

### U.S. drone strike kills top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani

Qassem Soleimani had reportedly just gotten into Iraq from Beirut and was leaving the airport when he was killed by American drone strikes on a convoy of vehicles. The U.S. classified Soleimani as a terrorist, but in Iran he was a hero - with thousands taking to the streets after his death.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/u-s-drone-strike-kills-top-iranian-general-qassem-soleimani-76032581871>

### Thousands mourn Soleimani in Iran after Trump issues new threats

As the Islamic Republic laid Soleimani to rest and its leaders vowed revenge, President Donald Trump appeared to show no desire to ease the tensions that his strike had sent soaring throughout the region.

Trump issued new threats late Saturday, saying the U.S. would attack 52 sites important to the country and its culture if Tehran retaliates against Americans or U.S. assets.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/thousands-mourn-soleimani-iran-amid-new-threats-trump-n1110536>

### Will the United States Be Destroyed?

We know that **Revelation 9:13-21** depicts a war that will wipe out one-third of mankind. So, we have to ask the question “Is there a chance that the United States of America will be wiped out in this war that is going to kill 2.3 billion people?”

#### **Revelation 9:13-19**

<sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” <sup>15</sup> So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. <sup>16</sup> The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. <sup>17</sup> And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire<sup>[a]</sup> and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. <sup>18</sup> By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

#### **Revelation 9:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, <sup>21</sup> nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.



Perhaps the United States will be awakened to what has been happening in our world, the antichrist's one-world governmental system that is coming. Perhaps the United States will pull back and say, “We don't want to be a part of that.” We may move into isolationism. We may even have a revival. Is there any evidence in the Bible that the United States is still here after **World War III, the Euphrates River War** described in **Revelation 9: 13-21**? In **Revelation 12:13**, the dragon, Satan is depicted making war against the woman, Israel. **Then, Israel is rescued by “two wings of a great eagle.”** And to the woman were given **two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. (Revelation 12:14)**

There is no doubt that the United States is in **Daniel 7:4**. In **Revelation 12:4** it is not quite as explicit. If this is true, it means that the United State is still a factor in the world when Satan begins to come against Israel three and one-half years before Armageddon.

That particular passage “**Revelation 12:14**” happens right after the war in heaven. **The war in heaven will take place three and a half years before the Battle of Armageddon.** Satan is going to make a last ditch effort to overthrow God Himself. Satan is going to be so deceived in his own mind that he's going to think he can pull it off. He's going to know that he is only three and a half years away from going into the bottomless pit. The Bible says Michael, who is the head of the army in heaven, will defeat Satan and his angels and the penalty Satan will receive will be banishment from heaven and confinement to the earth for the next three and a half years. Satan is then going to go make war with the woman and of course Israel, and the remnant of her seed. Israel will then be given two wings of a great eagle so that she may fly into her place. I believe that these wings are going to be of aid to Israel during the war. We cannot ignore that in other scriptures the eagles wings are a form of symbolism for America. I believe that America will be on Israel's side during this war.

<https://www.endtime.com/united-states-discovered-in-the-bible/>

### Israel should be wiped off map, says Iran's president

Ewen MacAskill and Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

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Iran's new president created a sense of outrage in the west yesterday by describing Israel as a "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the face of the earth". Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who is more hardline than his predecessor, told students in Tehran that a new wave of Palestinian attacks would be enough to finish off Israel.

The populist leader's comments [See footnote], reported by the state-run media, come at a time when Tehran is under pressure over its suspect nuclear weapons ambitions and alleged involvement in attacks on British troops in Iraq.

He said: "Anybody who recognises Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury, [while] any [Islamic leader] who recognises the Zionist regime means he is acknowledging the surrender and defeat of the Islamic world." He was addressing a conference titled The World Without Zionism.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/oct/27/israel.iran>

### “Death to America, death to Israel, damnation to the Jews.”

Americans and Israelis are, understandably, a little put off by the motto. Yet the Houthis are downplaying its importance: The New York Times' Rod Nordland says that when he talked to a Houthi leader recently, he was told it was "just a slogan, we don't mean it literally."

Could that be true? “Death to America” and similar hateful mottoes have endured for more than 35 years, and -- given the attention drawn by the Houthis’ iteration -- they don't appear to have lost their power to shock.

"Death to America" has its origins in America's most consistent modern foe: The Islamic Republic of Iran. The slogan originated during street protests that led to Iran's 1979 revolution, when angry demonstrators rallied against Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian shah.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/02/18/the-history-of-death-to-america/>

*Israel was relegated by Ayatollah Khomeini to the status of “Little Satan” (the “Great Satan” being the United States). For the new Iranian regime, Israel became a central focus of ideological, religion-infused vitriol. The Islamic Republic became a central backer of any (mostly Arab) “resistance” to Israel.*

**JERUSALEM (Reuters) - The United States opens its new embassy in Jerusalem on May 14**, a move that has delighted Israel and infuriated Palestinians

On Monday, road signs directing traffic there went up around the neighborhood where it will be situated, and next week’s opening ceremony is timed to coincide with Israel’s 70th anniversary.

