

Opening Scripture Reading/Prayer:

Exodus 31:12-17

The Sabbath

¹² And the Lord said to Moses, ¹³ “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you . . . ¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’”

Isaiah 56

Salvation for Foreigners

¹ Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.

² Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;

and let not the eunuch say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

⁴ For thus says the LORD:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,

⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.

⁶ “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸ The Lord GOD,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

Isaiah 58:13-14

¹³ “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight

and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;

¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 66:22-23

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.
²³ From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 20:20

*I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my
judgments, and do them; and keep my SABBATHS holy; and they shall
be a SIGN between me and you,
that ye may now that I am the LORD your God.*

Jesus Lord of the Sabbath

“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” Matthew 12:8

Shadows

Freedom from Human Rules

“Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths
which are a shadow of what is to come but the Body of the Messiah.”

Colossians 2:16-17 (KJV)

Here, he is telling us that the **Appointed Times** (Feast Days) and the Sabbath are a **shadow of things to come**. A shadow is of the same image as what it is portraying. So, doesn't this imply these will be observed in the future kingdom? And note the text says that these commands **ARE** a **shadow of things to come**, **not** “were a shadow” or “used to be a shadow” of things to come. He then says, ‘**let no man judge you**’ (in these things: new moon; Sabbath; feasts) ‘*but the Body of Messiah.*’ The word “is” has been added to the original text and did not appear in the Greek.

The Body of Messiah is to judge each other with regard to these things. A second witness to this can be found in the following verses:

“But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone called ‘a brother,’ if he is one who whores, or greedy of gain, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge, to pick out by separating, to be of opinion, to judge those who are inside? But Elohim judges those who are outside. And put away the wicked one from among you!” **1 Corinthians 5:11-13**

“not judge” - (*krinō* (2919): to distinguish (to approve what is correct and reject what is wrong - discern).

“to pick out”: choose.

“opinion”: decide.

“to judge”: “bringing to trail” - expressing severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement).

Let's Remember what God told the People to do before they got delivered out of Egypt, which we are reminded to do prior to Christ's 2nd Coming:

1. I Will Provide the Way Out and All the Way Into the Promise Land

Exodus 11:2 - Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.”

2. Know the Times

Exodus 12:1-17 - The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “**This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.** ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

. . . ⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it . . .

. . . ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast . . .

. . . ¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.”

Word Study by Ryan Roberts of Key 2 Changes

Opening Reading:

We begin celebrate Hanukkah this Sunday, November 28th at 6pm in remembrance of the historic victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Greek Emperor Antiochus IV and those who desecrated the Temple, making it into a pagan shrine.

Part of the wonder of **Hanukkah** is that this small, untrained force was able to defeat the most powerful army on earth at that time.

Another is that when the Maccabees rededicated the Temple, the one-day supply of consecrated oil used to relight the Menorah miraculously continued to burn the entire eight days necessary to produce additional consecrated oil. We see the parallel to this story in Jesus' Parable of the Ten Virgins, and the sustaining power and salvation of the "Oil", which we will see played out towards the end of this message in relationship to prototype parallel of the **Hannukah** story, and the Endtimes Prophecy of the "*Abomination of Desolation*":

Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their **lamps** and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their **lamps**, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their **lamps**. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your **oil**, for our **lamps** are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 24:13

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

God honored the efforts of the Maccabees to restore the Temple, taking what little oil they had, and making it last an impossibly long time.

Elijah's successor, Elisha, also helped a widow who only had a small jar of oil. The woman's husband, a prophet, had died and the creditors were demanding her sons in payment.

Elisha told her to ask all her neighbors for empty jars and then go home and pour oil into all the jars until they were full. Then he directed her to sell the oil, pay her debts, and live on what was left.

Likewise, we, as Believers in Yeshua (Jesus), have many times experienced God's grace in our lives in ways that resemble a small supply of oil lasting beyond all expectation.

Corrie ten Boom and her sister, perhaps, experienced such a miracle.

The Nazis forcibly and illegally interned them at Ravensbrück concentration camp for women during World War II. What was their crime? The ten Boom sisters had hidden Jews in their home during the German occupation of Holland in World War II.

In her 1971 book, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie describes how her sister Betsie had managed to bring to the concentration camp a small bottle of vitamin drops. Although she needed those few drops as much as anyone in that camp, Betsie never refused anyone and willingly shared the drops with all who asked.

Miraculously, and beyond all comprehension, the drops continued to emerge from this small bottle, weeks after the bottle should have been naturally emptied. (*The Hiding Place, chapters 12–13*)

It is worth recounting some of the miraculous activities associated with the lives of these two women.

The Ten Boom Family

Corrie, who died in Orange County, California on her 91st birthday, tells in *The Hiding Place*, of secret worship services they held at Ravensbrück, which brought light to that dark place.

