ezekiel 22:26 KJV

26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

The priests refused to tell the truth about right and wrong, so the people went astray. The “church” wasn’t being the church. Her leaders refused to clearly distinguish between Gods way and the worlds way. They mixed the holy and the profane. They preached a watered down message so the people wouldn’t be offended.

Enter Zadok and his descendants. He was a godly priest who was faithful during the time of rebellion under King David, while the other priests simply went along with the cultural climate of the day (1 Kings 1-2). As a result, God blessed Zadok and his sons for drawing the line of truth in the sand.

Ezekiel prophesied of these “sons of Zadok” a remnant of priests who only spoke the truth to the people. These were the ones in the middle of all the other priests who stood up and spoke the Word of God clearly, leading the people toward the truth instead of away from it. No matter how strong the influence of culture was against them, the sons of Zadok remained and would remain teaching the way of God in truth unafraid. Because of who they were, God tells us that they will be used for a special purpose.

Ezekiel 44:15 KJV

15 But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord God:

Ezekiel 44:23 KJV

23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

This is why God chose them to be in the Millennial Reign. The Zadok priests made clear judgements about right and wrong based on Gods Word while other priests clouded the truth and refused to show the way of righteousness. **Then at the end of the 1,000 year reign, satan is freed...**

Revelation 20:1-3, 7 KJV

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:1-3, 7 AMPC

1 Then I saw an angel descending from heaven; he was holding the key of the Abyss (the bottomless pit) and a great chain was in his hand.

2 And he gripped and overpowered the dragon, that old serpent [of primeval times], who is the devil and Satan, and [securely] bound him for a thousand years.

3 Then he hurled him into the Abyss (the bottomless pit) and closed it and sealed it above him, so that he should no longer lead astray and deceive and seduce the nations until the thousand years were at an end. After that he must be liberated for a short time.

7 And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his place of confinement,

Why? why does God allow satan to be loosed (freed, liberated) from the bottomless pit after one thousand years? We will find out in Part 6?

The importance of the gates of Jerusalem

The gates of ancient cities were important as a means of providing access to the city while maintaining security. The Bible speaks of the gates of Jerusalem many times in many different contexts. As the city walls are built, destroyed, and moved and the gates are bricked up, restored, or renamed.

Pre-Exilic Gates

The wall around Jerusalem before the Babylonian exile was probably close to the one that Nehemiah rebuilt. It roughly encompassed the Temple Mount to the north and trailed to the south to include the Pool of Siloam. It's especially difficult to determine where the pre-exilic gates were in relation to modern Jerusalem.

Corner Gate: Location uncertain, although apparently on the northwest corner of the wall. It was destroyed by King Jehoash of Israel (2 Kings 14:13; 2 Chronicles 25:23) and later rebuilt by King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:9). Jeremiah 31:38 says the Corner Gate will be rebuilt, and Zechariah 14:10 mentions it during a prophecy about the Day of the Lord.

Ephraim Gate: On the north wall, toward Ephraim. Second Kings 14:13 and 2 Chronicles 25:23 say it was near the Corner Gate. The Ephraim Gate isn't mentioned in Nehemiah's tour of the walls in Nehemiah 3, but it is mentioned during the Feast of Booths (Nehemiah 8:16) and the dedication of the wall (Nehemiah 12:39). The latter passage puts it in series with the Old Gate, the Fish Gate, and the Sheep Gate.

Foundation Gate: This gate is mentioned during the coronation of King Joash (2 Chronicles 23:5) The parallel passage of 2 Kings 11:6 calls it the Sur Gate. Jeremiah called it the Middle Gate and said it was where the Babylonian officials came and waited for King Zedekiah to declare defeat (Jeremiah 39:3). The Foundation Gate is apparently an interior gate in or leading to the king's residence. It's unclear if it is the same as the Horse Gate in 2 Kings 11:16.

Benjamin Gate: Probably the same location as the later Muster Gate or possibly the Sheep Gate. Jeremiah was put into stocks at the Benjamin Gate after Pashhur the priest beat him (Jeremiah 20:2).

New Gate: Jeremiah was put before an inquiry at the "the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house," which was apparently in the courtyard of the temple (Jeremiah 26:10; 36:10).

Nehemiah's Gates

While Nehemiah served King Artaxerxes in Babylon, he heard of the ruined state of Jerusalem. He was given authorization and supplies to go there and restore the walls and the gates. When Nehemiah arrived, he made a detailed inspection of the walls and gates (Nehemiah 2:11–16) and organized the people to start the rebuilding effort (Nehemiah 2:17–3:32). When the wall was rebuilt, it probably encompassed the same area as before, except it may have excluded the king's gardens in the southeast. Starting from the east corner of the north wall, Nehemiah went counterclockwise:

Sheep Gate (AKA Benjamin Gate?): North central, just north of the Temple Mount. Near where the sheep market was for the temple sacrifices. The priests rebuilt and dedicated it (Nehemiah 3:1). Possibly the entrance from the road to Jericho. It may be the same Sheep Gate of John 5:2 near the Pool of Bethesda, but that identification is unclear.

Fish Gate (AKA Ephraim Gate): Northwest, just northwest of the temple. The main entrance for fish mongers from the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee. The Fish Gate was one of Jerusalem's main entrances. King Manasseh had built it after God sent the Assyrians to capture him and teach him humility (2 Chronicles 33:14). Nehemiah had the sons of Hassenaah rebuild it (Nehemiah 3:3). Zephaniah prophesied that a cry will come from the Fish Gate on the Day of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:10).

Old Gate (AKA Gate of Yeshanah/Jeshanah, which means “of the old” or possibly “the gate of the new quarter”): The location of this gate is uncertain. Nehemiah 3:6 suggests it is near the northwest corner of the wall, west of the Fish Gate.

