

# **The Last Rabbi**

**By**

**Stephen Jarrard**

**Read at your own risk**

# Prologue

As the sun was setting, riding alongside his son bugler to alert the troops to We will set up camp here, word from our spies within will allow time to bring our before we make our final

At the signal of the bugle, soldiers were looking about set up camp.

When Titus had returned, send word to station guards “Our food will be ready as we have much to discuss rebellious people in Jerusalem.”

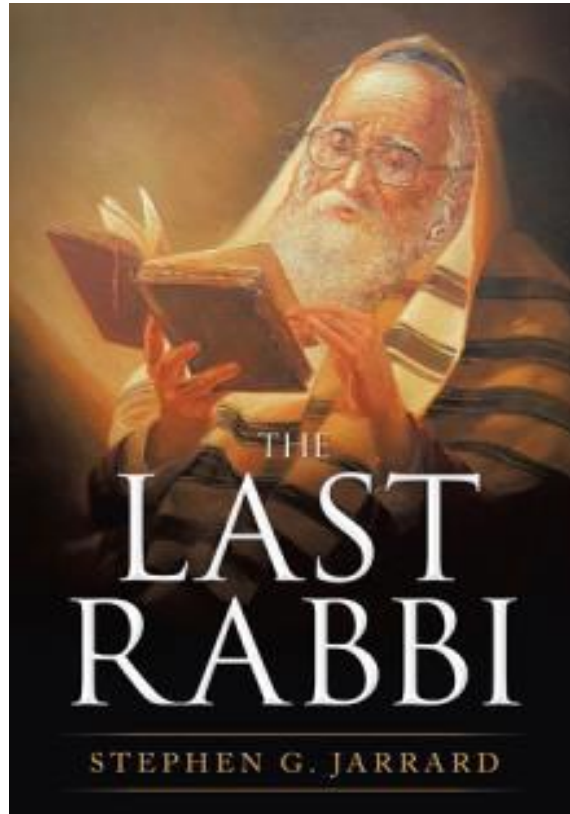
Titus rode off hastily to the warhorse kicking up a parched ground of the Hill straight for Jerusalem.

Within the hour, Titus had returned to his father’s tent with news from the front line.

“Three arrows have been retrieved from the northern side of the city wall. Hopefully, there will be information to help us with our battle plans.” Titus said this as he handed the three messages, bound to the arrows, to his father, General Vespasian.

General Vespasian made a practice of eating the same meals as his men. He had the wisdom to know that hungry troops are not good fighters. Pausing from his meal, the general opened the first message and began to read out loud. “Long live Emperor Vitellius, and our General Vespasian. Due to the Passover, the number of men in the city exceeds 200 legions (over one million). Most are farmers and herdsman.”

The second message was opened and it read, “Long live Emperor Vitellius and our Lord Vespasian. There are many wellarmed, able-bodied fighters being led by the Sadducee Jerusalemites. There are also many zealots from the north led by John of Giscala and his second, Eleazar ben Simon. They battle between themselves and lack a unified leadership. Perhaps in time, they will kill each other off.”



General Vespasian was Titus. “My son, send the make camp for the night. and rest, while we await the city of Jerusalem. This supply line up from the rear plans for our assault.”

the four legions of Roman for the highest ground to

Vespasian ordered him to to the east, south, and west. when you return. Be quick, concerning this blasted

front lines, with his cloud of dust from the Road that led south,

As if saving the best for last, Vespasian read the third report. “Long live the emperor and General Vespasian. One rabbi, named Yochanan Ben Zakkai, is calling for the city to surrender and lay down their arms. His voice is heard all over the city as he is an influential teacher from among those who live and work within the city. He is a man of ‘Peace’.”

“At last, some good news,” said Titus as he glanced at his father to see if he agreed.

“Yes indeed, son. Pray to the gods that the Jewish people listen to him so we can finish this campaign and return home for a ceremony and some long-overdue rest. Let’s turn in now and await the morrow.”

After only three hours of sleep, the sentry outside Vespasian’s tent cleared his throat and said, “General, we have part of a centurie (about forty men) from the front lines asking for your audience, Sir.

You need to see this, Sir.”

Being curious as to why his sleep would be disturbed, the general rose, grabbing his robe and sword. Stepping out of his tent, to his great astonishment, stood two Jewish rabbis holding a coffin and surrounded by forty men. Seeing that the rabbis were struggling under its weight, the general ordered them to set it down.

“General Vespasian, my name is Eliezer ben Hyracanus and this is my fellow student, Joshua ben Hananiah. We bring you important news directly from our Rabbi, Yochanan ben Zakkai.”

The general’s eyes refocused into the crowd of legionnaires but he saw no one else within the group. “From where does he speak?” asked Vespasian.

Suddenly, the coffin lid was pushed aside from within. With one motion, a loud clatter of steel was heard as each soldier drew his sword and raised his shield. The guards surrounded Vespasian while the rest were poised to attack.

But to everyone’s surprise, an elderly rabbi, prayer shawl draped over his head and shoulders, slowly raised himself out of this would-be death chamber. He shouted a hearty greeting of “Shalom, are you the great General Vespasian?”

With a broad smile, as if to say, “You got me”, Vespasian responded, “Are you the great Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai?”

The one-hundred-year-old rabbi smiled, pleased that he had feigned his death and escaped the city to try to broker a peace deal with the general by playing ‘possum’.

Ever the gentleman, the rabbi bowed saying, “At your service, General. I have a prophetic word for you, but I have disturbed your sleep and would tell you of my vision in the morning if it pleases you, General.”

At this revelation, the general was wide awake and ordered his cook to fix some tea and vittles, enough for all the guests. “Titus, will you join us?”

“Yes, father,” replied Titus as he pulled some benches forward.

General Vespasian turned to his son and said, “Release the guards, with my thanks, back to the front. Leave two extra guards nearby for security. Oh, and have an extra tent and bedrolls set up for our guests.”

After the first cup of tea was finished, the rabbi cleared his throat and began to tell his story. “It was shown me in a night vision three nights ago that our rebellious brethren would soon lose this war along

with Jerusalem and the temple, to you and your armies. It was shown to me that one third would die to the sword, one third would die of starvation and the last third would be enslaved and scattered to the four winds. I believe that Hashem gave me this vision of Israel's future and I took it to mean that I should try to broker a peace deal if possible before the attack takes place. Hence, I hatched this plan to feign my death to escape the fortified city. And here I am."

Vespasian thought for several minutes, pondering the old rabbi's words. "But how could your God allow such a thing to happen? It is shouted from the rooftops that your God visited your people some thirty-eight to forty years ago. What was his name, 'Yeshua.' Why would he allow this to happen?" asked Vespasian.

"No, no, never!" shouted the old rabbi. It's exactly for the opposite reason that your armies are going to destroy our city. This so-called Messiah was an imposter. It is the understanding of our great sages that the Messianic age does not begin until the beginning of the seventh millennium, some 2,000 years from now. It is further stated in Malachi that He will be preceded by Elijah the prophet, coming back in his flaming chariot which is how he left. And it is written in the book of Daniel that he will vanquish the other nations and restore the kingdom of God to Israel. And yet here we are assuredly about to be conquered by you. It is because so many Jews fell for this imposter that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has allowed these events to occur. Our first commandment says, 'Have no other Gods before Me.' Thirty- nine years ago many of our people broke this commandment and now nearly forty years later we are reaping the whirlwind.

Titus spoke up, "Is there more to your dream vision?"

"Yes indeed", said Rabbi Zakkai. "I have saved the best for last. The Lord God also revealed to me that you, General, would be appointed as the next Roman Emperor very soon."

