

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 17

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The Siege of Jerusalem by David Roberts, Cir 1796–1864

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Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message Seventeen

THE TRIBULATION PREDICTION

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Revelation 5:11–14

¹¹And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; ¹²saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might and honor, and glory, and blessing. ¹³And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things are in them, heard I saying, Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, [be] the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, forever and ever. ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped (KJV).

ANGELS IN THE THRONE

Revelation 5:11

¹¹And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands (KJV);

John sees so many that he cannot begin to express any words regarding their volume. So, he says myriads or *ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands*. The number of the angels can be estimated as one hundred millions, to begin with, and then millions and millions more! This, is a clear allusion to Daniel 7:10 which as an Orthodox Jew he knew the OT well; (where “thousand” precedes “myriad” in both the Masoretic Text and Septuagint, the more usual order) describing the infinite number of the heavenly host that attend God. A “myriad” is the highest number known to the Greco-Roman world (about ten thousand). The mention of an innumerable host of angels also occurs often in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 33:2; Job 25:3; Psalm 68:17; 89:7; Daniel 7:10). These observations of John emphasizes the power of the scene, stressing even more the incomparable majesty and splendor of God on His throne. These angels “*round about the throne*” form a fourth circle around it, after the rainbow, the living creatures, and the elders as if to guard the participants and their activities.

ANGELIC PRAISE

Revelation 5:12

¹²saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might and honor, and glory, and blessing (KJV).

After the Lamb has taken the book, the angels say, “*Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might and honor, and glory, and blessing.*” their adoration, and what He has done for all to die and rise in resurrection for all. For it was unto Him that sitteth upon the throne; and their cry of WORTHY, was to Him who created all things, and by

whose will they were, and were created. But here they fall down before the Lamb, and cry their WORTHY, unto Him that was slain, and had redeemed them with His blood. And in connection with their new song to Him who holds the book, they are described as “*having each a harp and golden bowls full of incenses, which are the prayers of the saints.*” Christ has just now been acknowledged as the possessor of the ability and the right to enter, with His redeemed ones, upon their inheritance. It is now the time for all the prayers of all the saints of all the ages to be realized of that which Jesus taught His apostles to pray, “THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.” So have all Christians ever prayed. Such is the theme of all true supplication, as it has been the spirit of faith and hope.

Revelation 5:13–14

¹³And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things are in them, heard I saying, Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, [be] the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, forever and ever. ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped (KJV).

In this final act of praise before Lord Jesus actually begins the Tribulation the four ... creatures said Amen, and the 24 elders fell prostrate in worship. Now the last preparatory events conclude for the dramatic events to follow, the opening of the seven seals. It is clear from this revelation that heaven is real, not imagined. These two chapters reveal the indescribable glory and infinite majesty of the Godhead in heaven. The following chapters reveal this sovereign power of God expressed in judgment on a wicked world sunk in unprecedented depths of sin and blasphemy. Though believers today do not have the privilege of sharing John’s vision or a similar one granted to Paul (II Corinthians 12:1–3), every believer can take the word pictures of Scripture here and anticipate the glory and the wonder of the heavenly scene that we will someday see with our own eyes.

The Tribulation Described in The Old Testament

First it is important to consider some Key passages in the Old Testament, which give general descriptions of the Tribulation. God always tells us in advance of what He is going to do so we should not be surprised. Most of us spend very little time in the Old Testament and especially the prophets. But that is where God has revealed His secrets! The OT is not irrelevant. It contains many yet future prophecies and examples for us to follow as well as for us not to follow (I Corinthians 10:11).

Amos 3:7

⁷Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, But he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets (ASV, 1901).

Scripture from the OT prophets and simply give you a short title or explanation so we know what to listen for in these passages. The verses will give us a proper frame of reference to consider as we move through the Great Tribulation in the book of Revelation from chapter six to chapter 19. Actually, there is more text in the OT about the Tribulation than there is in Revelation. We need to realize that the Orthodox Jews fully realized that the Day of Jehovah would usher in the coming of Messiah and beginning of the Messianic Kingdom.

