

Chapter 11

Israel

The entire world will fight against Israel.

God stands along-side Israel.

God harvests Israel with great discipline. In fact, Israel will be harvested in God's wrath. The violent nature of the Israeli harvest is brought about because once Israel returns to God, Satan will persecute Israel. This persecution will come from every corner of the globe. At that time, Israel will shine by demonstrating covenant loyalty to God.

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God foretold the past two thousand years of Israeli history. Ezekiel wrote about Israel's exile from its homeland, which did in fact occur following the destruction of Israel in 70 AD. Ezekiel also foretold the mistreatment of Jews while in *exile* at the hands of *enemies*, to include Adolph Hitler.

Writing about the first-century nation of Israel going into *exile*, Ezekiel quoted God as saying, *and the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them.* (Ezekiel 39:22-24)

Jews returned from exile and modern Israel was born May 14, 1948. Scripture foretold that modern Israel would one day accept Jesus. God spoke of when he would *no longer hide my face from them* (the Israeli people). God will reveal himself to the Israeli people, and Israel will accept Jesus as its redeemer.

Concerning the establishment and purpose of modern Israel (referred to as "*them*" and "*they*" below), Ezekiel quoted God as foretelling the following, "*When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind, I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.*" (Ezekiel 39:27-29)

Zechariah wrote about the moment Israel accepts a crucified Messiah, the one *pierced* on the cross. God promised, "*And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first-born son.*" (Zechariah 12:10)

Initial Peace

Israel's initial protection during the end-times results from a seven-year agreement with Antichrist, referred to as "He" in the following verse. *He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'* (Daniel 9:27) This refers to an international agreement that initiates the seven-year end-time period.

Given the current world stage, Europeans will accept Israel as a member of the European Union and/or the European Economic Area. Israel providing a resolution to Arab conflict could be the ticket for admission. Israeli leaders have publicly endorsed membership (1, 2); a poll indicates eighty-five percent of Israeli citizens support membership. (3)

This peace plan will not endure, as Antichrist turns against Israel and break his word in the middle of the seven years. The three and a half years of protection Israel receives at the start of the end-times corresponds with the time Israel remains in unbelief concerning Jesus. As depicted in Table 11-1, scripture cites this 42-month delay in five separate verses.

TABLE 11-1: ISRAEL'S TIME OF UNBELIEF

Scripture	3 ½ years - 1260 days	3 ½ years - <i>time, times and half a time</i>*	3 ½ years - <i>In the middle of the 'seven'</i>
Daniel 9:27			X
Daniel 12:6-9		X	
Revelation 11:3	X		
Revelation 12:6	X		
Revelation 12:13-14		X	

* *TIME, TIMES AND HALF A TIME* = [1 + 2 + ½] YEARS = 3 ½ YEARS

The question asked in Daniel, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.” (Daniel 12:6-7)

Nothing could be *fulfilled* concerning Israel until the initial three and a half years were completed. At that time, Israel will accept Jesus as Messiah, and modern Israel becomes a spiritually re-born nation.

Two Witnesses

The initial three and a half years of the end-times, God provides Israel two witnesses. These are the first authentic prophets sent to Israel since the first century. *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.* (Revelation 11:3-6)

The two witnesses will preach from Jerusalem during the first 42 months. These witnesses will *have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain*, just as Elijah did when confronting King Ahab. (1 Kings 17:1) These witnesses will *have power to turn the waters into blood*, just as Moses did before Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:20)

After 42 months, God withdraws protection of the two witnesses, and both are executed. *Now when they had finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.* (Revelation 11:7-8) The place where these witnesses are murdered is the same city where *their Lord was crucified*. The Jerusalem on earth is corrupt, as *Sodom* was corrupt, and worldly, like *Egypt*. The future heaven, the New Jerusalem, provides a sharp contrast to the corrupt Jerusalem on earth. (Revelation 21)

The funeral celebration is noteworthy. *For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.* (Revelation 11:9-10) The corpses of the two witnesses will be abandoned. Through worldwide television coverage, people from every *people, tribe, language and nation* will look upon the two corpses. The contempt will be so great that no one buries them. People *celebrate by sending each other gifts*. Just as the birth of the Christian faith, people celebrate by exchanging gifts. People will celebrate this apparent end to the Christian faith with the same tradition.