At this, the elderly rabbi reached for a small vial of olive oil from his inner cloak and began to pour the oil over the head of Vespasian.

Two guards lunged forward in defense of the general, but Vespasian raised his open hand, stopping them short as he allowed the rabbi to complete his mission. As the oil ran down his face, there was a sense of awe and power that went up the spines of those who witnessed this event. "We shall wait and see", said Vespasian as he turned to his tent. "We shall wait and see." At this everyone turned in for the night.

### Three Days Later

"Sir, a messenger rides in from the west," announced a guard as Vespasian looked over the city maps of Jerusalem. He and Titus ironed out the plan and the logistics for the ensuing battle. The messenger's horse was covered with froth and had been ridden hard. "Hail, General Vespasian! This message is for your ears only, Sir," said the weary messenger, as he gave the royal salute.

Sending everyone out of his tent, the general offered a drink of water to the courier, who was parched from a long, hard ride.

"And my horse, Sir?"

"Yes, guards, see to his horse," replied Vespasian.

Unfolding and opening the sealed parchment, Vespasian read, 'Vitellius is dead. The Senate has voted you to replace him as the Supreme Emperor of all Rome. Come quickly'.

"Courier, head to the mess tent, eat and rest up. We will depart for Rome in the morning," said Vespasian. "Guard, send for the Rabbi

Zakkai and ask Titus to return to my tent."

Vespasian sat on his cot and reread the message to be sure he had read it correctly, examining the seal and the signature, both of which he recognized as authentic. Titus arrived and shortly after, the rabbi was brought in.

"Rabbi, your vision has come true. I just received word from

Rome that I have, by the mercy of our gods, been elected the new Roman Emperor."

Titus could not conceal his pride for his father and his nation.

He hugged his father, then knelt on one knee and gave the

Legionnaires' holy salute to the Supreme Commander of the Nation. Honoring Vespasian in this way was repugnant to the rabbi, but he was in no position to express his disgust at this pagan deification ritual. This had been a major stumbling block for decades between the Jews and Rome.

Vespasian ordered his son to rise and took his general bars off his breastplate and pinned it on his son. "Now Rabbi, your word was as good as gold. Your vision has come to pass just as you said it would. I will grant you three wishes if you will accept them from me."

With a gleam in his eye, the wise old rabbi could envision an uncertain future without the temple and its sacrifices, without the festivals and the Sanhedrin.

Yes, Your Honor, may the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob protect you and bring you victory and good health. If I may, please spare the city of Yavne and its sages as a place to set up a school for keeping our religion and faith alive for future generations.

Second, please spare the descendants of Rabban Gamliel and lastly, provide a physician to treat Rabbi Tzadok who has fasted these last forty years to stave off the destruction of Jerusalem."

"General Titus," said Vespasian, "see that these three wishes are written in our log-book and are carried out. Rabbi, you and your students are free to go. Passage to your city will be provided. Go in peace."

"General Titus, let us finish discussing our final plans for victory. I leave tomorrow at dawn, passing through Alexandria before heading to Rome. I thank the gods of my father for their favor and I pray for your success and safety. Remember my wishes to spare the temple of Herod. I have plans to make it into a fitting house of worship for the gods of the Roman Pantheon."

"Be sure to allow Tiberius Julius Alexander to lead the main attack," continued Emperor Vespasian. "Start just before Passover on the full moon. Surround the city on the north, south, and west with the Fifth Macedonica, the Twelfth Fulminata, and the Fifteenth

Apollinaris. Then use the Tenth Fretensis on the east, on the Mount of

Olives. Begin with the west wall and expand from there, as circumstances dictate."

As the orange sun began to set in the west, there was an easy peace in the camp. The moon was nearly full and a gentle breeze floated from the sea, sending a pleasing aroma into the air. Fresh meat was

being cooked over thousands of campfires, which cast a glow that twinkled like the stars of the night. Strains of music could be heard throughout the camp. This was the calm before the storm.

As Titus laid his head on his cot, all was well with the world. As a disciplined and well-trained soldier, he knew that his men would respect him as much as they did his father. He was committed to making his father proud. Our story now begins.

## Chapter 1

### 1951 Years Later

As Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai buried himself in his favorite endeavor, the study of the Torah, his mind pondered things both ancient and modern. Like a master weaver at his loom, the elderly rabbi wove together scripture from the Tanach as well as from commentary of the greats like Maimonides, the Rom Bom, Gamaliel, and a host of others. These men had blazed the trail in ancient times on behalf of those who would follow in the age-old teachings and traditions, which originated from Moses 3,500 years ago.

As he was taking his last sip of tea, a young yeshiva student rang the bell for dinner. A hearty meal of broiled fish, fresh bread and cheese, fresh salad, and baked apples with butterscotch drizzle was on the menu tonight.

“Rabbi Z, you and the students enjoy your meal. You need your strength for your long trip to Brooklyn. Meantime, I will head upstairs to finish packing your bag. Besides your Tanach, is there anything special I should pack? You will only be gone for a couple of days,” said Jonathan Cohen.

Jonathan had been a student of the yeshiva longer than any other student and had become very fond of his mentor. Six years of study were under his belt and he was soon to be ordained as a rabbi. He had a memory for facts and an analytical mind that could piece together scripture to form the most profound exegesis and hermeneutics this side of Babylon.

“Yes, yes, thank you, Jonathan. I am hungry. And no, nothing else. Just the usual overnight bag. Will you also grab a couple of bagels from the kitchen and put them in a zipper bag for a snack on the plane?”

As the 99-year-old rabbi entered the dining hall to eat with his students, they all rose in unison.

“Be seated, please,” said the rabbi. “But first, let’s give thanks.

‘Baruch atah A-donay, Elo-hunu Melech Ha’Olam shehakol nahiyah bed-varo. Blessed are you, L.rd, king of the universe, by whose word all things came to be’.

### One Hour Later

“Rabbi, the car is loaded and waiting out front to take you to the airport. I know, I know! You would rather take the ‘Monit Sherut’ and save money. Several of us pitched in, to gas up our car and drive you to Ben Gurion Airport in comfort so please don’t argue. Just say thank you.”

“Thank you, Jonathan. How very thoughtful of you, even if you did dissuade me from crafting a good argument in favor of saving money,” replied the aged rabbi.

As the car headed out of Jerusalem on Highway #1 toward the coastline and Tel-Aviv, the conversation turned toward the excitement that was almost palpable in Israel and the plans to rebuild the third temple.

The elderly rabbi had spent his life teaching young men the scriptures. His greatest hope was that there would be a large pool of learned men from which the reformed Sanhedrin would emerge. This august body could no longer perform its duties since the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 A.D.

Rabbi Z knew that it was no coincidence that his name was the same as the first reported rabbi identified in the Mishnah. He could not forget the indescribable experience of rising from the Mikvah at his Bar Mitzvah in the Brooklyn Heights synagogue. He felt as if he was being indwelt by the soul of the ancient rabbi, destined to complete the unfinished task of bringing ‘Peace’ to Jerusalem. This peace was something that Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai was unable to broker between him and Vespasian and the Roman army. This series of events put him on a path that all Jews, since 70 A.D. have been dreaming of; the reinstatement of the animal sacrifices, a rebuilt temple, and a restored Sanhedrin.