This is quoted in the Jewish writings of time of Jesus. One Jewish source known as the “Zohar Chadash” states:

“At that time wars shall be stirred up in the world. Nation shall be against nation and city against city; much distress shall be renewed against the enemies of the Israelites.”

Another Jewish source known as the “Bereshit Rabbah” states:

“If you shall see the kingdoms rising against each other in turn, then give heed and note the footsteps of the Messiah (XLII:4)

The Rabbis clearly taught that a worldwide conflict would signal the coming of the Messiah. Christ corrected this idea slightly, for He said that when the world war occurs (WW I and II), while it does not signal the coming of the Messiah, it would signal that the end of the age has begun. These birth pangs that Jesus talked about are the same as the footsteps the rabbis talked about. The “footsteps of the Messiah had to do with a series of events that will lead up to the coming of the Messiah. This worldwide conflict is The Day of Jehovah.

THE LITTLE APOCALYPSE OF ISAIAH

The first passage to consider is Isaiah 24:1-27:13 which is also known as the Little Apocalypse of Isaiah. As we read through this you will see the parallel depictions of the earth in utter desolation due to the divine judgments of the Tribulation. We will make several selections from the entire passage to demonstrate God’s wrath as foretold in approximately 700 B.C.

Isaiah 24:1-13

Behold, Jehovah maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. ²And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the creditor, so with the debtor; as with the taker of interest, so with the giver of interest to him. ³The earth shall be utterly emptied, and utterly laid waste; for Jehovah hath spoken this word. ⁴The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the lofty people of the earth do languish. ⁵The earth also is polluted under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are found guilty: therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. ⁷The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merry-hearted do sigh. ⁸The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. ⁹They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. ¹⁰The waste city is broken down; every house is shut up, that no man may come in. ¹¹There is a crying in the streets because of the wine; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. ¹²In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction (ASV, 1901).

This is the little apocalypse of Isaiah or the description of the final judgment of God on the entire earth. Which, we know as the tribulation. Apart from the book of Revelation this is the most concise description of the coming Tribulation on the earth found in the Old Testament. The book of Revelation is mostly from chapter six through twenty-two a reordering into a chronology of all

the judgments cited in the Old Testament. The future coming destruction will be a desolation of the entire earth. It is mentioned as such sixteen times alone in this chapter. All peoples of every walk, strata of society and occupation on the earth will be affected. He includes as examples, *so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the creditor, so with the debtor; as with the taker of interest, so with the giver of interest to him.* The entire world will be laid waste and totally plundered.

It mourns, because most of the people are being destroyed; and it fades away, because it is becoming stripped of its beloved wealth and riches that were worshipped as their god. The kings of the earth, and merchants of it, are shown (languishing) as weeping and mourning because of the judgments that are coming upon them. Their loss of trade and riches, (Revelation 18:9–17) which they loved instead of God is causing them to mourn as one would mourn the death of spouse or child. *The world fadeth away;* because the inhabitants of it are like a very sick person, who is so faint and feeble that he cannot stand, but shakes and falls. *The lofty (haughty) people of the earth do languish;* the kings and merchants of the earth grow sick and faint through fear of what is happening to them.

The inhabitants of the earth are defiled because of the violence, cruelties, bloodshed, and murders, that their sins led them to commit (Revelation 11:13; 18:24 and 19:2). *The earth is deceitful,* or plays the hypocrite; promising and showing as if it would bring forth fruit, and brings forth none, but is barren and unfruitful, because of the sins of the inhabitants of it (Revelation 18:14). *Because they have transgressed the laws;* of God and man, as Satan and his followers have done. The future Antichrist who is that wicked one, that lawless one, that sets up himself above all laws, and tries to dispense with the laws of God and man (II Thessalonians 2:4, 8). By the *ordinance* means adherence to the Scriptures which are the rule, that is, the absolute rule of moral judgment. The Antichrist will pervert, change, and alter the plain common sense of them, taking upon himself to be the infallible interpreter of them, and judge of all disputes over them. He will forbid the reading of them to the people, and will set up his own decrees, ranking them above the Scriptures. He is that little horn, that thought to change times and laws, from Daniel 7:25. He will lead those into *breaking the everlasting covenant;* which is the Noahic Covenant that Paul refers to as inscribed in the consciousness of all men (Romans 1:18–22). The antichrist will do all in his power through his lies to break existing laws, make new ones and void the old laws. Additionally, he will do this by corrupting the moral order of the universe as well as changing the ordinances, and setting up his own institutions above them, and against them.