The initiative was driven by President Donald Trump, after he broke last year with decades of U.S. policy by recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Trump said his administration has a peace proposal in the works, and recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of America’s closest ally had “taken Jerusalem, the toughest part of the negotiation, off the table.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-israel-diplomacy-jerusalem-explai/why-is-the-u-s-moving-its-embassy-to-jerusalem-idUSKBN1I811N>

### **World War 3 | WWII | WW3 OVER 2 BILLION WILL DIE!**

By Irvin Baxter

The question is not, “Is there going to be a World War III?” It is in your Bible. There is not a one tenth of one percent chance that it is not going to happen. Another world war is coming, and it will be the biggest world war ever. According to the Bible, one out of three people on the earth will die in this war of all wars! The prophecy is found in **Revelation chapter nine, verse 15: “And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.”**

The “third part of men” would be over two billion people! Other translations read “one-third of the human race”, “one-third of all the people on earth”, “one-third of humanity”. They all say the same thing. A war is just ahead that will wipe out over two billion human beings!

### **The War of All Wars**

Prior to the 20th Century, there had never been a war with one million fatalities. Then came World War I in 1914, with 8.2 million dead. They called it “The Great War.” With the founding of the League of Nations, we had hoped that this type of carnage would never happen again. Twenty years later, 52 million people died in World War II. As if something had come unhinged in the human soul, we cried out, “How can we ever stop this?” With the founding of the United Nations we had hoped that the solution to world peace was at hand. I have the dreadful assignment of telling you, it is not fixed. There is another war coming. There will neither be 8 million dead nor 52 million dead. **This war that is coming will kill 2.2 billion, forty times World War II.** It will be the worst war ever.

I can’t tell you exactly when this is going to happen, but the Bible tells us where World War III will originate. The “Sixth Trumpet” prophecy is found in **Revelation 9:14-15:**

**Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.**

These angels were bound in **the Euphrates River**, which flows through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, and empties into the Persian Gulf. War has been raging up and down the Euphrates River since 2003 when the U.S. invaded Iraq. When they are loosed, these evil angels will carry out their assignment to kill one-third of mankind.

Out of the chaos and destruction, a strong leader will rise to promise peace and security. The Antichrist will step onto the world scene at just the right moment. He will provide firm direction but he will also demand absolute obedience.

#### Four Major Prophecies

There are four prophetic developments occurring right now that demonstrate **how close we are to the Euphrates River War**, otherwise known as **World War III**.

##### 1. Peace Plan for the Middle East

In **Genesis 15:18**, God entered into a covenant with Abraham, affirming that the Promised Land would be given to his descendants. The Antichrist, according to Daniel 9:27 will confirm this covenant with many for seven years. A peace agreement which confirms the covenant will establish Israel's right to exist in the Holy Land and will mark the beginning of the final seven years to Armageddon.

Halfway through the final seven years, the Antichrist will order the stopping of animal sacrifices on the Temple Mount, which will have been resumed by then. He will then stand in the temple claiming to be God.

##### 2. Construction of Israel's Third Temple

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 and Revelation 11:1-2 describe a temple standing on the Temple Mount three and one-half years before Armageddon. Israel has been subsidizing nonprofit organizations that advocate the building of the Third Temple atop Jerusalem's holiest site. The Temple Institute is dedicated to the vision of the Temple's rebuilding, and has already recreated several items to be used when services are resumed on the Temple Mount.

##### 3. Preparing for the Mark of the Beast

**Revelation 13:16-17** describes the control system which will be implemented during the reign of the Antichrist. During the Great Tribulation, every person on earth will be coerced into pledging allegiance to the Antichrist. Those who do so will be given a unique identification mark or number permitting them to participate in the world economy. Those who refuse will be denied the “privilege” of buying and selling.

The REAL ID Act mandates that Americans produce federally approved identification upon demand. Although it has repeatedly postponed implementation penalties, the Department of Homeland Security has announced a gradual rollout for enforcing the law, beginning in April, 2014. The Affordable Care Act, often referred to as “Obamacare,” implements a national ID system disguised within a “data hub,” and a “unique patient identifier” to verify eligibility. Concurrently making its way through Congress, as part of an immigration reform bill, is “E-Verify,” a mandated universal biometric ID required for federal approval for employment.