Since the day of his Bar-Mitzvah 86 years ago, he felt that he was channeling the spirit of the ancient sage. He felt he was born to complete a task that seemed impossible. What kept him on the path and driven to succeed was the notion instilled in him by his rabbi. He believed that those of us alive since Israel became a nation in 1948 would be alive to see the coming Messiah. The six thousand years had nearly elapsed and the seventh millennium was now upon us. And now, Jerusalem was in control. Since the Six-Day War in 1967, nothing or no one could ever take Jerusalem away again.

“Rabbi Z,” said Jonathan. “How many students do you think will return for the next school year from Brooklyn?”

“Well, I have forty positions opening and I expect I will have over four hundred to choose from. I hope I can find just one as capable as you have been,” the rabbi whispered under his breath.

An hour and fifteen minutes later, the car pulled up to the drop-off zone at the airport and the rabbi’s luggage was unloaded from the trunk.

“I’ll take it from here,” said Rabbi Z, while holding his airline ticket in his hand. The young men all hugged the venerable rabbi, giving him the common kiss on both cheeks, promising to pray for his safe return.

As he headed to the automatic doors, a baggage handler recognized him and greeted him. “Shalom, Rabbi Z. May I take your bags for you, sir?”

“I appreciate your offer, but no thanks. I have been carrying my bags since my Bar Mitzvah and I’m not about to change that now. Shalom,” said the rabbi as he placed a crisp ten-dollar bill in the young man’s hand. The rabbi saw this as a mitzvah that would send ripples of good deeds into the world to honor his God.

The expansive airport was flush with I.D.F. soldiers and guards, sporting their M-16’s and modern TABER rifles. Rabbi Z knew from experience that these soldiers were well trained to ‘profile’ travelers passing through the airport. With decades of experience, their powers of observation were superior to metal detectors and the T.S.A. agents used in America for spotting possible terrorists.

With dual citizenship, Rabbi Z was aware of the pluses and minuses of both countries and their respective cultures. He loved America for its freedoms and that it had been a home away from home for Jews since Columbus set sail to escape Ferdinand and Isabella’s edict of expulsion in 1492. He knew the rich history of how the Jewish people helped Washington and the Continental Army come through the Revolutionary War as victors. He knew of the advances in the medical fields with so many innovations, and how close families acted as the cement for the culture as a whole. He nearly cried every time he thought of the American soldiers in World War II as they fought against the Nazis and how they freed the prisoners in the concentration camps.

But despite all that, he knew that the eternal flame that lit the heart of every Jew ever born was now burning brightly in Jerusalem, the city of peace, the city of hope, the city of their God.

Economy ticket in hand, the rabbi checked in at the front gate. As he boarded the Boeing 787 Dreamliner with ‘El-Al’ written on its fuselage, he fought back tears, remembering his first flight on a Douglas DC3 from LaGuardia Airport to Israel for he and his family’s Aliyah.

Rabbi Z’s vision for Israel was huge and he maintained close ties to America and the Jewish population, as well as with Jews around the world. He needed the best of the best to create a resource pool for his vision of restoration as prophesied in the Tanach. He knew he was on the world stage ‘for such a time as this’.

“Rabbi, may I help you with your luggage?” asked an attractive Jewish flight attendant as she carefully placed his baggage in the overhead bin. The rabbi quickly grabbed his Tanach from its pouch before the compartment door swung shut. “Once the seatbelt signs are turned off, may I get you some hot tea and a nosh? By the way, we offer a new Kosher dinner menu which will be ready in four hours. I recommend the brisket and red potatoes with your choice of vegetables. For dessert, we have a peach or fig Sufganiyahs. They are delicious,” said the flight attendant.

“That sounds fabulous. If I had known you’re serving dinner on this flight, I would have left my bagels at home. If you could only compare this to what was offered during my Aliyah flight seventy years ago, you would have thought I had died and gone to heaven. Yes, by all means, to the tea and the dinner.”

4:45 P.M. Wheels Up

The exhilaration of flight always brought images of the Merkabah to the rabbi’s mind. He loved the imagery of the divine chariot of Ezekiel and the ascension of Elijah in his flaming chariot. His



understanding of these biblical descriptions led him to the idea that when the Messiah comes from heaven, He will do so in a way that will connect these word descriptions to a yet unknown reality that will prove the authenticity of the Messiah.

Before long, his reading was interrupted by the passenger next to him who had been itching to start a conversation with the rabbi since the first minute he sat down. This kind of thing happened quite often, and the rabbi enjoyed the break from his reading. Many times, the intrusion offered him an opportunity to proselyte, and once in a while, he learned something new, which always thrilled him.

“Shalom, Rabbi. My name is Doctor Isa Asad. And your name is...?”

A brief moment of silence betrayed the realization that this man was of Arab descent and no doubt a Muslim. The rabbi thought, why has Hashem put me next to my enemy? This man wants to kill me.

“My name is Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai. I am the head of the Jewish Religious Centre in Jerusalem. What brings you to Israel?”

“Well, Rabbi, my job in the U.S. is overseeing research and development of medical equipment. We work on cutting edge technology, pun intended,” the doctor chuckled. “We collaborate with an Israeli manufacturer who builds our equipment. They are the best in the world, hands down. I fly in about once every two or three months,” said Dr. Asad.

“I can see from the condition of your Tanach that you have had it a very long time and you’ve read it once or twice,” commented the doctor. He chuckled because it was the most dog eared, underlined, written in, worn out bible he had ever seen.

The rabbi could not refrain from laughing loudly as he caught the joke, realizing the absurdity of the statement. “Yes, actually this is my third read-through,” he bantered back. Both men could not help but chuckle again.

Dr. Asad reached out his hand to shake the rabbi’s hand. He noticed the small hesitation but ignored it. “Glad to make your acquaintance,” he said.

“Likewise,” said the rabbi. “You’re of Arab descent yet you speak without an accent and I assume you are a Muslim. A Muslim speaking to a Jew nonetheless,” the rabbi commented guardedly.

“No, I’m not a Muslim. I’m a Christian and yes, I am most assuredly of Arab descent. My father and mother lived in Iran but fled the country just days before the Iranian Revolution in 1978. The American consulate found them a sponsor in America and they were given asylum. They worked closely with the reforms of Prince Pahlavi and would have been executed by Ayatollah Khomeini had they remained in Iran. It took my parents four years to learn the language and complete the requirements for citizenship. They had no idea how wonderful America was. I was born the week after they took the Oath of Citizenship. I can speak fluent Farsi, but with a Brooklyn accent,” Dr. Asad chuckled.

“But you said you’re a Christian,” pressed the rabbi.

“The sponsors that helped my parents were Christians and despite our different cultures, my parents were so appreciative of their grace and humility that they had no reservations about converting to Christianity. As it happened, the hosts never pushed their religion on my parents. They simply lived it out before them as a beacon. Their love and acceptance were very different from their life in Iran, and it was my father who approached them about Christianity. Within the year both my father and mother had been baptized into Christ. I believe the word in Hebrew is the ‘Mikvah’.”

“Yes, it is,” said the rabbi. “And you?”

“Well, my parents fed me a daily dose of the bible and were the best parents that any kid could hope for. Acceptance and unconditional love were at the root of my childhood upbringing, along with some discipline when it was required. I relished the discipline when I saw how my peers in high school were given no boundaries or guidelines and many of them were becoming addicted to drugs and sex and alcohol. I wanted to get baptized when I was thirteen years old, but my father refused to allow it.”

“Why was that?” We acknowledge a child to be Bar Mitzva’d at thirteen at which time they go through the Mikvah or baptism as you call it,” said the rabbi.