The earth has, is being, and will be cursed for the sin of man, of which all the false religious authorities have been notoriously guilty. They lead the people away from the Word of God to their personal gain. *And they that dwell therein are desolate;* because their houses, cities, phony places of worship, and towns are being destroyed by war, economic desolation and famine. The earth is being cursed for their sins: or in other words, *for they that dwell therein are guilty;* of idolatry, bloodshed, perjury, thefts, sorcery, and all other abominations (Revelation 9:20–21). *Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned;* their cities burnt by fire, and their persons, their bodies burnt with burning fevers, and pestilential diseases, and their minds with envy, fury, and madness, which is shown in the fourth vial poured upon the sun, when men will be scorched with fire and great heat, and blaspheme (Revelation 16:8–9). And through the wrath of God being poured out upon them *few men left.* Many will be consumed by fire or sword, by famine or pestilence, or by one or other of the seven vials; and those that remain shall be affrighted, and give glory to the God of Heaven (Revelation 11:13).

There is joy and celebration when there is a productive harvest of grapes to produce new wine. During the judgment there will be no new wine because the vines will be destroyed from the cataclysm the earth is undergoing. As a result, the normal *merry-hearted* people will no longer be celebrating, they will only be mourning. All the musical instruments they normally use in the celebration will be quiet. Further they will turn to stronger alcohol to assuage their pain, which will not satisfy them either. In fact, the Lord will cause it to be *bitter to them that drink it*. This will come about either through bodily diseases they acquire, or because of the calamities upon the nations and states in which they dwell. And this will be the case of The Woman That Rides the Beast who has the plagues and she proudly says, “*I sit a queen, and shall see no sorrow,*” (Revelation 18:7). This is the so-called church at Rome that led many away from genuine Godly salvation with their false gospel of works and fidelity to Rome in place of God.

So, when Babylon the future capital city of the Antichrist is fallen, the voice of harpers, musicians, pipers and trumpeters, shall not be heard any more (Revelation 18:22). *The noise of them that rejoice endeth;* which means that the loud noise of happy celebrating persons at feasts, banquets, marriages, and other like festivals will stop. Just as it is said, that when Babylon will be destroyed, the voice of the bridegroom and the bride shall be heard no more at all. Nor shall the joy be expressed on such occasions by their friends and companions, (Revelation 18:23). *The joy of the harp ceaseth;* which is the stringed instrument of music used on joyful occasions similar to the voice of harpers being particularly mentioned in Revelation 18:22.

The final destruction of Babylon will make it fit only for wild animals and demons. This is expressed well in Isaiah 13. This is similar to what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah. The Lord through Jeremiah gives us some graphic descriptions of the fall of Babylon. Merathaim (Str. 4850) and Pekod (Str. 6489) are both symbolic names for Babylon (Jeremiah 50:21-27).

Jeremiah discusses the gathering of many peoples against Babylon in Chapter 50:41-42 and concludes that chapter with God’s decree against Babylon and the anguish of the nations over losing the world capital (Jeremiah 50:45-46). The influence that the Babylonian corrupt systems has had on all mankind since the time of Nimrod is the reason that God’s judgment will fall on Babylon. He expresses this in Jeremiah chapter fifty-one (Jeremiah 51:7-9). Because the world driven by the Babylonian systems of corruption have been especially harsh in persecuting the Jews the judgment will be equally harsh toward Babylon (Jeremiah 51:24; 35-36). The destruction of Babylon will bring about great rejoicing among the faithful seeing God extract His vengeance upon the world system that enslaved so many for so long (Jeremiah 51:48-49). The prophecy of the destruction phase closes with a description of the results.

In verses 19-20 of Chapter 24 the earth is shown as staggering from the judgments of the Tribulation, which God has brought upon the entire planet.