##### 4. A War that Originates from the Euphrates River

Middle East unrest continues to boil in Libya, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan. Syria is on the brink of expanding to a full-scale war that could involve the major world powers. Analysts believe Syria may soon become a flashpoint that would divide the region along a battle lines drawn between Shia and Sunni Muslims. **Iran is one of America's and Israel's foremost enemies and the Islamic Republic has become one of the most serious threats to stability in the Middle East. As Iran is rapidly achieving nuclear capability, the region will become far more dangerous as the number of countries engaged in nuclear activities grows.** The Deputy Commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard has threatened that Tehran is able to “destroy every spot” in Israel. Germany views Iran as a potential threat not just to Israel, but also to European countries.

##### Entrance Ramp for the Antichrist

“WWIII – Entrance Ramp for the Antichrist” details how this war is going to come out of **the Euphrates River area**, resulting in the killing of one-third of the human race. It is going to happen and it will affect us, our families, our nation, our world, everything. And it looks like it is coming sooner, rather than later.

<https://www.endtime.com/world-war-three/>

***And where is the Church in all of this:***

#### Revelation 17

##### The Great Prostitute and the Beast

17 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, <sup>2</sup>with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” <sup>3</sup>And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup>The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. <sup>5</sup>And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.” <sup>6</sup>And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> When I saw her, I marveled greatly. <sup>7</sup>But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. <sup>8</sup>The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit<sup>[b]</sup> and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. <sup>9</sup>This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; <sup>10</sup>they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. <sup>11</sup>As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. <sup>12</sup>And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. <sup>13</sup>These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup>They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

<sup>15</sup> And the angel<sup>[c]</sup> said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. <sup>16</sup>And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with

fire,<sup>17</sup> for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.<sup>18</sup> And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

#### **The woman riding the beast is the Holy Roman Empire of the endtime**

The evidence is undisputable. The beast of **Revelation 17** is the world government beast of the endtimes. The woman riding with the beast is the Church of Rome. This prophecy depicts the exact same alliance between politics and religion as is portrayed by the feet of iron mingled with clay in **Daniel 2**. **Revelation 17** is another picture of the reborn Holy Roman Empire of the endtime.

The same ten kings mentioned in Daniel 7 and symbolized as the ten toes in **Daniel 2:44** are mentioned in this prophecy of **Revelation 17:12-14**.

And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast (the Antichrist). These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

#### **2 Thessalonians 2**

##### **The Man of Lawlessness**

2 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him . . .<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness<sup>[b]</sup> is revealed, the son of destruction,<sup>[c]</sup><sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

#### **Matthew 24**

<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away<sup>[a]</sup> and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

#### **The Abomination of Desolation**

<sup>15</sup> “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet DANIEL, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) . . . <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath (Hanukkah – Maccabees; Feast of Purim – Hammond and the attempted annihilation of all of the Jews; and 3 ½ years following the end of winter, the season of Purim, is the Feast of Atonement, the season and culmination of Jesus’ Return). <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be . . . <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand. <sup>26</sup> So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.<sup>2</sup>

#### **2 Thessalonians 2**

<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

As we have shown, there are two extensive prophecies depicting the rebirth of the Holy Roman Empire just before the second coming of Christ and the battle of Armageddon. **This prophesied rebirth of the Holy Roman Empire was completed on November 3, 2009!**

#### **The False Prophet**

**Revelation 13** describes the Antichrist and his religious partner, the False Prophet . . . the Antichrist will rule over a revived Holy Roman Empire.

Throughout its 1,000-year history, the Holy Roman Empire has always been **ruled by two men—a political leader and a religious leader.** *The political leader has always been the strongest politician in Europe, and the religious leader has always been the pope from Rome.*

It will be no different during this last brief reign of **the Holy Roman Empire that was born on November 3, 2009.**

The Common Market was formed in 1957 by **the Treaty of Rome, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Belgium** were the six founding members. **The goal was to remove all trade barriers among the member states, creating an economic union.** The experiment worked so successfully that soon other European nations were clamoring to join. The Common Market went from six, to nine, to ten, to twelve member states by 1992. By that time, all taxes and tariffs had been eliminated among the member states. The Common Market was complete.

But the real dream of political unity was yet to be realized. **The Common Market members signed a new treaty in 1993—the Maastricht Treaty.** This new agreement changed the group’s name from Common Market to European Union. The Maastricht Treaty established a common European currency while calling for Europe to have its own president, foreign minister and constitution.

On **November 3, 2009**, the last country, the Czech Republic, ratified the . . . Treaty. Europe had its constitution at last, and **the Holy Roman Empire was reborn!** What Hitler had failed to do by war, the bureaucrats of Europe had accomplished without firing a shot! Twenty-seven nations with over 500 million people were now under a single government with a single flag.