“He said I was too young, even though many of my peers were being baptized at an even earlier age. His explanation seemed sound. He read from the writings of the apostle Paul. You might recognize him as ‘Saul of Tarsus’, a student of Gamaliel, a Hebrew from the tribe of Benjamin and a Pharisee. He quoted from the sixth chapter of Ephesians, where Paul likens Christ as the bridegroom and the church as the bride. You know, the traditional one husband and one wife.

He said that if I was not old enough to leave home and be married to a wife, then I was too young to be responsible for the duties and privileges of marriage. I saw many of my peers who had been baptized at an early age fall away from the faith when they left for college. The wisdom of my father hit home. My rebellious years began when I turned seventeen and got my first car. Lucky for me, I didn’t end up in jail, or worse, as some of my friends did. Then one night after a close call with death, the reality of it all hit me square between the eyes. The next morning, at the age of nineteen, my father baptized me into Christ.”

“As for me, I was born a Jew and I will die a Jew; blessed be the name of G\_d,” commented the rabbi.

After an awkward pause, Dr. Asad changed the subject. “A couple of weeks ago I attended a one-day seminar in Washington, D.C. There was a Native American Indian evangelist from our church who taught on a topic I had never heard of before. Have you ever heard of something called ‘Planet X’? It has been known by many names throughout history,” said Dr. Asad.

“Yes,” responded the rabbi. Some rabbis in Israel have been writing about it and there is a lot on the internet about it, but what does that have to do with anything?” asked the rabbi.

“Well, in my studied opinion, it has everything to do with everything. When Planet X is sighted, then Jesus arrives for His church shortly thereafter...no offense intended.” “None was taken,” replied the rabbi.

“Well, fate has it that the evangelist and a Texas senator, along with a Chilean astronomer are going to be interviewed tomorrow night on Coast-to-Coast AM with George Noory hosting. In case you want to listen in, it airs at 1:00 A.M. on WOR710 radio in N.Y.C.” “WOR710, 1:00 AM. Got it,” said Rabbi Zakkai.

“Gentlemen, your dinner is served. What would you like to drink?” asked the flight attendant.

“Water for me,” answered the rabbi.

“A beer for me,” said Dr. Asad. He turned to the rabbi and shrugged his shoulders animatedly and said, “What? Christians can drink a beer. I only drink one and I never exceed that limit.”

“You shock me. I was under the impression that all ‘Christians’ were teetotalers and abstained from alcohol,” said the rabbi.

“Many believers are, but the scriptures don’t condemn drinking low alcohol beverages like wine and beer. They do, however, condemn drunkenness and what the bible refers to as ‘strong drink’. That

would include whiskey, gin, rum, and the like. I learned long ago that following Jesus is not following some list of dos and don'ts, especially if the list is made up by someone else who hasn't studied the bible. So many people take a verse or two out its context and spin it to meet their denominational views." "Interesting," said the rabbi.

After dinner, the rabbi excused himself from further conversation.

"I can squeeze in about five or six hours of sleep before we land," he said.

"Certainly," said Dr. Asad. "I've enjoyed our conversation.

Good night."

In minutes, the rabbi was asleep as esoteric images of bits and pieces of this conversation passed through his consciousness.

"Folks, we'll be landing a few minutes ahead of schedule at J.F.K. Thank you for flying El-Al. Please check your overhead compartments for your belongings. Remain seated until the seat belt signs are turned off. Again, thanks for flying El-Al.," said the pilot.

#### Wheels Down 9:50 P.M.

"Remember to listen to Coast to Coast tomorrow at 1:00 A.M.," said Dr. Asad as he and the rabbi parted ways after leaving the terminal.

"I will, Shabbat Shalom," said Rabbi Zakkai as he opened the door to the waiting yellow cab.

After loading his bag, with his Tanach safely back in its place, the rabbi said, "85 Flatbush Avenue Extension, the Tillary Hotel, please."

By 11:30 P.M., the rabbi lay wide awake in his bed as he went through the stations on the radio looking for WOR710, the 'Voice of New York'. Jet lag was always a problem he simply had to deal with when he flew to America. Promptly at 1:05 A.M., George Noory's voice reverberated around the world.

"Before I announce tonight's guest, let me tell my audience to be sure to tune in to Friday nights' show tomorrow. I'll be having the missing senator from Texas, Senator Roger Kelly, a world-famous renowned astronomer from Chile, Dr. Hosea Rodrigues, and a Native American Ojibwe preacher named John Meskwa Anang, on our show.

What they have to talk about will turn this planet of ours upside down. I mean literally, our world will be shaken off its axis. I repeat, be sure to tune in tomorrow. The cat's now out of the bag."

## Chapter 2

### Coast to Coast

As his bedside phone rang, Rabbi Z was awakened from three short hours of sleep.

“Shabbat Shalom,” he spoke into the phone as he rubbed his blurry eyes.

“Rabbi Z, Shabbat Shalom. Sorry if I woke you. This is Rabbi Zimmerman. Did you have a good flight and are your arrangements satisfactory?”

“Yes, and yes to both questions,” answered Rabbi Z.

“Can we send a car for you in say, forty-five minutes? We will eat breakfast when you arrive.”

“That should be just about right. I’ll be waiting in the foyer. Shabbat Shalom,” said Rabbi Z as he headed toward the restroom.

Forty-five minutes later Rabbi Z was seated in the car next to Rabbi Zimmerman headed to his yeshivah on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights.

“So, I have sent out recruitment flyers and have 552 names with their completed applications for you to review as soon as we have eaten breakfast. How does that sound?” asked Rabbi Zimmerman.

“Wonderful. I just wish I had more openings but we have so many applicants from Israel. Forty is all I can accommodate from here in America,” replied Rabbi Z.

“So how is the progress on the temple?” asked Rabbi Zimmerman with a twinkle in his eye.

“Funds keep pouring in,” replied Rabbi Z. I believe that work on the last piece of furniture, the molten sea, is ready to get underway.

It has been an engineering nightmare that has finally been worked out. One can only guess how King Solomon was able to accomplish so easily what has been so difficult in modern times. Without the ritual cleansing pool, our Cohenite brothers would never be able to enter the

Holy Place. I guess Solomon was given divine wisdom by the

Almighty.”

“And we keep getting more applications from the Temba people, those from the ‘Buba’ clan. These native South Africans want to be accepted into our yeshivah and chosen for the priesthood since their D.N.A. shows the unique sequence code for being descended from Aaron. Their main obstacle, since they only speak Bantu, is learning Hebrew. We have sent a teacher to their main village to teach them Hebrew. Their men are zealous to learn and be accepted. We can all thank Dr. Karl Skorecki for discovering the D.N.A. markers back in

1997. Yes, all things are coming together in ways that were unimaginable just one generation ago. Messiah will be here soon.”

After breakfast, Rabbi Zimmerman laid out on the dining hall tables stacks and stacks of forms for Rabbi Z to wade through to make his selections. These included applications from prospective students in his yeshivah, accompanying photographs, and parental waivers. Rabbi Zimmerman had reviewed all

the applications and had spoken to most of the parents of the youth wishing to enter the yeshivah in Israel. Out of five hundred and fifty-two applicants, he had narrowed the enormous pile down to about one hundred, which he shared with Rabbi Z.

After many long hours of sorting and eliminating, about sixty applications were boxed up and prepared for the return trip to Rabbi Z's hotel.

"I will narrow down this group to forty by midday tomorrow," he said to Rabbi Zimmerman. After eating another wonderful homecooked Kosher meal, he was taken back to his room with food for the Sabbath along with the applications. Arriving home by 5:00 P.M., the rabbi set his clock for 12:30 A.M. and fell asleep in minutes.