“Either Betsie or I would open the Bible. Because only the Hollanders could understand the Dutch text we would translate aloud in German. **And then we would hear the life-giving words passed back along the aisles in French, Polish, Russian, Czech, and back into Dutch. They were little previews of Heaven, these evenings beneath the light bulb.**”

Betsie was the older sister and in poor health. She died in the camp. Her last words to Corrie were, “... [we] must tell them what we have learned here. We must tell them that there is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still. They will listen to us, Corrie, because we have been here.” (*The Hiding Place; 1971, p. 217*)

Victory in Our Weakness

Just as Corrie ten Boom, a middle-aged woman in her fifties, was able to stand up to the mighty fascist German Nazi system, surviving decades after she was ground into the dust, so too the story of **Hanukkah and the Maccabees reminds us of how the God of Abraham is able to take a weak force and, in confrontation with what was then the strongest army in the world, give them a miraculous victory.**

Regardless of our status or circumstances, when we operate in faith despite our own weakness, God steps in and does the rest.

As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “That is why, for Messiah's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**” (*2 Corinthians 12:10*)

Corrie recalls how her soul survived the brutality of the Nazis in her frail body:

“Betsy and I were prisoners for the Lord, we were so weak, but we got power because the Holy Spirit was on us. That mighty inner strengthening of the Holy Spirit helped us through.” (*Corrie Ten Boom personal letter, 1974*)

To act in faith, we don't have to wait until we are strong, for He will make us strong despite our weakness. Neither do we have to wait until we have prospered in some astounding way. Like the widows in First and Second Kings, we can use what little we have, knowing that God will take care of us, providing for our every need.

God can take our small amount of oil and make us lights shining in the darkness of this present age.

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8

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Continuation of Last Week:

Daniel 2:1-49

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

²⁰Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹He changes times and seasons;

HE REMOVES KINGS AND SETS UP KINGS;

he gives wisdom to the wise

and knowledge to those who have understanding;

²² he reveals deep and hidden things;

he knows what is in the darkness,

and the light dwells with him.

²³To you, O God of my fathers,

I give thanks and praise,

for you have given me wisdom and might,

and have now made known to me what we asked of you,

for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

Here we come across one of the most exciting prophecies in all of Scripture regarding the Coming of the Messiah:

Genesis 35:16-36:43

The Deaths of Rachel and Isaac

¹⁶Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. ¹⁷And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.”¹⁸And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name **Ben-oni** (“son of my grief”); but his father called him Benjamin (“son of the right”). **¹⁹So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).**

Genesis 31:25-32

Jacob Flees from Laban

²⁵And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead. ²⁶And Laban said to Jacob, . . . ³⁰And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but **why did you steal my gods?** ³¹Jacob answered and said to Laban, “Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force. ³²**Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live.** In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it.” **Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.**

“ANYONE WITH WHOM YOU FIND YOUR GODS, LET HIM NOT LIVE” FOR JACOB KNEW NOT THAT RACHEL HAD STOLEN THEM (31:32)

It was because of these words spoken by Jacob that Rachel died in childbirth shortly thereafter.

Genesis 35:20-21

²⁰ and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day. ²¹ **Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the TOWER of Eder.**

Biblical Prophecy of the Future Birth of Our Messiah

Although the New Testament does not tell us where **in Bethlehem Jesus was born**, the Old Testament does. **Micah 4:8** states:

“And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.” Thus, the Old Testament clearly states that the Messiah would be born at the **“TOWER of the flock”** (Hebrew: Migdal Edar).

An Amazing Story and Biblical Prophecy that falls every year during the season of Hanukkah, which again this year falls between Sunday, November 28th at 6pm to Monday, December 6th at 6pm. The continuation of one of the Greatest Stories and Prophecies ever written in Scripture, playing out right in front of our eyes during this very special Appointed Time in God’s Heart to Reveal His Redemption of Man kind from the Beginning of Time:

Genesis 3:15, *“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring, he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.”*

But before we explore this Amazing Prophecy, let’s first look at the warning markers of Idolatry, the ingredients of Rachel’s judgment and death, found in an usual portion of Scriptures, *“The Letter to the Church at Thyatira”*, found in the Book of **Revelation 2:18-29**:

The Letter to the Church at Thyatira

The Meaning of the Name: **“Perpetual sacrifice” or “continual offering”**

Revelation: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze. Jesus Christ who is able to see and judge all things.

Commendation: I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

Criticism: *But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ‘And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want **to repent of her immorality**. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works.*

A woman with the name of Jezebel cannot be identified with the Church in any literal sense; however, her identity can be discovered on a spiritual level by using information from the Bible concerning her. The woman is *Empress Irene* of the Eastern Roman Empire who led the Church to worship graven images. In history books the events surrounding image worship are called The Iconoclastic Controversy.