Isaiah 24:19-20

¹⁹The earth is utterly broken, the earth is rent asunder, the earth is shaken violently.

²⁰The earth shall stagger like a drunken man, and shall sway to and fro like a hammock; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again (ASV, 1901).

One result of the Tribulation is the leveling of the earth surface through multiple earthquakes. Some of this occurs during the judgments of the bowls which follow after the trumpets during the second half of the Great Tribulation.

The righteous people living at that time recognize that this is a necessary part of God's righteousness. (Justice or judgment)

Isaiah 26:7–9

⁷The way of the just is uprightness: thou that art upright dost direct the path of the just. ⁸Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O Jehovah, have we waited for thee; to thy name, even to thy memorial name, is the desire of our soul. ⁹With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee earnestly: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness (ASV, 1901).

Expanding on the requisite trust the prophet affirmed that the nation's people must live righteously. He says that only then will God smooth out their path through life. That does not mean righteous people never have any problems. Isaiah was reflecting the truth that certain consequences follow one's actions so that if a person lives according to God's rules, he will have mostly favorable consequences. Contrarily, if one disregards God's Word, he will experience negative consequences. Adherence to the Bible's doctrine produces the most favorable life God provides. We still live in a world effused with the sin nature. The remnant walk according to Scripture stated as God's laws and yearn for God. Those who refuse to heed God's ways learn of God's righteousness when they are eventually judged. In other words, the hard way and *possibly* too late to be saved. Judgement is a necessary corollary to rightlessness.

These righteous ones will receive a special protection as the judgments are poured out.

THE WICKED DO NOT LEARN GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 26:10–11

¹⁰Let favor be showed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness will he deal wrongfully, and will not behold the majesty of Jehovah. ¹¹Jehovah, thy hand is lifted up, yet they see not: but they shall see thy zeal for the people, and be put to shame; yea, fire shall devour thine adversaries (ASV, 1901).

When *favor be showed to the wicked*, they just continued to pursue unrighteousness. *In the land of uprightness will he deal wrongfully*. Even good examples will not convert the wicked man. Though he live in a land of righteousness, where God and His Law are acknowledged, where true religion is professed, where the gospel is preached, he will continue to be wicked, *will he deal wrongfully*; he will not behold—or, consider—the majesty of the Lord. Nothing can change the truly wicked.

Jehovah, thy hand is lifted up, yet they see not. The Hebrew is more graphic. It states, *Lord, thy hand is lifted up, [but] they see not. They shall see to their shame thy jealousy for thy people; yea, fire shall devour thy adversaries*. God's jealousy burns like fire (Psalm 79:9; Zephaniah 1:18) in the cause and protection of his people. That is, the redeemed.

Isaiah 26:19–21

¹⁹Thy dead shall live; my dead bodies shall arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in the dust; for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast forth the dead. ²⁰Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide

thyself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. ²¹For, behold, Jehovah cometh forth out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain (ASV, 1901).

These verses express the assurance of the bodily resurrection of the righteous. This particular reference affirms resurrections and here the ones described are the Old Testament saints resurrected at the end of the Tribulation who will participate as glorified humanity with the glorified God-man, Jesus Christ (Matthew 8:11) and His saints (Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:6) in the Messianic Kingdom. The remnant will sing: *Thy dead shall live; my dead bodies shall arise* (Old Testament saints) together with the martyrs of the Tribulation remnant. All shall arise, as a phase of the first resurrection to participate in the millennial Kingdom as glorified humanity. Although the restoration of the nation Israel is symbolized by the figure of resurrection (Ezekiel 37:1-11, like Daniel 12:12 and Hosea 13:14), this passage plainly envisions physical human resurrection. Since the first resurrection involves participation in the Kingdom restored to Israel (Acts 1:6; Revelation 20:4-6) and the resurrection of saved Israelites is a necessary prelude tied to it.