'Beep, beep, beep' sounded the alarm as the Rabbi fumbled around for the alarm clock. After a little nosh, he propped himself in the chair at the desk with a pen and paper nearby.

1:00 A.M.

"We've got a great show for our Coast-to-Coast listeners tonight. Hi, I'm George Noory, your host. We have a four-way interview with Senator Kelly from Texas, who has been A.W.O.L. for several weeks now, from the Senate chambers in D.C. Along with him, we have Dr. Hosea Rodrigues. He is the head or he was until he went A.W.O.L., astronomer for the largest infrared telescope in the southern hemisphere. Our third guest is an Ojibwe Native American preacher named John Meskwa Anang. They will be telling us about an event that will eclipse, no pun intended, anything we have seen so far on earth and, says the good doctor, it will be upon us very, very soon. Stay tuned. Don't turn that dial. You're not going to want to miss this interview."

As the bumper music and advertisements ran their course, the rabbi was wondering who these three individuals could be and how their lives could be connected.

"Welcome to Coast to Coast, Senator Kelly," said George Noory.

"Hello, George. It's great to finally get to tell the American public what caused me to disappear from my post in the U.S. Senate. It's a strange story, but a true one, and so everyone knows, our lives are on the line. We've already had death threats and attempts on our lives. Dr. Rodrigues and I are in an undisclosed location until we can determine who the enemy is. As many of your listeners may know, before I became a senator, I was a decorated Navy fighter pilot for ten years. It's not in my nature to run from America's enemies. But as Pogo is often quoted as saying, 'We have met the enemy, and he is us'. George, I don't know what to be worried about the most. A shadow government within our government that exercises its authority without the consent of 'we the people'. Or a troublesome planet that is inside our solar system and headed toward earth."

"Whoa," said George Noory. "We've had some Planet X researchers on Coast to Coast in years past. Are we talking about the same thing, Senator?"

"We are," replied Roger Kelly. "This was all new to me and until I recently learned about it, I can honestly say, 'ignorance is bliss'.

But yes, it's true. That's where Dr. Rodrigues and John come in. Tonight, your listeners are going to hear for the first time publicly and see some photos we're prepared to send to your website, the truth that our government, as well as all the governments of the world, have been hiding for decades.

But, George, there is a silver lining to this dark cloud that is too good to be true and we hope to be able to share that with you tonight as well.”

“Well, first things first, Senator,” said George. You chose to disappear rather than to let the Secret Service or the F.B.I. investigate the car bombing and to give you protection. Why?”

“George, I’m not afraid of the enemy when I know who he is and how he operates. But in this case, I inadvertently came across some classified information (I won’t name names) that made me aware that our constitutional republic has been high-jacked and that there is a government behind our government that is hiding some deep state secrets. Namely Planet X. It was made very clear to me that my life and that of my family was on the line. This information has all been confirmed for me, and I am taking this time to sort it all out. I will say that I don’t know who to trust! There are still many gaps in my understanding, but after meeting with Dr. Rodrigues and preacher John, those gaps are getting smaller and smaller.”

Rabbi Z pondered this term, Planet X, which he heard from Dr. Isa Asad two days ago on his flight from Israel.

“Well, Senator, I can understand your disappearance now that we have the inside scoop. We’ve had many whistleblowers on our show from the beginning and I agree. Making your case to our listening audience does offer a hedge of protection. Well, let’s all pray for your safety,” said George.

“Moving on to the object that seems to be spawning all this covert activity, what do you know about Planet X that our listening audience may not already know?” asked George.

“Ah!” replied Roger. “There are two basic things to learn here. One is that this large object has been around for a long time and has caused destruction to our planet several times in earth’s history, and will do so again. Secondly, this time around it will be acting as the ‘sign’ of the catching up of Christ’s church. It’s kind of like the Dicken’s classic, ‘A Tale of Two Cities’. ‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times

“It’s time to introduce Dr. Hosea Rodrigues and he is qualified to establish the veracity of this object and to supply the science describing the ‘what’, ‘where’, and ‘when’. Later we will let John describe the ‘why’.”

“Hello, Dr. Rodrigues,” said George. “We’re indeed grateful for you coming on our show tonight. Fill us in briefly on your credentials. You’re in hiding as well as the senator, but where was home?”

“Thank you, George. This is an honor. I’ll tell you the truth, my knees are shaking and my stomach is a bit queasy, but I finally decided to tell the truth so the world can take action. What’s been going on for the last forty or so years by our governments is a travesty. It shows that there is no regard for life and that absolute power corrupts absolutely. I am a native of Chile. I graduated from the University of Chile with a P.H.D. in astrophysics. I became an astronomer thirty years ago. Until just recently I oversaw operations at the largest infrared telescope in the southern hemisphere. The reason this is important is that Planet X, when it reappears after its three-hundred-and-sixty-year elliptical circuit, will first appear from south of the ecliptic plane. It follows the same orbit that other Kreutz sun grazing comets follow. Namely, an elliptical periodic path that is comparable to many similar comets both ancient and current,” said Dr. Rodrigues.

“All these comets are simply debris that Planet X pulls as a tail as it passes through the Kuiper Belt and the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.”

“You mentioned an infrared telescope. Is there a reason that this is important?” asked George.

“Yes, sir. Planet X is extremely cold and as of now can only be seen through the use of infrared telescopes. This is why your average astronomer is, as of yet, unable to view it in their field of vision. This will be changing very soon as it gets closer. So right now, I’m sending you the first photos of Planet X that the public will be seeing for the very first time. Until now, only N.A.S.A., the European Space Agency, our government, and the Vatican have seen the photos.”

“Oh my goodness!” exclaimed George. “Our website just crashed from so many viewers. Our tech team will resolve the issue in a few minutes, folks. Okay, then, Dr. Rodrigues. Earlier, Senator Kelly said this Planet X has caused destruction several times in earth’s history. Could you give us some examples?”

“Yes, I can share two examples, one being Noah’s flood...” At this remark, Rabbi Z perked up as he knew this to be true...” “And the other having to do with an ancient astronomical artifact called the Nebra Sky Disc,” said Dr. Rodrigues... This was something that Rabbi Z knew nothing about...” Let’s take them in the order in which they occurred from the book of Enoch, Chapter 65, verse 1. I quote:

“And in those days, Noah saw the earth had tilted and that its destruction was near...”

Then Noah said to Enoch, “Tell me, what is it that is being done on the earth? That the earth is so afflicted and shaken, lest I be destroyed with it.” And immediately there was a great disturbance on the earth.

This reading was not foreign to the rabbi but it had been many decades since he had read this passage. At the time, he thought that there was no relevance to these verses for mankind, either now or even in the future, so they were systematically filed away as irrelevant. The show continued.

“Also, we have this ancient writing from a source called the Kolbrin. It is an anthology of ancient writings that barely survived the censorship of history. It’s from the book of Conception having to do with the flood of Noah, which was written on flat sheets of bronze

(GLN. 4:24-28).”

The rabbi had never heard of the Kolbrin but made a note to look it up.

“Then with the dawning, men saw an awesome sight. There, riding on a great black rolling cloud, came the destroyer...”

At the use of the word ‘destroyer’, an electric shock went up the rabbi’s spine.

...newly released from the confines of the sky vaults, and she raged about the heavens, for it was her day of judgment. The beast with her opened its mouth and belched forth fire, hot stones, and vile smoke. It covered the whole sky above and the meeting place of earth and heaven could no longer be seen. In the evening, the places of the stars had changed. They rolled across the sky to new stations.”