Whoever is pope at the time of the Antichrist, that man will be the False Prophet. Even Roman Catholic prophecy books teach there is an evil pope coming, and that he will be the last pope.

Wake up world! You just witnessed one of the . . . greatest prophetic fulfillments in the last 2,000 years. Can the second coming of Jesus to earth be far behind?

#### Daniel 7:7

*<sup>7</sup> After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and **it had ten horns.***

In **Daniel 7:7**, the last empire that will rule upon earth right before the coming of Jesus Christ is depicted as a beast with ten horns. The passage states that the ten horns symbolize ten kings that will be in alliance together. In the vision, another horn came up among the ten, uprooting three of them. This horn then became great and made war against the saints until the Ancient of Days, Jesus Christ, came.

The ten horns in this prophecy represent the same ten kings that are symbolized by the ten toes of iron mixed with clay in Daniel 2. Notice what **Daniel 2:(42)–44** says about the final ten kings symbolized by the ten toes:

*<sup>42</sup> And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”*

In the days of what kings? The ten kings represented by the ten toes of iron mingled with clay...the same ten kings represented by the ten horns in Daniel 7. Since the Antichrist comes up among these ten kings, then we know he will come up from within the Holy Roman Empire.

#### Who is the woman riding the world government beast?

What is the message that God is trying to convey to us in this prophecy of **Revelation 17**? Who is this woman that is shown riding on the back of the world government beast?

We can prove conclusively who this woman is. We are given five undeniable proofs. Let’s look at them one by one. Verse 18 of Revelation 17 says:

And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Our first clue concerning the identity of the woman is that she is a city.

Verse 1 says that the woman sat upon many waters. What could that mean? Verse 15 explains:

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

So the woman is a city and yet that city presides over peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues. Apparently the city in the prophecy is the headquarters for a vast international system.

In **verse 3** we were told that the beast on which the woman sat had 7 heads. What could that mean? We don’t have to guess. Verse 9 plainly tells us:

“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.” (NIV)

Remember, the woman is a city (**verse 18**). So this **ninth verse** could read: The seven heads are seven hills on which the city sitteth.

Is there a city that is famous for being located on seven hills? Absolutely! The city of Rome is historically known as the City of Seven Hills.

So, do the clues fit so far? Is Rome a city? Obviously. Does Rome preside over peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues? Yes. The Roman Church claims over one billion followers worldwide. Members of the Roman Church are referred to as subjects of the pope.

#### Is Rome the City of Seven Hills? Yes.

##### Misplaced Prayer Interpretation/Focus:

##### The Seven Mountains of Societal Influence

In 1975, **Bill Bright**, founder of Campus Crusade and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With a Mission (YWAM), developed a God-given, world-changing strategy. Their mandate: Bring Godly change to a nation by reaching its seven spheres, or mountains, of societal influence.

They concluded that in order to truly transform any nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, these seven facets of society must be reached: Religion, Family, Education, Government, Media, Arts & Entertainment and Business.

The Reformation Prayer Network’s primary goal is to be a catalyst, through prayer and righteous activism, which will bring change to these areas of societal influence.

<https://www.generals.org/rpn/the-seven-mountains/>

#### More clues

Verse 4 of **Revelation 17** states:

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

If the woman is the Roman Catholic Church, what is meant by this verse that describes her as being arrayed in purple and scarlet (red)?

There are two ruling bodies in the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church—The College of Cardinals and the College of Bishops. Cardinals wear red. Bishops and archbishops wear purple. This is the reason the woman is described as wearing red and purple.

Verse 5 describes the woman as being “drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”

The estimates range from 6 million to 68 million as the number of those killed by the Roman Church during the time of the Inquisition. The church saw it as her right to torture and murder those who refused to blindly follow her unbiblical and heretical doctrines. The church’s inquisitors cut out their tongues, beheaded them and burned them at the stake.

The English Reformer, William Tyndale, was burned at the stake in Belgium for the crime of having translated the Bible into the English language. They used the Bibles he translated to light the fire.

Protestants were burned at the stake as “heretics” in Spain, Italy, France, England and Scotland.

Under King Phillip II of Spain, more than 18,000 Protestants were executed in the Netherlands. In an attempt to force them to confess to “heresy”, both men and women were mercilessly tortured.

In 1568 the Inquisition condemned all three million inhabitants of the Netherlands to death as “heretics”.

Similarly, the Inquisition condemned the Professor of Prague University, John Hus, to be burned alive for his Reformation works.

Drunken with the blood of the saints? I should say!

<https://www.endtime.com/articles-endtime-magazine/november-3-2009/>

As the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth draws closer, it is critical to understand and recognize the biblical prophecies of the end time. Daniel’s Vision of the Four Beasts not only foretold the creation of the world’s modern nations, but also warns believers of the development of a single world government.