However, before the Lord returns and ushers in His Kingdom there will be Tribulation such as the world has never before seen. The Jews who will get saved during the Tribulation are here instructed to: *enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.* Deliverance from the Great Tribulation and its fearful punishment will be near for the beleaguered remnant (Revelation 12:13—13:18-19:11 —20:3). The Lord will soon take His judgment on the ungodly (the seal, trumpet, and vial judgments of Revelation 6:1-17; 8:1—9:21 10:15-19; 16:1-21). Closing their doors behind them, God's people will be told to await the issue calmly and confidently. Jesus warns the Jewish dwellers in Judea that when they see the "Abomination of Desolation" - a desecrating idol installed in the Holy of Holies of the Temple - to flee to the mountains. The remnant of Israel will find refuge there for three and a half years while God protects them and provides for them (Matthew 24:22, 24, 31). This passage is saying that the moment the Jewish Remnant, the elect sees the event of the abomination of desolation then they are to flee to the Judean hills. The Beast (antichrist) and the False Prophet will be setting up the abomination of desolation in the rebuilt Jewish Temple, The Antichrist goes from protecting Israel to persecuting her. Therefore, the sooner that the Remnant can get out, then the less likely it will be that they will be persecuted. Then according to the Lord's provision, they will be able to flee instantly is because they will be miraculously provided for and protected as they make their way to Petra for three and a half years of safekeeping.

First Isaiah 2:12-22 emphasizes the terror that will be shown at that time.

Isaiah 2:12-22

¹²For there shall be a day of Jehovah of hosts upon all that is proud and haughty, and upon all that is lifted up; and it shall be brought low; ¹³and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, ¹⁴and upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, ¹⁵and upon every lofty tower, and upon every fortified wall, ¹⁶and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant imagery. ¹⁷And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹⁸And the idols shall utterly pass away. ¹⁹And men shall go into the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake mightily the earth. ²⁰In that day men shall cast away their idols of silver, and their idols of gold, which have been made

for them to worship, to the moles and to the bats; ²¹to go into the caverns of the rocks, and into the clefts of the ragged rocks, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake mightily the earth. ²²Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of (ASV, 1901).

Second, Isaiah 13:6-16 reaffirms one of the purposes of the Tribulation. To make an end of wickedness (sin) and wicked ones.

Isaiah 13:6-16

⁶Wail ye; for the day of Jehovah is at hand; as destruction from the Almighty shall it come. ⁷Therefore shall all hands be feeble, and every heart of man shall melt: ⁸and they shall be dismayed; pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman in travail: they shall look in amazement one at another; their faces shall be faces of flame. ⁹Behold, the day of Jehovah cometh, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land a desolation, and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. ¹⁰For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light; the sun shall be darkened in its going forth, and the moon shall not cause its light to shine. ¹¹And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity: and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. ¹²I will make a man more rare than fine gold, even a man than the pure gold of Ophir. ¹³Therefore I will make the heavens to tremble, and the earth shall be shaken out of its place, in the wrath of Jehovah of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. ¹⁴And it shall come to pass, that as the chased roe, and as sheep that no man gathereth, they shall turn every man to his own people, and shall flee every man to his own land. ¹⁵Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is taken shall fall by the sword. ¹⁶Their infants also shall be dashed in pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be rifled, and their wives ravished (ASV, 1901)

Third, Ezekiel 30:1-9 describes what happens to the Middle-East and particularly to Egypt.

Ezekiel 30: 1-9

¹The word of Jehovah came again unto me, saying, ²Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Wail ye, Alas for the day! ³For the day is near, even the day of Jehovah is near; it shall be a day of clouds, a time of the nations. ⁴And a sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt; and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. ⁵Ethiopia, and Put, and Lud, and all the mingled people, and Cub, and the children of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. ⁶Thus saith Jehovah: They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Seveneh shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord Jehovah. ⁷And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate; and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted. ⁸And they shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have set a fire in Egypt, and all her helpers are destroyed. ⁹In that day shall messengers go forth from before me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid; and there shall be anguish upon them, as in the day of Egypt; for, lo, it cometh. (ASV, 1901)