Instruction: *But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who **do not hold this teaching**, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them – I place no other burden on you. ‘Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. **Keep doing what you were doing and don’t become involved in this teaching**.*

Penalty: *Behold, **I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.** ‘And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. Christ will make her a whore (to be used by the nations) and those who have relationships (agree) with her will suffer great tribulation and their children will be killed by **plagues**.*

plagues: Beginning in the 1340’s, the Black Death (Bubonic Plague) hit the continent of Europe decimating between 30 to 60% of its population, which dealt the Roman Catholic Church a devastating blow. An estimated 75 million people died in that pandemic alone. Yet there were to be more than 100 other plague epidemics, which would sweep over Europe within the next 400 years.

Promise: ***He who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES,** as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. I see what you are doing and will reward you according to your deeds, do the deeds that I did because they honor the Father. If you*

overcome, I will give you a day on which you will rule and reign over the nations because all power and authority has been given to Me by My Father.

The Church age (787 – 1517 AD) became corrupted from within and the corruption came in three parts: **#1 worship, #2 doctrine, and #3 leadership . . . again a Picture of End-time Events and Prophecy!**

This age of the Church (The Medieval Age) is associated with **“parable of the leaven.”** In the parable a woman hides leaven in three parts of a measure until all of it is changed. Before continuing with this Church “age” we need to know more about leaven. Leaven is a corrupting agent that changes the nature of the substance it is put into. In the parable, leaven was put in three portions of meal. The three portions represent the whole thing that was leavened. The Hebrew standard whole unit of dry measure is the ephah and it takes three seahs to equal one ephah. By this, Jesus is indicating that every human being consists of three parts: spirit, soul, and body. So when leaven is introduced into each of the parts, **the entire nature of the person will be changed.** But more importantly we must know what **the spiritual equivalent of leaven is.** Jesus said it was **teaching!** And Jesus said to them, **“Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”** Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. **(Matthew 16:6 & 12)** Most Christians associate leaven with sin however, it depends on the leaven’s (teaching’s) source as to how it will affect the substance (human being); is the leaven (teaching) from God, the world or the devil?

Corruption of Worship

The changes that were made in the worship of God during this period of time were stupendous both in their nature and quantity. **Ritualism was in vogue . . . as pagan teaching, ceremonies and practices entered the Church.**

Images were placed in churches in violation of the Second Commandment under the pretense that it was enhancing the worshiper's experience.

And the simple “breaking of bread” or “communion” became a ritual all of its own, called the “Mass”, officiated over by a group of people known as the clergy. The Mass centers on a priest who offers Christ as a sacrifice at each service and then supernaturally changes bread and wine into Christ’s body and blood, which the congregants partake of. This repeated offering of Christ as a sacrificial victim at each Mass is a violation of Scripture. Hebrews 9:28, “so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him,” and 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,” no wonder Jesus sent his message to the Church that was in Thyatira whose name, “Perpetual Sacrifice” or “continual offering”, fits so perfectly. (nearly 2-billion Christians, of the 2.5-billion Christians identified in the Earth today practice this Corrupted form of Worship)

Corruption of Doctrine

In 1075, Pope Gregory VII issued the decree “Dictatus Papae” that contained 27 statements of powers ascribed to the Pope. Among them are: **“He himself can be judged by no one . . . the Roman Church has never erred, nor ever, by the witness of Scripture, shall err to all eternity . . . papal infallibility . . . forbade reading the Bible in the common language . . . ordered the extermination of heretics . . . only those ordained as priests may grant absolution from sin . . . cult of the saints . . . prayers for the saints”.**

Corruption of Leadership

Church leadership became more and more involved with secular power as evidenced with the formation of the **Holy Roman Empire.**

Daniel 2:1-49

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream & Daniel Interprets the Dream

³¹ “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. ³² The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, **its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.** ³⁴ As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. **But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

...⁴¹ And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall **be a divided kingdom**, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle.⁴³ 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.⁴⁴ **And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.**⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. **A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.**"

Daniel Is Promoted

...⁴⁷ The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

Holy Roman Empire Reborn

EndTime.com - Irvin Baxter

NOW, THE ROMANS WERE SYMBOLIZED IN THE PROPHECY ABOUT ALL THESE WORLD EMPIRES AS THE LEGS OF IRON.

THE ROMAN ELEMENT IS KEPT AS WE MOVE FROM 300 A.D. UNTIL FINALLY 800 A.D., BECAUSE IT WAS IN 800 A.D. THAT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WAS BORN.

NOW, THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE ARE NOT THE SAME EMPIRE.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS A TOTALLY SECULAR EMPIRE, BUT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, AS ITS NAME DEPICTS, IS TO BE A UNION, AN ALLIANCE OF CHURCH AND STATE, OF POLITICS AND RELIGION.

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN 800 A.D., WHEN POPE LEO THE THIRD PLACED THE CROWN ON THE HEAD OF **CHARLEMAGNE**, ANNOUNCING THAT HE WAS NOW THE EMPEROR OF, WATCH THIS, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

SO, WHEN THE BIBLE DEPICTS THE FEET OF IRON MINGLED WITH CLAY, THE IRON WAS THE ROMAN ELEMENT, BUT THE CLAY WAS THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENT.