“So, let me interject my thoughts,” said George. “This sounds to me like a polar shift, where either the earth’s mantle slips or the earth tilts on its axis. That is the same thing that Noah is reported as saying in the book of Enoch. That would be the cause of the stars changing. And the cause is a large object having its gravitational pull causing this polar reversal. Does that sound like a good description, or am I missing something?” George asked.

“Yes, George, that’s a fair summary. And that this polar shift has happened in other times in earth’s history is irrefutable. If I may?” asked Dr. Rodrigues. “Back in the late 1990s some treasure hunters near Goseck, Germany came across buried artifacts that dated from the Bronze Age. They found some swords and a circular metal disc made of copper and gold which was approximately thirteen inches in

diameter. They posted the disc for sale on the black market and an undercover government agent posing as a buyer saw the object, nabbed the men and imprisoned them for trying to sell priceless antiquities. This object, some say, is the greatest archeological find to date. Today we call this disc the Nebra Sky Disc. It represents an observed night sky in copper and gold. I'm sending you a photo of it now.

Not far from where it was discovered was found the remains of one of the oldest ancient observatories in the world near the old Saale Riverbank in Goseck. Something so amazing was witnessed that the ancient sky watchers thought enough of this observation that they made essentially a photo of it in gold and copper, carefully crafted to exacting specifications to within one degree of accuracy. Using modern computer software built around Kepler's Law of Planetary Motion called 'Starry Night', it was determined that this disc represented a night sky from Europe of April 6, 1810 B.C. at 8:30 A.M...."

A quick bit of addition by adding 239 years to 1810 B.C.

brought what the rabbi believed to be the corrected date of 2,049 B.C. as reflected by the Hebrew calendar.

"This was determined from the relative positions of the constellations and the phase of the moon. Two things stand out that have caused much discussion and disagreement among astronomers. The most obvious anomaly is the presence of a large round object near the center of this thirteen-inch disc. Many astronomers refer to it as the sun. I disagree for at least four reasons. Number one, and most obvious, is that this depicts a night sky. The constellations, or stars as well as three planets are visible. The sun does not belong in a 'night' sky, otherwise, we wouldn't be able to see the stars and moon. Secondly, everyone knows that visually the sun and the moon appear to be the same size, and remember these people who observed this were astronomers and knew this. In Enoch 78:3, speaking of the sun and moon we read:

'These are the two great lights; their disc is like the disc of heaven and in size the two are equal'.

"That is, equal in appearance to the observer on the earth. The problem with the Nebra Sky Disc is that the diameter of the moon exceeds that of the round object across from it by thirty percent or more. And the third problem is that, why would someone go to such great pains and expense to create an object that was designed and fabricated at great cost, to simply portray an ordinary sky chart that was not even a night sky? Unless (Dr. Rodrigues paused for effect), unless it was a night sky and the round object was an intruder that had never been seen or heard of by astronomers before. This would be worth making a record of. Which leads me to the fourth point."

By now Rabbi Z was wholeheartedly drawn into the radio discussion. He always loved puzzling out mysteries and he would be sure to research this upon his return to Israel.

"This particular night sky was not visible in 1810 B.C. from Germany. The nearest location would have been from Luxor, Egypt. What this is highly suggestive of is a pole shift of twenty-six to twenty-eight degrees. This extra object would have seemingly appeared from nowhere and its gravitational force would easily have been responsible for a pole shift just like Noah witnessed."

"While I'm on the subject, earlier last year the American Geophysical Union in Washington, D.C. met to discuss a serious problem with observations of the accelerating displacement of the magnetic north pole, shifting fifteen kilometers per year at present. It's quickly headed toward Siberia and scientists are theorizing that 'hydromagnetic' waves are arising from deep within the earth's core and are linked with this phenomenon. These scientists are all nearsighted and are failing to look up for the cause, which of course is Planet X. They are focusing in the wrong direction. They're looking down. Every



heavenly body possesses a geomagnetic field. Planet X is made of iron and it is large. Its geomagnetic field has been playing tug of war with the earth's magnetic field for decades. It is the cause of all the earth's climate change. It is the cause of all the observed perturbations in our solar system."

"Wow," said George. "It seems that this one singular object could be the cause behind everything that the earth is experiencing lately. And tell my listeners again, why haven't we been privy to this information before now?"

Oh, yeah! They're afraid that life as we know it will come to an end and they need to finish their plans for continuity of government. Is that about right, Dr. Rodrigues?" asked George. "So what other damage do we see from Planet X?"

"One thing we see which is indicated on the Nebra Sky Disc is a pole shift of twenty-six to twenty-seven degrees, in the year 1810

B.C. Another event was the plagues at the time of the Exodus. There is disagreement among scholars about the exact date of the Exodus. Three sources that I have researched cited 1476, 1446, and 1440. Let's split the difference and use the one in the middle, 1446. The date of the Nebra Sky Disc is established as 1810 B.C. The difference between these two dates is 364 years. There's ample evidence that Planet X returns every 360 years plus or minus. This is proof that these two occurrences can be attributed to Planet X."

"Wait," said George. "Art Bell interviewed Zechariah Sitchin decades ago before Sitchin's death and he said that Nibiru, which you are calling Planet X, returns every 3,600 years. That's a big difference. How do we know which is right?"

"Ah," said Dr. Rodrigues. "It is my understanding that the Sumerians did not use the 'zero' place holder in their math. It hadn't been invented yet. They used whole numbers and the reader had to provide the correct number of zeros. When pressed, Zecharia Sitchin guessed at 3,600 and that was the standard among researchers until more light was shed on the topic. We can safely say today that he simply added one too many zeros. Do the math. If Planet X caused Noah's flood, which was 4,386 years ago, then the only other Planet X visitation since would have been about 786 years ago. And if that is true, it won't come again until the year 4,834. Does anyone believe that in light of photographic evidence?" asked Dr. Rodrigues.

"So, allow me to finish. By figuring one more revolution of Planet X from 1810 B.C., that brings us up to the ten plagues of Egypt in 1446. Rather than speculate that all these plagues were miracles, not that they couldn't have been; it's just as plausible that Planet X had much to do with the events that brought the most advanced kingdom to its knees, never to recover its glory again."

"You make a good case, Doctor. I appreciate the insight and knowledge that you have brought to our listening audience. After this commercial, we'll bring John Anang on to Coast to Coast. We'll be right back."

Break

Standing up and stretching, Rabbi Z mused about someone he had heard speak on the subject of the plagues. An American rabbi, Mendel Kaplan held to a rational, scientific view of the plagues. Not being persuaded then, Rabbi Z maintained the traditional Rabbinic view that things happened the way it

was written in the Torah text. As he returned to his desk and took his seat, George Noory's voice cut in as if on cue.

"Welcome back to Coast to Coast. We have some special guests on tonight, in case you're just tuning in. We have Senator Kelly, Dr. Hosea Rodrigues and next up is John Anang. Welcome to our show, John," said George.

"Aho," said John. "Thanks for your hospitality and openness to allow us on the air to share what we know."

"So you're Native American and a preacher. How did that come to be?" asked George.