The judgment of Egypt is the beginning of the judgment of all gentile nations, and the beginning of this was Nebuchadnezzar's victory over Egypt. It is important to realize that the efforts of

mankind to stop the judgment of God are futile once it has commenced. This judgment will be so violent that it will overwhelm Egypt's neighbors, some of whom were Egypt's political, economic, and military allies described in verse 5. "Ethiopia" adjoining Egypt on the south, also known as Cush, will be fearful that she would be attacked next as Egypt's people are killed and her treasuries looted. For them, Egypt is essentially a buffer between the Babylonians and themselves. Both Cush and Mizraim (the Hebrew word for Egypt) were sons of Ham, Noah's son. "Put" is also one of Ham's sons. "Lud", who is one of Mizraim's sons, is presently Libya. Since "Cub" is a hapax legomenon, it is difficult to match it with a particular country. It is probably near to Egypt in North Africa. All the nations listed are closely located to Egypt, and along with Israel, had pacts with Egypt to come to their aid when attacked. All will fall by the sword when Jehovah begins His judgment upon them.

God now says with respect to the judgment that will come about in the Great Tribulation, that any ally of Egypt will also suffer the sword. The pride of the Egyptians will be brought to naught by the sword. The allied countries will not be willing or able to assist Egypt when the Lord brings His complete judgment against Egypt. The text then begins to describe the geographic region on which the desolation will fall. It states "*the tower of Seveneh*" as a reference to the complete northern and southern limit of Upper Egypt, which is the southern region of Egypt. All of the region in southern Egypt would be completely destroyed as the text says, "*And they shall be desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate; and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted.*" "Fire" is a general warfare term in the Bible that describes the effects of war as all-consuming, and unable to be resisted in large measure. So too is God's judgment. The time to prevent His judgment is long before it arrives, because when it comes it will not be resisted nor stopped until it has run its course.

Verse 8 tells us that just as the allies would be useless to Egypt in the time of God's judgment, so too will the mercenaries, or "*helpers*", will also be destroyed. Coming back to the Ethiopians, God says that "*messengers go forth from before me in ships to make the careless Ethiopians afraid.*" The messengers appear to be sent at His command with the express purpose of causing fear and anguish to come upon them as it they will also be judged.

Forth, Joel 1:1-15 demonstrates how the Day of Jehovah will affect the crops of the earth:

Joel 1:15-20

¹⁵Alas for the day! for the day of Jehovah is at hand, and as destruction from the Almighty shall it come. ¹⁶Is not the food cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? ¹⁷The seeds rot under their clods; the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the grain is withered. ¹⁸How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. ¹⁹O Jehovah, to thee do I cry; for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰Yea, the beasts of the field pant unto thee; for the water brooks are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness (ASV, 1901).

Fifth, Obadiah 10-20 describes the effects on the Land of Edom, which is present day Southern Jordan.

¹⁰ For the violence done to thy brother Jacob, shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever. ¹¹ In the day that thou stoodest ^{on} the other side, in the day that strangers carried away his ^{substance}, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them. ¹² But look not thou on the day of thy brother in ^{the} day of his disaster, and rejoice not over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither speak proudly in the day of distress. ¹³ Enter not into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, look not thou on their affliction in the day of their calamity, neither lay ye hands on their substance in the day of their calamity. ¹⁴ And stand thou not in the crossway, to cut off those of his that escape; and deliver not up those of his that remain in the day of distress.

¹⁵ For the day of Jehovah is near upon all the nations: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee; thy ^{dealing} shall return upon thine own head. ¹⁶ For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the nations drink continually; yea, they shall drink, and ^{swallow} down, and shall be as though they had not been.

¹⁷ But in mount Zion there shall be those that escape, and it shall be holy; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. ¹⁸ And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall burn among them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining to the house of Esau; for Jehovah hath spoken it. ¹⁹ And they of the South shall possess the mount of Esau, and they of the lowland the Philistines; and they shall possess the field of Ephraim, and the field of Samaria; and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. ²⁰ And the captives of this ^{host} of the children of Israel, ^{that} are among the Canaanites, shall possess even unto Zarephath; and the captives of Jerusalem, that are in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the South (ASV, 1901).

Edom (Esau) is a close blood relative of Israel (Jacob) and will be dealt with very harshly because of their mistreatment of Israel. Other nations are guilty too but Edom has a particular shame as being Jacob's brother.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XVIII

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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