THEY'RE JOINED TOGETHER AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ON DECEMBER 25, 800 A.D. WHEN POPE LEO THE THIRD PUT THE CROWN ON THE HEAD OF **CHARLEMAGNE**.

FROM THAT TIME ON, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE RULED THE WORLD, MOSTLY, FOR THE NEXT 1000 YEARS.

AND THE LEADERS THAT RULED THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WERE ALWAYS A DUAL LEADERSHIP.

ALWAYS THE POLITICAL LEADER FROM EUROPE AND THE SPIRITUAL LEADER EVERY SINGLE TIME FROM ITALY.

IT WAS A COMBINATION OF THE POLITICAL LEADER AND THE SPIRITUAL LEADER, AND OF COURSE, THE SPIRITUAL LEADER WAS ALWAYS THE POPE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, OF THE VATICAN.

... A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE CEASED TO EXIST IN 1806 WITH THE LAST EMPIRE DECAYING, THE LAST ELEMENT OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

BUT IT'S NOT TRUE.

... IT ACTUALLY WAS REBORN ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009.

ONE OF THE FIVE GREATEST PROPHETIC FULFILLMENTS IN THE LAST 2000 YEARS,

IS THAT REALLY TRUE, OR AM I SIMPLY READING SOMETHING INTO THIS THAT'S NOT THERE?

WELL, THEY DECIDED THEY WOULD START PRINTING MONEY.

THE FIRST MONEY WAS PRINTED IN 1987, A COIN CALLED THE ECU, THE EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT.

AND WHEN THEY DECIDED TO PRINT THEIR FIRST MONEY AS THE EUROPEAN UNION, THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE'S PICTURE THAT WOULD REALLY CONVEY THE MEANING OF WHAT WAS GOING ON.

. . . THEY PUT THE PICTURE OF **CHARLEMAGNE** (which is also the name of the UN Building in Brussels Belgium, which also includes a statue out of the building of the Whore on top of a Beast, of the Book of Revelation, which is representative of the Church, the whore, and the Nations, the beast, and their holy union; as well as, the UN also offers the Charlemagne Award for world leaders who best represent the UN, who Bill Clinton was one of their first recipients; and including a monthly Charlemagne publication).

REMEMBER, HE WAS THE FIRST EMPEROR OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

POPE LEO THE THIRD PLACED THE CROWN ON HIS HEAD ON CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 800 A.D.

WAS IT BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY PRESIDING OVER THE REBIRTH OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE?

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT.

This period of time is also referred to as the **Midnight** of the Dark Ages as its popes were full of bribery, corruption, immorality and bloodshed. In history the period from 904-963 AD is called the "Rule of the Harlots". The popes after this period sold their offices and robbed Christians. Most bishops and priests had paid for their offices, for it gave them a chance to live in luxury.

Many other popes had concubines, mistresses and illegitimate children. They sold and granted indulgences to sin, sold offices, and decreed that money would deliver souls from purgatory.

Jezebel

Perhaps no other Old Testament character has had such a profound impact upon the people of God as Jezebel. Her leadership plagued the people of Israel in her time. And Jesus in the book of Revelation even warns the Church not to tolerate her. She epitomizes evil and has become a symbol of all that is detestable from a moral standpoint.

The first mention of Jezebel is in 1 Kings 16:31 on the occasion of her marriage to King Ahab of Israel in the year 889 BC. Jezebel is not an Israelite, one of God's chosen people. She is a foreigner, a pagan and an idol worshipper. Jezebel is the daughter of Ethbaal (which means "with Baal"), king of Tyre and Sidon.

There is a spiritual clue here for us. In Ezekiel 28, God speaks against the king of Tyre. According to the text, **the King of Tyre is really Satan**, the anointed cherub. **By association, Jezebel is the daughter of Satan.** The daughter of Satan marries the leader of Israel in order to corrupt God's people. Satan's master plan is and always has been the destruction of God's people. And Satan knows that God will destroy His own people if they turn away from Him.

After becoming queen of Israel, Jezebel instituted the worship of Baal, had an altar and temple built for him and erected Asherah (ancient middle-eastern goddess, wife of the supreme god . . . as mother goddess she was widely worshiped . . . frequently paired with Baal.) . . . **She has infected the entire Church with false teaching and immorality.** The Rest of the Story – In 813 AD . . . Leo 5th again made it illegal to worship images, however in 843 AD another woman, Empress Theodora, convened the Council of Constantinople in order to secure image worship again. Image worship was approved and still stands today.