"I grew up Ojibwe on the reservation in a traditional family. My father was a medicine man for the White Earth Reservation. Christianity represented the enemy to us as individuals and to the culture as a whole. The things that had been done to the native people in the name of Jesus were reprehensible. I got into a lot of trouble in my late teens and carried a great deal of shame and guilt for the trouble and pain I had caused some people, including my family, the people I loved. Every summer our tribe hosted a pow wow and one year this white man showed up with a medicine teepee that he and his family took to pow wows across the country. This tall guy with a long braid and a certain confident swagger had acquired a good reputation among other tribes, so we let him set up his teepee. It was painted inside and outside with pictographs (a traditional art form) depicting the stories of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. He and his children danced in our circle and one of the boys sang at the drum. We had many long, heated discussions about Jesus, Christianity, and the Bible. Nothing was off-limits. I asked many questions and he always gave me sound biblical answers. That is what made me realize I had been wrong to judge Jesus by the actions of His followers!" "What were some of the things you asked him?" inquired George.

"I asked Him if he had ever heard about our prophecy of the 'Long-Tailed Heavenly Climbing Star'. His answer pointed me to the prophecy that Jesus gave in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 concerning the 'sign of His coming'. When I realized that there was a connection between my culture and the Bible, Christianity took on a whole new meaning to me. We stayed in touch and he eventually baptized me into Christ. That has made all the difference in the world to me. No more guilt, no more shame. I became a new man in Christ."

"Well, John," said George. "Senator Kelly said earlier that you would be able to answer the question of 'Why'. Why is Planet X on its way toward the earth? Is God angry at His people and is He trying to get people's attention? I've always been taught that God loved the world. You know, John 3:16 and all that."

The rabbi had never read that verse. It was found in the 'Brit Hadassah', a book to be avoided like the black death in Europe during the middle ages.

"Well, George, He does love the world. Nothing takes God by surprise. Nothing. However, modern-day Christians have been sold a bill of goods."

The rabbi flinched as he thought, "No, they're trying to pass along a bill of goods as if it were the truth!"

"They've become progressive, liberal, shallow, dogmatic, partisan, legalistic, and unfit for service in God's kingdom. There is a war being waged and many so-called Christians are content with hearing about prosperity, pleasure, and living the good life, rather than obeying the command of Christ to pick up your cross and follow Me. Satan has so divided the disciples with denominational division that

people are following a lie. And Jesus said that a house divided against itself cannot stand. All denominationalism is wrong and unbiblical.

The rabbi cracked a smile thinking to himself, “Why don’t you tell us what you really think?”

Planet X is a tool in God’s cosmic toolbox that He’s used in the past when the fallen angels were corrupting the image of God during the days of Noah by mixing their D.N.A. with human D.N.A. They created a hybrid race called the Nephilim. Planet X caused the flood. The fallen angels are once again at it, creating an alien race while suggesting that it was they who originally seeded, or created humans in times past. This is transperimia. George, I know that you are personally attached to the ancient alien theory and you link them to events of the past. But I’ve studied this hypothesis and I want to say respectfully that I disagree. It’s my belief that the fallen angels have been behind the strangeness of our past. Jesus said...”

The rabbi visibly recoiled, just from hearing that name. “There he goes with all that Jesus stuff,” he muttered aloud.

“Jesus said that His next coming would closely parallel the days of Noah and the flood because the same type of events would be taking place. And they are. Even the Catholic Church is on record calling aliens their ‘space brothers’ and suggesting that they would baptize them if they deemed it fitting.

Because of bad Bible translation, many believe that man was created a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5-6 and Hebrews 2:6-7). But the original text tells us that man was made a little lower than ‘Elohim’, which means the Almighty God. Mankind has rejected, for the most part, God’s age of grace, and now God has determined that it’s time to pay the piper for rejecting the truth, which is His word, in favor of a lie. Planet X will be both the ‘sign of Christs’ coming as well as the means of great destruction; God’s wrath as foretold in the book of Revelation. This won’t be absolute destruction, because during the seven-year tribulation period God has some unfinished business with the Jewish people as a whole. Is that plain enough for everyone to understand?” asked John.

“Loud and clear, loud and clear,” replied George. “After the break, we’ll open the lines for call-in. I told you all at the beginning of the show that this night would be a doozy. Am I wrong?” Fade to bumper music.

At this break in the show, the rabbi fell sound asleep. Jet lag was catching up with him and frankly, the talk about Jesus was disquieting to his mind. His interest was piqued, however, by the talk surrounding Planet X. He knew of several rabbis in Israel sounding the alarm on that very subject. Sometime later the rabbi opened his eyes to hear the closing words of the interview.

Senator Roger Kelly spoke up, “George, if I may. What I want your audience, the American people to take away is plain and simple. God’s salvation and His judgment are both on the way, in that order. And secondly, do not trust what our government is doing or telling you. The next event you’ll witness which will precede Planet X becoming visible is Martial Law being declared. Trust Jesus. He told you 2,000 years ago what’s headed our way and how to prepare for it.”

“Well, folks, that’s all the time we have tonight. We need to get them back again. This is George Noory signing off.”

Being refreshed from his two-hour nap, the rabbi set out to finish his selection process of young men applying for a position in his yeshivah.

Having left the radio on, the next thing the rabbi heard was a weather alert. A large snowstorm was moving rapidly across the Midwest and would hit the east coast late in the day Saturday. Calling the

ticket agent, Rabbi Z was able to find an earlier flight out of J.F.K., but a few hours after sundown, since travel on the Sabbath was forbidden. Fortuitously, the storm would hold off long enough for his safe departure. Shortly after takeoff, J.F.K. was shut down for all incoming and outbound flights.

He spent most of the morning at the synagogue with Rabbi Zimmerman and walked to his home a few blocks away to eat lunch. Rabbi Z returned the files showing his final forty candidates for acceptance into his school. Feeling right at home, Rabbi Z fell asleep for forty-five minutes. Upon awakening, he decided to bring up the topic of Planet X as he suddenly recalled last night's interview.

"Rabbi Zimmerman, what do you know about Planet X, so-called? Last night I caught about half of an interview on the radio. I found the topic of interest, especially because the guests seemed to be very credible and knowledgeable. They spoke as if its presence will be sooner rather than later," said Rabbi Z.

Rabbi Zimmerman took a book from a bookshelf in his library and opened it. He found the reading "Sukkah 29a."

"Our rabbis taught, when the sun is in eclipse, it is a bad omen for the whole world. This may be illustrated by a parable. To what can this be compared? To a human being who made a banquet for his servants and put up for them a lamp. When he became wrath with them, he said to his servant, "Take away the lamp from them, and let them sit in the dark!"

After speaking these words an eerie feeling came over all who were in the house as if God Himself had just passed through. Rabbi Zimmerman had to force the book closed as he placed it back on the shelf. The implication of the passage was not at all clear to the rabbis but to a student of the New Testament, it had a foreboding message that they were not yet ready to comprehend for themselves.

"Well, I will be sure to start investigative research on the topic and see what comes of it," said Rabbi Zimmerman. "Perhaps we should call a taxi and get you to the airport before the snow moves in."

As the cab was about to pull away from the brownstone, there were many 'Shabbat Shalom's' and the traditional kiss were given.

"I'll be in touch with you as the new school year draws closer. It will be sometime after the new year in March or April," said Rabbi Zimmerman, waving as the taxi pulled away toward the L.I.E.

## Chapter 3

### Birth Pangs

There appears to be a deliberate attempt to discredit the prophecy of Daniel. It concerns the 69 weeks of years, having to do with the arrival of ‘Messiach, Nagid’, (Messiah the Prince/King). The ancient rabbis changed the calendar in the time after Christ. This was constructed so that one doing the math would not be forced to conclude that the math pointed to the very day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem for inspection on the tenth day of the first month, and for the first time accepted from the crowds the name ‘King’.