The Bible tells us in **chapter 7 of the Book of Daniel**, that God gave Daniel a vision of four beasts rising from the sea. In addition to very clearly depicting the modern nations of the world, Daniel’s vision also foretells of the events leading up to the return of Jesus Christ.

**Daniel prayed to understand the meaning of his vision and it was interpreted** to him that the four great beasts were a representation of earthly kings. The fourth beast was a kingdom dominating the entire Earth, its ten horns representing ten kings. The new horn that supplants the three that were plucked represents a new king that overpowers three of the ten kings and then makes war with God’s followers. This evil king will be supplanted by the Son of Man, who is Jesus Christ. Hence, the final horn represents the Antichrist and his world government, which precedes the Second Coming of the true Christ. (**Daniel 7:17-27**)

#### **What This Means Today**

Who are all of these kings? How does this relate to the current world order?

By examining this prophecy, we know this vision of the ten-horned beast hasn’t come to full fruition and that the other beasts represent nations that already exist.

1. Daniel’s **lion** = **England**, whose coat of arms carries three lions. The eagle’s wings removed from the lion represent the United States, which we know separated from England during the American Revolution.
2. Daniel’s **bear** = **Russia**, whose national symbol is a bear.
3. Daniel’s **leopard** = **Germany**, whose Leopard tanks have been used predominantly in European armies since their introduction in the 1960s.
  - We can understand the four heads of this leopard by remembering that Germany’s Third Reich historically attempted to gain world dominion during World War II, and that the Fourth Reich is emerging in our time.
  - The leopard Daniel saw also had bird’s wings, which represent France and its national symbol of a rooster. France and Germany have not only collaborated on the design of Leopard tanks, but both countries are also founding members of the European Union.

**But what is the fourth beast?** It must be some form of world government, the last kingdom to be established upon the Earth.

In **Revelation 13:1-2**, the Apostle John depicts Daniel’s four beasts again, now combined into one: a beast that is part leopard, part bear, and part lion, with ten horns.

4. **Daniel’s conglomerate beast = a world-dominating kingdom that will include Germany, Russia, and England.** Since Daniel sees that the leopard is given dominion, we may also surmise that Germany will be the dominant nation in this world government. The new horn that emerges and dominates three others tells us this government will be controlled by the Antichrist.

#### **What the Future Holds**

Remember that in this Bible prophecy, the eagle’s wings represent the United States. In Daniel they are removed, and in Revelation they are not included at all. So what will be the role of the US before the Second Coming? An uncooperative force? A destroyed world power? An Israeli ally? This is still unclear.

<https://www.endtime.com/blog/depth-look-four-great-beasts-daniel-7/>

## The Events of the 70 Weeks of Years

Daniel's prophecy next states that the 490 years will be divided into three periods as follows: seven weeks (49 years) plus sixty-two weeks (434 years) plus one week (7 years). He states that at the end of the first two periods (69 weeks or 483 years), the Messiah will be “cut off,” a seemingly clear reference to the crucifixion. He then states that both Jerusalem and the Temple will be destroyed.

The prophecy concludes by focusing on the last week of years. It says that following the death of the Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem, “the prince who is to come” will make a covenant with the Jewish people that will enable them to reinstitute their sacrificial system. This prince will come from the same people who destroyed the Temple (the Romans).

We know from 2 Thessalonians 2 that this “prince who is to come” is the Antichrist, the “man of lawlessness” who is “the son of destruction.” The same passage makes it clear that his covenant will enable the Jews to rebuild their Temple.

Both passages — Daniel 9 and 2 Thessalonians 2 — establish the fact that in the middle of this 70th week (3 1/2 years into it) this “prince who is to come” will double cross the Jewish people. He will march into the rebuilt Temple and declare himself to be God. He will stop the sacrifices and he will erect “an abomination of desolation,” most likely an idol of himself. The book of Revelation specifies that the Messiah will return to earth 3 1/2 years after this desolation of the Temple takes place.

Now we have the timing of the two advents of the Messiah. He will come the first time at the end of 483 years and will be “cut off” before the Temple is destroyed. He will return the second time at the end of a seven year period that will begin with a treaty that allows the Jews to rebuild their Temple and reinstitute the Mosaic system of sacrifices. (<https://christinprophecy.org/articles/daniels-70-weeks-of-years/>)

Now, using Ezra's decree as the starting point (457 B.C.), if we count forward 483 years we will arrive at 27 A.D. (There is only one year between 1 B.C. and 1 A.D.) According to the translator of Josephus, the Jewish new year that began in the fall of 27 A.D. marked the beginning of the last Jubilee Year that the Jews enjoyed in the land before their worldwide dispersal by the Romans in 70 A.D. This is most likely the year that Jesus began His public ministry. This is hinted at in Luke 4 where it says that when Jesus launched His ministry at the synagogue in Nazareth, He did so by reading a passage from Isaiah 61 about the way in which the Messiah would fulfill the spiritual essence of the Jubilee. After finishing the reading, Jesus proclaimed, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” Luke 4:21. (<https://christinprophecy.org/articles/daniels-70-weeks-of-years/>)