Today we will see this real TRUTH come to light when we learn of Rachel's death in child birth in fulfillment of the Scriptures . . . of which we will begin this week, and continue into next week in the message of the **"True Meaning of Hanukkah"**:

Again, the phrase “**TOWER of the flock**”, found in **Genesis 35:21**, is the Hebrew phrase “*Migdal Edar*” [(mig-dawl) ay-der] and means a “**watch TOWER of the flock**”. In ancient times this was a military tower erected to view into the valley on the edge of Bethlehem to protect the city. Several of these military towers are recorded in the Old Testament (See Judges 8:71, 9:46, 9:51; 2 Kings 9:17, 18:8; Nehemiah 3:1). The tower at Bethlehem is first mentioned in **Genesis 35:21**, “*And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar*” (“*tower of Edar*” - Migdal Edar). After Jacob left Bethel, he came to **Edar (the tower)** and there Rachel began hard labor and as she delivered Benjamin she died and was buried there in Ephrathah which is Bethlehem” (**Genesis 35:19**). After burying **Rachel (a Shepherdess herself)**, Jacob moved his flocks beyond the **TOWER of Edar**. This would pinpoint the location as being near to what is present day Bethlehem. Clearly, this establishes that **Migdal Edar, “the TOWER of the flock”** was in Bethlehem in Bible times.

The oldest tradition, based upon **Genesis 35:16-20; 48:7**, points to a place one mile north of present-day Bethlehem and 4 miles from Jerusalem. We do not know what were the bounds of ancient Bethlehem when Christ was born there, but we know the area called Bethlehem was larger than it is today. The references to present day **Migdal Edar** are in reference to present day Bethlehem and not the Bethlehem of biblical times which was certainly greater. **Genesis 35:19** and **48:7** both state that Rachel was buried at “**Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.**”

“*And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.” Genesis 35:19*

“*And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem.” Genesis 48:7*

It must be noted that Ephrath or Ephrathah was the ancient name for the area that later was called Bethlehem. According to **Genesis 35:19**, after Jacob buried Rachel, he “*moved his flocks beyond the tower of Edar*” or “*Migdal Edar*”. The location of Rachel's tomb today is outside, on the outskirts of present-day Bethlehem, but clearly it was not when Jacob, buried his wife there. Clearly the area which is called Bethlehem in biblical times covered a greater area than does present day Bethlehem and the Tower of the Flock was in that city.

This watch TOWER from ancient times was used by the shepherds for protection from their enemies and wild beasts. It was also the place ewes were safely brought to give birth to the lambs. In this sheltered building/cave the priests would bring in the ewes which were about to lamb for protection. These special lambs came from a unique flock that was designated for sacrifice at the temple in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Short states, “According to Edersheim in *The Life And Times Of Jesus The Messiah*”, in Book 2, Chapter 6, states, “This **Migdal Edar** was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks” that pastured on the barren sheep ground beyond Bethlehem, but it lay close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem. A passage from the **Mishnah*** (Shekelim 7:4) leads to the conclusion that “*the flocks which pastured there were destined for Temple sacrifices.*” In addition, **Migdal Edar** is also mentioned by the Jewish **Targums*** and is translated “*The Anointed One of the flock of Israel*”.

* **The Mishnah** was the first recording of the oral law of the Jews or its Rabbinic Judaism. The word means “repetition” which means it was memorized material. It is the major source of rabbinic teachings of Judaism. Next to the Scriptures the Mishnah is the basic textbook of Jewish life and thought, and is traditionally considered to be an integral part of the Torah revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai.

* **The Targum** is an Aramaic translation of the Hebrew Bible (Tanak) which was written during Israel's seventy-year captivity in Babylon. Aramaic is one of the Semitic languages, an important group of languages known almost from the beginning of human history and including also Arabic, Hebrew, Ethiopic, and Akkadian (ancient Babylonian and Assyrian).

Thus, Targum Yonatan, cited by Rabbi Munk, paraphrases **Genesis 35:23** and **Micah 4:8**, “*He spread his tent beyond Migdal Edar, the place where King Messiah will reveal Himself at the end of days.*” What are we to make of all of this information from the writings of the rabbis? First, we know that **Migdal Edar** was the watchtower that guarded the Temple flocks that were being raised to serve as sacrificial animals in the Temple. These were not just any flock and herd. **The shepherds who kept them were men who were specifically trained for this royal task.** “*They were educated in what an animal, that was to be sacrificed, had to be and it was their job to make sure that none of the animals were hurt, damaged, or blemished.*” **These lambs were apparently wrapped in “swaddling clothes” to protect them from injury and also were used to wrap the Lord Jesus.**

Thus, with the establishment of Temple worship in Jerusalem, *the fields outside of Bethlehem became the place where a special group of shepherds raised the lambs that were sacrificed in the Temple. Being themselves under special Rabbinical care, they would strictly maintain a ceremonially clean stable for a birthing place. The Tower of the Flock was used for birthing ewes, and the surrounding fields were where these shepherds grazed their flocks.* These shepherds customarily kept their flocks outdoors twenty-four hours a day every day of the year, *but brought the ewes in to deliver their lambs where they could be carefully cared for. It was to this place that Joseph took Mary. It was in this special place at “Migdal Edar” that Christ was born!* How do we know? **Micah 4:8 tells us so!:**