Valley Gate: West central, south of the present wall of Old City. The gate that Nehemiah used when he did his inspection of the walls (Nehemiah 2:13, 15).

Dung Gate (AKA Potsherd Gate?): Very southern tip, facing southwest. There was a walled section around the Pool of Shelah (or Siloam, John 9:6–7), then the Dung Gate (Nehemiah 3:13–14) exited out to a garbage dump in the Hinnom Valley where, in the days of King Manasseh, child sacrifices took place (2 Chronicles 33:6). One of two great choirs went to the Dung Gate during the dedication of the wall (Nehemiah 12:31).

Fountain Gate: Southern tip, facing east. The east gate that led out from the Pool of Shelah to the king's gardens and the stairs that went down the eastern slope (Nehemiah 3:15; 12:37).

Water Gate: Facing east, south of the current Old City walls (Nehemiah 3:26). It is near the start of the tunneled waterway that was fed by a spring—possibly En-Rogel (Joshua 15:7; 18:16) or Gihon (2 Chronicles 32:30; 33:14). The eastern wall on the south end apparently was abandoned and a new wall built farther west, turning the southern section into more of a tail.

The new wall excluded the tomb of David and most of the water tunnel that fed the Pool of Shelah by the Dung Gate. But the narrow confines included the upper house of the king, the home of the high priest, and the ascent to the armory. After the wall was built, Ezra read the people the Law from a square by the Water Gate (Nehemiah 8:1).

Horse Gate: East side, just east of the royal palace and southeast of the Temple Mount. Near where the priests had their homes (Nehemiah 3:28). Not the same “horse gate” of 2 Kings 11:16 and 2 Chronicles 23:15; that gate was between the palace and the temple and was the site where Queen Athaliah was killed.

East Gate (AKA Golden Gate or Temple Gate): Just north of the Horse Gate, it led to the temple. Around 600 BC, Ezekiel prophesied that a “gate facing east” would be sealed (Ezekiel 44:1–3), but this is not the same East Gate mentioned by Nehemiah.

Muster Gate (AKA Inspection Gate; Benjamin Gate?): Between the East Gate and the northeast corner of the wall. Possibly the same as the Benjamin Gate (Jeremiah 20:2) where Jeremiah was imprisoned in stocks.

New Testament Gates

The wall around Jerusalem during the time of the New Testament was probably the biggest that ever existed. Because of that, these gates are even more difficult to locate.

Essene Gate: The Essene Gate was on the wall that existed in Jesus’ time, south and a bit west of the present-day Zion Gate. Appropriately enough, it was the gate through the wall that led to the Essene section of the city. This south wall was mentioned by Josephus but was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70 and never rebuilt.

Beautiful Gate (AKA Nicanor Gate): An entrance to the temple courtyard built by Herod the Great of polished bronze. The place where Peter and John healed a lame man (Acts 3:10). Note, this is not a gate in the city walls.

East Gate (AKA Beautiful Gate or Golden Gate): Jesus apparently entered this gate on Palm Sunday before He drove out the merchants in the temple courtyard (Matthew 21:12–17).

Jerusalem Old City

The walls around Jerusalem have been torn down, built up, and moved many times. In AD 70, they were destroyed by the Romans, and in 1033 by an earthquake. The walls as we see them today were built in the 1500s. Viewed from above, they look like a rough parallelogram sloping from northeast to southwest. These are the gates around Old City Jerusalem now:

East Gate: In AD 1530 Ottoman Turks walled up the East Gate because of a Jewish tradition that states the Messiah will pass through the Eastern Gate when He comes to rule. The walling-up of the East Gate was a Muslim attempt to keep out the Jewish Messiah.

Lion’s Gate (AKA St. Stephen’s Gate): The deacon Stephen was supposedly killed in the Kidron Valley, below. In the 16th century, the Turkish sultan dreamed he was being attacked by lions. An interpreter told him they represented the lions that guarded the thrones of David and Solomon and the dream meant that, if he treated Jerusalem with respect, he would be blessed. The sultan went to Jerusalem and saw the walls were in ruins. So he rebuilt the wall, including this gate—which appears to be guarded by relief carvings of leopards, not lions.

Herod's Gate (AKA Flowers Gate): Near the east corner of the north wall. Right outside the gate is a cemetery. No one wanted to live in an area known for a cemetery, so they changed the Arabic for “cemetery”—*Sahirah*—to *Zahirah*, which means “flowers.” Although it’s also known as “Herod’s Gate,” there was no gate there when Herod the Great was king, although Herod Antipas had a home nearby.

Damascus Gate: The center of the north wall. The busiest gate on weekends as shoppers come into Jerusalem.

New Gate: The northwest corner of the Old City. The current New Gate was made in 1887 when Christians demanded the Turkish sultan give them direct access to their quarter of the city.

Jaffa Gate: The center of the western wall, near where Herod’s palace was. Currently, one of the main gates into Jerusalem.

Zion Gate: Near the west corner of the southern wall. Connects King David’s tomb and the Upper Room to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City.

Tanners Gate: Although Tanners Gate dates to medieval times, it was only reopened during the 1990s to alleviate pedestrian traffic that came through the newer Dung Gate to get to the Wailing Wall.

Dung Gate: Apparently not the original Dung Gate; this is farther north, as the “tail” of Nehemiah’s Jerusalem was cut off.

New Jerusalem Gates

Tribal Gates: Ezekiel 48:30–35 and Revelation 21:9–27 describe the New Jerusalem. The heavenly city will have three gates on each side—one gate for each of the tribes of Israel. While the walls are built and decorated with jewels, each gate will be made of a single pearl, and each will be guarded by an angel.