However, the story transitions into a resurrection and rapture, it ends in victory! *But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.* (Revelation 11:11-12)

Israel disbelieved the resurrection of its Messiah two thousand years ago. Now Israel will see the resurrection and rapture of God's two witnesses. Then an incredible moment occurs, the repentance of Israel, and acceptance of Jesus as Messiah—as Israel turns back to God. *At that very hour there was a severe earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.* (Revelation 11:13)

The veil that blinded Israel from seeing Jesus as Messiah for two thousand years is lifted, and Israel gives *glory to the God of heaven*. Giving glory to God can only be done through legitimate faith. It is certain that *without faith it is impossible to please God*. (Hebrews 11:6)

A Third Temple

The Temple Mount will be a critical end-time setting. (Appendix 4) King Solomon built the First Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. The building of a Third Temple on the Temple Mount has been a prayer of the Orthodox Jew since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD. Because Muslims control the Temple Mount today, the prediction that a Third Temple will be built is astonishing. Yet the Temple Mount Faithful in Israel are prepared to build the Third Temple. (4)

There is growing evidence Israel can rebuild on the Temple Mount. Archeological findings indicate Islamic buildings are on the wrong location. God surveys the Temple Mount, an action that demonstrates he is taking control. John, the writer of Revelation, *was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.* (Revelation 11:1-2) A Third Temple could be built on the authentic location of the first two temples, with the Dome of the Rock remaining intact in the *outer court*.

Broken Promises

God does not permit Antichrist to attack Israel the first half of the seven years. Israel is the woman in the following story. *The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.* (Revelation 12:6) Later more details are given; the dragon and serpent is Satan, and the male child is Jesus. *When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.* Now leap forward to the end-times. *The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to a place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.* (Revelation 12:13-14)

Antichrist will establish an agreement with many nations, to include Israel, for a seven-year period. In the middle of those seven years, he will break the agreement and stop the Jewish practice of sacrifice and offering. *He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.* (Daniel 9:27)

The blood sacrifice of lambs for the atonement of sins will return as a cornerstone of the Jewish faith at the Third Temple. Antichrist stops the sacrificing of lambs and requires all people worship him. Israel responds to Antichrist with an emphatic “no!” Israeli believers would rather be executed than betray their newly found Messiah.

Antichrist will enter the Third Temple and claim to be Israel’s Messiah. Paul wrote about Antichrist, *he will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.* (2 Thessalonians 2:4) Antichrist will declare that he is the Messiah that Israel has sought after since the fall of Adam and Eve. (Daniel 11:36)

Israel will be hated by all nations. *On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.* (Zechariah 12:3) Details of the violent harvest of Israel are revealed; enemy soldiers behave as war criminals. *I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped.* (Zechariah 14:2)

This over-running of Jerusalem brings our Messiah back to earth to fight for Israel. *Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.* (Zechariah 14:3-4)

Notes:

1. Reuters. *Shalom considers asking to join the EU.* Haaretz Israel News. May 21, 2003.
2. Walker, M. *Analysis: Israel Weighing EU Membership.* UPI. May 21, 2003
3. Poll by Dahaf Institute of the EC Delegation in Tel Aviv, Feb 2004.
4. The Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement. Jerusalem, Israel.
<http://www.templemountfaithful.org/>

TABLE 11-2: ALL NATIONS ATTACK ISRAEL

Culture	Nations	Future
Western		European Empire (Roman) (Revelation 13:1-7)
<u>WESTERN BEASTS</u>		American Empire <ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States• Mexico (or Latin America)• Canada (or French Quebec) (Revelation 13:11-17)
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">BOTH BEASTS BEGAN AS ECONOMIC UNIONS</div>
Confucian	China	Several kings from the East (Revelation 16:12)
<u>KINGS OF THE EAST ORIENTAL</u>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">A disintegration of China, similar to the breakup of the Soviet Union, could result in a confederation of eastern nations.</div>
	Japan	
Hindu	India	India lies along the route to Israel; allied with the kings from the East
Slavic/Orthodox	Russia	Gog, Magog Attacks a peace-seeking Israel (Daniel 11:40; Ezekiel 38:1 to 39:16)
<u>KING OF NORTH</u>		
Islamic	Mid Eastern	Strong military capabilities (Daniel 11:40)
<u>KING OF SOUTH</u>		
African (black)	Sub Saharan	Cush (ancient Ethiopia) attacks Israel with Persia (Iran) Put (Libya) and Russia (Gog). (Ezekiel 38:5)