*And you, O **TOWER** of the flock,
hill of the daughter of Zion,
to you shall it come,
the former dominion shall come,
kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.*

Prophetically, “Migdal Edar” is the exact place in Bethlehem for Christ to be born. *Micah was God's prophet* who was warning Israel of the coming captivity. *He used the authenticating prophecy of the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom (soon to occur when he foretold it) to serve as a reminder to Israel of God's promised Kingdom.* God wanted them to know that even though they would be taken from their land because of their disobedience that He would restore them in time. **Micah 4:7** establishes the context of the passage and clearly is a Messianic prophecy of the coming of the Millennial Kingdom when Jesus Christ will reign over Jerusalem forever. “. . . **LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even forever.**” In other words, God was assuring Israel that He would fulfill His promises to them of the Kingdom. In **Micah 4:8** the word is rendered “**tower of the flock**” (marg., “Edar”), *and is used as a designation of Bethlehem, which figuratively represents the royal line of David as sprung from Bethlehem.*

In this setting, **Micah (Micah 4:8)** uses the prophecy of the Babylonian captivity of the Southern Kingdom as a pledge to guarantee (authenticating prophecy) of the birth of Christ at “**Migdal Edar**” at Bethlehem which is exactly where it took place! **Micah prophesied that as surely as Assyrians would soon carry away Israel in the North, so the Messiah would come and establish His kingdom,** the “*first dominion, the kingdom shall come to Jerusalem.*” *The verse states that as surely as Babylon would carry away the tribe of Judah, in the South, into captivity, so the Messiah would arrive at the TOWER of the Flock.* This prophecy was one other evidence that later proved that Jesus was the Messiah, but one that Israel ignored in rejecting Him as their Messiah.

In the Holy Sanctuary, the light of the Menorah became a symbol of God's Divine Presence; its light shone not only inside the Temple, but tradition says it also shined out the windows and into Jerusalem where people could bask in its rays during the dark nights.

During this time of year, when the winter nights are the longest, we sense our need for light more intensely.

Some people even experience what has been termed S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder) — a particular depression brought about by a deficiency of sunlight. **Likewise, when we are going through our “long, dark night of the soul,” we feel more intensely our desire to see even a glimmer of light.**

Light of the World

Hanukkah is a celebration of light.

Again, **Did Jesus celebrate Hanukkah?** The only reference in Scripture to Hanukkah is found in the New Testament, and it indicates that He more than likely kept the festival.

The Gospel of John reveals that Jesus walked in the courts of the Temple during Hanukkah:

“Now it was the **Feast of Dedication** in Jerusalem, and it was winter. And *Jesus walked in the Temple*, in Solomon's porch.”
John 10:22–23

While He was there, some asked Him directly if He were the Messiah.

Jesus pointed to the works He had done as proof, but explained that they did not believe in Him because they were not His sheep.

In this week's New Testament portion, **Jesus the Messiah proclaimed His mission as one of healing the brokenhearted and setting captives free.**

The verses He cited came directly out of the book of the Hebrew prophet Isaiah.

“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the **Sabbath day**, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because *He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted; To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*” **Luke 4:16–19; see also Isaiah 61:1**

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote of a “Great Light” that would one day come to lift people out of the gloomy darkness:

“Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed . . . The people who walked in darkness have seen a **great light;** those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” **Isaiah 9:1–2**

Who is this “great light” of which Isaiah prophesied? The Light would come in the form of (*initially a conception, when light first entered the World, and then . . .*) a child, who would eventually rule the nations in righteousness and justice, seated on the throne of His father, David, for all eternity.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will

be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice, from that time forward, even forever.” **Isaiah 9:6-7**

Jesus (the Messiah—the Anointed One) said, **“I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** **John 8:12**

MessianicBible.com

This Week, the story continues of the rise of a Great Savior of Israel of the world, who himself was hated and sold by his own brothers, and after 22-years of learning by his suffering . . .

***7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. **9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him . . .”* **Hebrews 5:7-10**

Genesis 50:20 says, *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...”*.

. . . later unveiling himself to his brother for salvation towards deliverance, and fulfillment of Abraham’s prophecy that his people would be in bondage for 430 years (430-years (Genesis 12:1-4, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you (Abram is 70-years old) and Exodus 12:40-41, “Now the sojourn of the children of Israel, who lived in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.”) from the giving of the word to the entering into the promise land, and 400-years from the birth of Isaac, the seed of the promise, found in Genesis 15:13, “Know certainly that your descendants (Abraham is 100-years old at Isaac’s Birth, 30-years after the prophecy was given to leave his land for the promised land) will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.”):

The Christmas Story:

Based on my knowledge of Scripture, historical facts, the Biblical calendar and Jewish tradition I would like to present the following Christmas story as a plausible way in which the events surrounding Jesus’ birth occurred.