**Putting the next Jubilee Year around 2027 to 2030, starting around 2021-2022 or 2022-2023, of the last seven years prior to the fulfillment of the Last Jubilee of the Messiah's Return.**

### Matthew 24:21

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

#### Treasure in Jars of Clay

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self<sup>[d]</sup> is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

### 2 Corinthians 5:11-15

#### The Ministry of Reconciliation

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup> We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[b]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling<sup>[c]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Matthew 24:14

**14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

Jacob then blessed his two grandsons and added the following words: "With you, Israel will bless, saying, 'May G-d make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh.'" This is why we bless our sons with the words: "May G-d make you like Ephraim and Manasseh."

**In the Land of Hardship and Affliction, God has Made Me FORGET all My Hardship & God has Made me Fruitful.**

### Genesis 41:50-52

<sup>50</sup> Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore them to him. <sup>51</sup> Joseph called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh**. "For," he said, "*God has made me forget all my hardship* and all my father's house." <sup>52</sup> The name of the second he called **Ephraim**, "*For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.*"

**Manasseh: In the Land of Hardship and Affliction, God has Made Me FORGET all My Hardship**

and . . .

**Ephraim: In the Land of My Affliction, God has Made me Fruitful.**

### Psalms 34:19-22

Many are the **afflictions** of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. **Affliction** will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

### Psalms 119:92

If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

### Isaiah 30:20-22

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Then you will defile your carved idols over laid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

### Zechariah 3:2

And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?"

### Isaiah 63:8-9

And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### Matthew 4:23/Matthew 9:35

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every **affliction** among the people.

### 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

### 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**Why did God choose Judah? Perhaps because he is the only brother who showed compassion toward Joseph, saving his life when his brothers wanted to kill him (Genesis 37:26–27). And as we saw earlier, he would show the same compassion toward Benjamin, offering to become a slave in his place.**

**Both of Judah's acts foreshadowed what Yeshua would do for all of us spiritually.**



**Week 11 - VAYIGASH (Then He Drew Near)**  
Genesis 44:18–47:27; Ezekiel 37:15–28; John 6:1–59

**“True Faith Revealed”**

“Then Judah came near [Vayigash וַיִּגַּשׁ] unto him and said, ‘Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.’” **Genesis 44:18**

In last week’s Torah reading, Pharaoh appointed Joseph administrator over all of Egypt in order to save Egypt from the coming famine, which he did. That famine affected much of the region, and the nations looked to Egypt as a source of food.

**Last Week, Week 10 - Miketz (At the End) (Genesis 41:1-44:17) we learned the principle of:**

***Being “Transformed from Darkness to Light”***

***“And it came to pass at the end of [miketz] two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed a dream: and, behold, he stood by the river.” Genesis 41:1***

In the reading, Joseph is finally about to come to the end of his many trials and enter into his grand destiny. In fact, the name of the reading, **Miketz**, found in the opening verse of this week’s Torah reading, hints at this since this Hebrew word means **“at the end of”**.

Joseph is brought out of the darkness of an Egyptian dungeon to illumine the strange dreams of the Pharaoh. **In just one day, Joseph is promoted from prison to palace; his life was transformed suddenly from darkness to light.**

When Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for grain, Joseph recognized them, but did not reveal himself right away. **He wisely tested their integrity through a series of character challenges.**

**Genesis 44:18-47:27**

<sup>18</sup> Then Judah went up to him and said, “Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself. <sup>19</sup> My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father, or a brother?’ <sup>20</sup> And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.’ <sup>21</sup> Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.’ <sup>22</sup> We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’ <sup>23</sup> Then you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.’”

<sup>24</sup> “When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. <sup>25</sup> And when our father said, ‘Go again, buy us a little food,’ <sup>26</sup> we said, ‘We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ <sup>27</sup> Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons. <sup>28</sup> One left me, and I said, “Surely he has been torn to pieces,” and I have never seen him since. <sup>29</sup> If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.’”

<sup>30</sup> “Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life, <sup>31</sup> as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. <sup>32</sup> For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.’ <sup>33</sup> Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father.”

**Judah Reveals His True Character**

This week, Reading “Then He Drew Near” (Vayigash) begins with a plea from Judah, brother of Joseph, on behalf of his younger half-brother, Benjamin. **A silver cup had been deliberately planted in Benjamin’s bag by Joseph, causing Benjamin to be in danger of having to remain a slave in Egypt.**

Judah can't bear to return to his father without his youngest brother, Benjamin. He knows that the grief his father will endure for doing so will probably kill him.