It is Saturday night, Kislev 25, in the Jewish year 3755. It is the first night of Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication and the Feast of Light, December 4, 6 BCE. The angel Gabriel comes to the Virgin Mary with a message from God. She will conceive in her womb, bear a son and name him JESUS (Yashua – Joshua – “I AM SALVATION”). The Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the power of the Most High will overshadow her; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

Mary appropriately Hanukkahs (dedicates – first use for a holy purpose) her body to be the temple of God by saying, *“Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.”*

The Holy Spirit impregnates Mary. She now has the Word of God, eternal life and the light of men dwelling in the darkness of her womb. As it is written: *In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was **life**, and the **life** was the **light** of men. And the **light** shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** did not comprehend it.* (John 1:1-5)

Interestingly, on the first night of Hanukkah many Jews quote this passage of Scripture, *“In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. And the earth was **formless** and **void**, and **darkness** was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, **“Let there be light”; and there was light.**”* (Genesis 1:1-3)

Coincidentally we are reminded by the Scripture in **John 9-10:(22) 39**, that Jesus declared Himself to be the Son of God on Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication and Light in the Temple at Jerusalem.

I and the Father Are One

22 At that time the **Feast of Dedication** took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” **25** Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who

has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ **I and the Father are one.**"

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" ³³ The Jews answered him, "**It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.**"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?" ³⁵ If he called them gods to whom the word of God came – and Scripture cannot be broken – ³⁶ do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?" ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸ but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may **know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.**" ³⁹ Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. **John 10:22-39**

Forty weeks – is the period of human gestation.

enemies – 1 John 3:7-9 ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Timeline of John the Baptist and Jesus' Conceptions and Births (6-months apart):

Pentecost – June/Feast of Weeks/Pentecost (*Conception of John the Baptist*) **Luke 1:1-23**

Luke 1:5-80

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a **priest named Zechariah**, of the division of Abijah. And **he had a wife** from the daughters of Aaron, and **her name was Elizabeth**. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because *Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*

⁸ Now **while he was serving as priest before God** when his division was on duty*, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

* Zacharias was of the division of Abijah. A thousand years earlier, King David had reorganized the priests by families and had created 24 "courses" of priests to minister for a week at a time in the temple (*David's reorganization program is recorded in 1 Chron. 24:3, 4*). Each "course" or "division" ministered twice during the year, accounting for 48 weeks. The other four weeks in the year were at the time of the feasts when they all served as needed in the temple . . . The eighth in the list was Abijah (**1 Chron. 24:10**) . . . Hence, **the eighth division of priests arrived early on the day of Pentecost Sunday, seven weeks later, to minister in the temple** . . . Luke does not tell us which day of the week he was the one honored to burn incense in the temple, but it is likely that he did so on that first morning, Pentecost Sunday. It was the year 3 B.C., for John would be born around the following Passover. (<https://godskingdom.org/studies/books/dr-luke-healing-the-breaches-book-1/chapter-2-zacharias>)

Sixth Month of Elizabeth's Pregnancy – December/The Feast of Hanukkah (*Conception of Jesus*) **Luke 1:26-45**

Ninth Month of Elizabeth's Pregnancy, she Gives Birth – March/Passover (*Birth of John the Baptist*) **Luke 1:57-80**

Ninth Month of Mary's Pregnancy, she Gives Birth (*6-months after John the Baptist's Birth*) – September/the season of "When the King is in the Field" and near the time of the Feast of Trumpets (*Birth of Jesus*)* **Luke 2:1-38**

* **Elul 7/September 9th 5BC, the Sabbath Reading of "WHEN YOU GO OUT to battle against your enemies," Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19; 23-days later was the beginning of the "Feast of Blowing/Trumpets" (Tishri 1/October 2nd 5BC), when all Israeli King's births began their counting and when all Israeli King's coronation were commenced; and 44-days later was the 8th Day of the "Feast of Tabernacles", also known as "Hossana Rabba/The Great Day of Salvation", fulfilling Mary's 40-days of Purification (Leviticus 12:1-4 & Luke 2:22), the future fulfillment of our Entering into Eternity with God, and the fulfillment of the consolation of Israel, prophesied to Simeon (Luke 2:22-35).**

Forty weeks after His conception Jesus is born. It is Friday night, Elul 7, in the Jewish year 3756. This corresponds to our Gregorian calendar date of September 9, 5 BCE. It is the beginning of the weekly Sabbath. The Jewish people have a particular name for every Sabbath and they read specific passages of Scripture on those Sabbaths. The one on which Jesus is born is called KiTeitzei, “**WHEN YOU GO OUT to battle against your enemies***”. On that Sabbath night Jesus goes forth from the womb. And the next morning in the Temple and in every synagogue **Isaiah 54:1-10** is read. It begins this way:

“Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; for the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous than the sons of the married woman, says the LORD.” Isaiah 54:1

On the following Sabbath, being the eighth day Jesus is circumcised. The Jewish people call this particular Sabbath, KiTavo, “When you enter”. On that day Jesus entered into the Mosaic Covenant through His circumcision. And in the Temple and every synagogue the prophet **Isaiah 60:1-22** is read. It begins this way:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you.

And in verse six of that passage of Scripture it prophesies the coming of the Magi to see Jesus. It reads this way:

A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news (myrrh - a sweet smelling aroma) of the praises of the LORD.

Mary waited the prescribed 40 days for her purification (Read Leviticus 12:1-4) from the blood of childbirth before presenting her son, Jesus at the Temple. It was Thursday, Ethanim 21 (Ethanim is the seventh month of God’s calendar. It falls within our September/October time frame. The Jewish people currently call this month Tishri.), of the Jewish year 3756 or our October 20, 5 BCE. The Jewish people call the day Hossana Rabba or “The Great Day of Salvation”. It is the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (In Hebrew the feast is called Sukkoth, which is translated as tent, hut, tabernacle or booth and indicates a temporary dwelling.) (Sukkoth).

The Feast of Tabernacles is the most joyous feast of the year for Israel and it has four major themes associated with it. Let’s see how these four themes are linked to Jesus’ first appearance at the Temple.

The first theme is the **ingathering of various tree branches**. Jesus, “the **Branch**” spoken of by Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 11:1-10) concerning the messiah is brought into Jerusalem during the feast. It was written of Him: “*Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.*”

Jesse was King David’s father. Therefore, the messiah had to be a descendent of King David, which Jesus was according to the genealogies. The **shoot** or **branch** in the prophecy can also be rendered from the root Hebrew word **Nazir** meaning “**unpruned vine**” from whence we get the word **Nazarene**. This is why the Bible references Jesus as the **Nazarene** or Jesus from **Nazareth**.

by Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com

Next Week (?): “In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” John 1:4

Two Messiahs – I know Jesus, but who is Messiah ben Joseph?

“Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.” **Luke 24:12**

Did you know that a resurrected Messiah is not only a Christian belief? It is also very Jewish!

When Rabbis studied Zechariah 12:10–12 and realized that the Messiah must die, many of them were left baffled. They wondered: How could a triumphant Messiah Son of David die?

Some Rabbis solved the dilemma by creating two Messiahs.

Messiah ben Joseph, according to Rabbis, is the suffering redeemer that the Hebrew prophets often spoke of: someone who would battle the enemies of Israel and prepare the way for Messiah ben David.

Messiah ben David is expected to establish a blissful utopia on earth, known as the Messianic Kingdom (Isaiah 2:4, 9:1–7, 11:6–9).

This idea of a resurrected Messiah is not new.

As far back as AD 590–630, a Jewish apocalyptic book was written in the style of Ezekiel and Daniel called Zerubbabel. In it, Messiah ben Joseph (called Nehemiah ben Hushiel in this book) dies in battle with the King of Edom (Armilus). However, Messiah Ben David arrives soon after and raises him from the dead.

Rabbis believe that Messiah ben Joseph will fight in the great battle against Gog and Magog described in Ezekiel 38–39, and that he will die defending Israel against her enemies, only to be raised by Messiah ben David.

Why do ancient and modern Rabbis alike think that Messiah will be raised from the grave?

Resurrection of Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures

Rabbis have not made up the idea that Messiah will be raised from the dead.

They refer to Scriptures such as Psalm 16:10: “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.”

As well, the Talmud says that when Messiah ben David sees Messiah ben Joseph slain, he will ask the Lord of the Universe for ben Joseph to receive “the gift of life.”

The Lord then answers that “your father David has already prophesied this concerning you” when David wrote, “He asked you for life, and you gave it to him—length of days, for ever and ever.” (Babylonian Talmud Sukkah 52a; Psalm 21:4, v. 5 in the Hebrew Bible)

Hanukkah Story Continued:

There has only been one Proclaimed Messiah who Fulfilled the Prophecies of Daniel 9:24-27, and that was Jesus himself, all the others came hundreds and thousands of years later, as even Jesus warned:

Matthew 24:4-5, 15-31

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ **For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.**”

Hanukkah Blessings: Chant Before Lighting the Candles

One of the most important Hanukkah rituals is to recite the Hanukkah blessings and light the candles on the menorah.

Before lighting the candles (but after placing them in the menorah), we recite the following blessings:

A MESSIAH BELIVER VERSION:

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us with his commandments, and commanded us to be a light to the nations and Who gave to us Jesus our Messiah the Light of Hanukkah to the world.

Next Week’s Reading:

Week 9 - PARASHA VAYEISHEV (And He Lived/And He Settled)

Genesis 37:1–40:23; Amos 2:6–3:8; Romans 8:18–39

“God is positioning you to fulfill your destiny”

&

Week 10 - Miketz (At the End)

Genesis 41:1–44:17; Zechariah 2:10(14)–4:7; John 1:1–18

Upcoming Event:

Hanukkah (Jesus' Conception) 2021

Sunday, November 28th to Monday, December 6th