He therefore pleads with Joseph, saying, “Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?” **Genesis 44:33–34**

The brothers realize that their situation is related to their evil behavior in selling Joseph, and they are filled with remorse over the way they had sinned against Joseph in the past.

**This confession of sin accompanied by sincere remorse and turning from sin** fulfills the Torah’s requirements for true repentance (**teshuvah**).

Judah approaches Joseph privately and explains how it was difficult to bring Benjamin with him to Egypt since he is the only surviving son of Rebecca, and his father is very attached to him. **He explains that he guaranteed the boy's safety and is desperate to take his place as a slave.**

### Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family

**45** Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Joseph, no longer able to control his emotions after seeing his brothers' repentance, cries out for everyone to leave except his brothers. He wants to be alone with them when he reveals his true identity.

“Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Make everyone go out from me!’ So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.” **Genesis 45:1–2**

**As Joseph reveals himself to his brothers, he comforts them:** “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.” **Genesis 45:5**

### Zechariah 12:10

#### Him Whom They Have Pierced

<sup>10</sup> “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

### Romans 11:25-33

#### The Mystery of Israel's Salvation

<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers:<sup>[a]</sup> a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,  
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;

<sup>27</sup> “and this will be my covenant with them  
when I take away their sins.”

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now<sup>[b]</sup> receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

### God's Sovereign Plan of Salvation Cannot Be Broken

In placing Joseph in charge of Egypt's food supply, God wanted to do more than preserve the lives of the Egyptians and the nearby world from starvation due to a present famine.

### Matthew 28:17-20

<sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### Matthew 4:4

<sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,  
“‘Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

### Deuteronomy 8:3

<sup>3</sup> And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word<sup>[a]</sup> that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

By installing Joseph in a position of power to save his family, **God was preserving the promise He made to Abraham, which included Israel being a blessing to the nations:**

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**” **Genesis 12:2–3**

Specifically, this promise would be passed down through Isaac, not his brother Ishmael (*Genesis 26:2–5*); through Jacob, not his brother Esau (*Genesis 28:14–15*); and the promise of the Messiah would exclusively come through the line of Judah, not his other 11 brothers:

“The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.” **Genesis 49:10**

**The one to whom the sovereign staff belongs is the Messiah.**

God sovereignly chose Joseph to ensure that His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (not only of land but also of being a blessing to all nations through the Savior of the world) would be fulfilled through the line of Jacob's son, Judah.

In the end, neither envy, nor jealousy, nor murderous plots against Joseph by his brothers could derail God's plan of salvation — and they still can't.

<sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

<sup>16</sup> When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, “Joseph's brothers have come,” it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. <sup>17</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, <sup>18</sup> and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.’” <sup>19</sup> And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.’” <sup>20</sup> Have no concern for<sup>[a]</sup> your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.”

<sup>21</sup> The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. <sup>22</sup> To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels<sup>[b]</sup> of silver and five changes of clothes. <sup>23</sup> To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. <sup>24</sup> Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the way.”

<sup>25</sup> So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. <sup>26</sup> And they told him, “Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.” And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. <sup>27</sup> But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. <sup>28</sup> And Israel said, “It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

### **Joseph Brings His Family to Egypt**

<sup>46</sup> So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. <sup>2</sup> And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>3</sup> Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. <sup>4</sup> I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.”

### **Jacob Reunites with Joseph**

“And they told him, saying, ‘Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt.’ And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.” **Genesis 45:26**

**In this Reading Jacob is reunited with his beloved son Joseph.**

**Imagine hearing that your favorite child, whom you thought had been killed many years ago, is actually a governor of the nation next door!**

This perhaps reminds many of us of the shock that Yeshua's disciples experienced when they were told that Yeshua was not dead, but alive.

**They had seen Him die and witnessed His burial, yet, here He was — alive and well and walking about because death was unable to hold Him.**

“When they heard that Yeshua was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.” (*Mark 16:11*)

<sup>5</sup> Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. <sup>6</sup> They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, <sup>7</sup> his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

<sup>8</sup> Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, <sup>9</sup> and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. <sup>10</sup> The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. <sup>11</sup> The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. <sup>12</sup> The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan); and the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. <sup>13</sup> The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Yob, and Shimron. <sup>14</sup> The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. <sup>15</sup> These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Dinah; altogether his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three.

<sup>16</sup> The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. <sup>17</sup> The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, with Serah their sister. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel. <sup>18</sup> These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob—sixteen persons.

<sup>19</sup> The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife: Joseph and Benjamin. <sup>20</sup> And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera the priest of On, bore to him. <sup>21</sup> And the sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muphim, Huphim, and Ard. <sup>22</sup> These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob—fourteen persons in all.

<sup>23</sup> The son<sup>[s]</sup> of Dan: Hushim. <sup>24</sup> The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. <sup>25</sup> These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob—seven persons in all.

<sup>26</sup> All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. <sup>27</sup> And the sons of Joseph, who were born to him in Egypt, were two. **All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were SEVENTY.**

### Jacob and Joseph Reunited

<sup>28</sup> He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. <sup>29</sup> Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. <sup>30</sup> Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive.” <sup>31</sup> Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, “I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, ‘My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. <sup>32</sup> And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’ <sup>33</sup> When Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ <sup>34</sup> you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,’ in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians.”

### Jacob's Family Settles in Goshen

<sup>47</sup> So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, “My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen.” <sup>2</sup> And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?” And they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were.” <sup>4</sup> They said to Pharaoh, “We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen.” <sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. <sup>6</sup> The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock.” <sup>7</sup> Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. <sup>8</sup> And Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the days of the years of your life?” <sup>9</sup> And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning.” <sup>10</sup> And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh. <sup>11</sup> Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded. <sup>12</sup> And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

Joseph was not only a powerful man; he was also an excellent provider. He brought his father and all of his brothers to Egypt where he made sure they were well looked after.

“Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families.” **Genesis 47:12**

Again, we can draw a parallel to Yeshua — the living bread (**lechem chayim**) who was born in **Beit-Lechem** (Bethlehem), the house of bread. **The bread that Joseph provided for his brothers sustained them during their lifetime, but the bread that Yeshua gives us sustains life eternally.**

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” (*John 6:51*)

### Joseph and the Famine

<sup>13</sup> Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished by reason of the famine. <sup>14</sup> And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. <sup>15</sup> And when the money was all spent in the land of

Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, “Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone.”<sup>16</sup> And Joseph answered, “Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone.”<sup>17</sup> So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.<sup>18</sup> And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, “We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land.”<sup>19</sup> Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate.”

<sup>20</sup> So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's.<sup>21</sup> As for the people, he made servants of them<sup>[d]</sup> from one end of Egypt to the other. <sup>22</sup> Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

<sup>23</sup> Then Joseph said to the people, “Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. <sup>24</sup> And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones.”<sup>25</sup> And they said, “You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh.”<sup>26</sup> So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.

<sup>27</sup> Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.

### **Israel Reunites with Judah**

The theme of this wonderful story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers, after so many years of being separated, continues in the Haftarah (prophetic reading), with the **reunion of the northern and southern tribes of Israel upon their return from exile**.

How did this split between the tribes of Israel happen?

**After the reign of King Solomon, the nation of Israel split into the Southern Kingdom** (represented by the tribe of Judah & Benjamin) **and the Northern Kingdom** (represented by the ten other tribes called Joseph, Ephraim, or simply Israel).

While both kingdoms sinned, Judah (Yehudah) returned from exile and still exists today as the **Yehudim** (Hebrew word for Jews). The ten northern tribes went into the nations and became “lost,” although some members of those tribes did return.

Because of their idolatry, God broke the bonds of brotherhood between Judah and Joseph (Ephraim/Israel):

“Then I cut in two my other staff, bonds, that I might break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.” **Zechariah 11:14**

According to Jewish thought, the animosity between Joseph and his brothers (all children of Jacob) foreshadows this later split between Judah and Benjamin with the other tribes of Israel (all children of God).

**In an amazing prophecy, however, God promises that one day there will again be unity between them.**

“Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.” **Ezekiel 37:19**

To make sure there is no misunderstanding, God plainly explains this prophetic symbolism:

“Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. And **I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel.**” **Ezekiel 37:21–22**

Of course, there is another reconciliation that God has brought about. Through Yeshua's sacrificial death on the Roman execution stake — the **dividing wall between Jew and Gentile has also been destroyed**, resulting in “one new man” out of the two.

**Though divisions have and still do exist, God's purposes are to reconcile us to Himself and to one another.**

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to **create in Himself one new man from the two**, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” **Ephesians 2:14–16**

There is an even greater reconciliation to come. If we look prophetically at this story of Joseph, we may see that just as Joseph said, “Ani Yoseph: I am Joseph, your brother,” **likewise, Yeshua one day will say, “Ani Yeshua: I am your salvation, your brother and your Messiah.”** Halleluyah!

When the Jewish people recognize Yeshua as their Messiah there will also be a great reconciliation that will bring about life-giving change all over the world. How we long for that great day!

“For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?” **Romans 11:15**

**Next Week’s Reading:**

**Week 12 - Vayechi (And He Lived)**  
Genesis 47:28–50:26; 1 Kings 2:1–12; John 10:1–21