One hundred and sixty-six years were redacted from the calendar by failing to acknowledge a series of rulers who followed after Darius the Mede until the Romans took over. The difference in time was from the destruction of the first temple up until the destruction of the second temple which was six hundred and fifty-six years as opposed to the four hundred and ninety years that the altered calendar reflects. Add to these another seventy-three years as reflected in a copyist error (typo) pertaining to a text of genealogies in Genesis 5. Thus, our year 2020 is seen as the year 5780 in the Jewish Calendar.

Rabbi Z was not privy to this knowledge as there was no reason to question the two-hundred-and-thirty-nine- year discrepancy. From his youth upward, he was taught to trust the honesty and integrity of the sages which led him to not doubt that their calendar was correct.

By this line of reasoning, however, the Jewish people should not be looking for the Messiah for another two-hundred years or more. Why? Because He will come when all the work is done after six days, which translates into six-thousand years (Psalm 90:4).

And yet two-thousand-seven-hundred years ago, Isaiah wrote (Is:11-21) a prophecy which the rabbis call ‘The Birth pangs of Messiah’.

‘As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, she writhes and cries out in her labor pains, thus were we before Thee, O Lord. We were pregnant, we writhed in labor, we gave birth, as it were, only to wind, we could not accomplish deliverance for the earth nor were inhabitants of the world born’.

Not long after Rabbi Z returned to Israel, reports were coming out of China that a deadly and highly contagious virus had been transferred from wild animals to humans. Soon entire countries, along with their economies, were on lockdown. At first there was a peaceful acceptance of the situation and people complied willingly by closing their businesses and staying home. ‘Social distancing’, hand washing, and wearing masks became part of the language and routine of everyday life.

Just as the world began to reopen, and resume normal activities, a series of unfortunate events occurred in the streets of America that reawakened an underlying, festering and malignant disease in the hearts of some who overstepped their duties and responsibilities toward their fellow man.

Protests, peaceful at first, led to rioting, looting, burning and killing. Anarchy, it appeared, was rising up in the streets of America and around the world.

Somewhere, someone was funding and fueling this hatred.

Speculations were pointing to white supremacists, Antifa, Black Lives Matter and anti-Trump organizations. Few realized that this was all part of a much larger, ancient, organized and well-funded agenda with roots going back to the Tower of Babel.

The rabbi took all this into account as he also noticed that the weather and climate were also seemingly in revolt. The list seemed endless, with the hottest summers on record, unprecedented wild fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, melting ice caps, volcanos, earthquakes, hail, sink holes, rising and overheated oceans, locusts, and Covid-19.

Could all of this be a part of the birth pangs of Messiah? Rabbi Z was both terrified and exuberant at the thought. And now on top of all this was the talk of a huge 'Planet X' headed our way. Could this just be so much internet hype? Was it possible, as the Coast-to-Coast interview suggested, that this would be the sign of the coming Messiah? Was He about to restore the Davidic kingdom back to Israel? Would He, as many rabbis believe, have a direct hand in rebuilding the third temple and ushering in peace with Israel's enemies?

Rabbi Z relished the thought of actually meeting Him in person and realized that perhaps some of his students could be instrumental in places of leadership when the Sanhedrin was fully operational.

Despite his excitement, there was some lingering doubt. There seemed to be some important pieces of the puzzle missing. Many of his contemporaries believed, and still hung on to the hope, that Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, bless his memory, was and is the Messiah, although in his lifetime, Rabbi Schneerson vehemently denied any sort of deity. Rabbi Z had known Rabbi Schneerson and he just couldn't see how that could be. The temple mount was still of limits to the Jewish people.

And then, by chance, it came to his attention that in April, in the midst of the pandemic, all the countries of the world simultaneously closed down their observatories, sending their astronomers home. Ostensibly, this furlough was to keep the astronomers safe from the spread of Covid-19. None of this made any sense to him as these telescopes were located in some of the most isolated areas of the planet. The possibility of catching Covid-19 was greater in the towns and villages where the scientists lived than where they were working.

The observatories were shut down for six to seven months, until roughly October or November. So many little things were rattling around in his thoughts. It was hard for the rabbi to see any rhyme or reason or an emerging pattern. He remembered the Coast-to-Coast interview. Maybe the reason for the shutdown was to prevent a premature sighting from being released to the public, before Martial Law could be put into place. Wasn't that what Senator Kelly said? The way things were shaping up, it seemed to him that this could occur very soon, and not just in America. China had shut down one city. National Guard troops were backing local police forces. Israelis were much more compliant with social distancing, hand-washing, and wearing masks and its people fared better than most.

As winter led to spring, arrangements were finalized to fly the forty chosen students to the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. It was one of the last international flights from New York before the airline shut

down. Upon their arrival, Jonathan Cohen greeted them and made sure that every student wore his 'Covid mask'. The young students stepped off the plane and after claiming their luggage, Mr. Cohen steered them to a chartered bus which was parked out front. On the bus ride to the yeshivah, Jonathan led the group in a few rounds of 'Hava Nagila'.

As spring faded into summer, Rabbi Z noticed an uptick in the riots on the news and that daily, temperatures were rising correspondingly. An increase in fires and associated natural disasters were causing alarms to sound around the world. Then it happened, suddenly. It was the middle of August. One morning the rabbi woke up to the sound of tanks rolling past the front of his yeshivah. Emergency sirens began to sound as he dressed hurriedly and ran as fast as someone his age could go to the basement bunkers. These had been installed in case of an all-out attack. There were no planes overhead, no sound of bombs exploding. Only the tanks and the sirens. When every student had been accounted for, the security door was closed and locked. The radio was turned on and after a series of beeps a voice crackled across the airwaves.

"My fellow countrymen, this is your Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu and Co-Minister Benny Gantz. It is my unfortunate duty to have to announce that Israel is declaring Martial Law in unison with other nations of the world in an attempt to prevent both the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increase in riotous protests. There are reports that professional instigators from Antifa and Black Lives Matter, with terrorists from Hezbollah have made their way into our country. Despite their publicly made demands for fairness and justice, their unstated written manifesto paints a different picture of what they are trying to accomplish and what their real goals are. As a free democratic nation, we cannot allow them to destroy our great nation. Strong measures have been put in place to prevent further riots and the spread of Covid-19. Their real goals are to bring down America and Israel, and to pave the way for a one world government, a dictatorship. They will stop at nothing until their goals are achieved.

We will do everything in our power to maintain all essential services, such as hospitals, police, fire and electric. We are temporarily suspending international flights in and out of the country until we can determine our next course of action. A 9:00 P.M. curfew is now effective. We know there will be some dysfunction, especially at first, so we ask for your patience and understanding. These are perilous times we live in which call for drastic measures. The Jewish people are resilient and with the help of the Almighty we will get through this together. I am calling for a day of prayer tomorrow. Please keep our leaders in those prayers for God's guidance and wisdom. Regular reports will be forthcoming. Shalom. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

At this, Rabbi Z ordered the bunker door opened and called for a meeting at 10:00 A.M., after breakfast had been served.

"Everyone, please continue with business as usual. Stay on campus and focus on your studies," ordered Rabbi Z.

Many students headed back to their dorms to finish getting ready for the day, as did the rabbi.

During breakfast, several students looked out the windows as Wolf Armored Vehicles and AIL Storm Utility Vehicles rolled through the streets. There were military personnel setting up road blocks at strategic check points.

"Students, back to your tables and finish your breakfast!" shouted the cafeteria monitor.

Promptly at 10:00 A.M. Rabbi Z arrived in the auditorium where ten rabbis had gathered at his request. From the podium, Rabbi Z asked Rabbi Feinstein to open with a prayer.

‘Sh’ma Yisra’eil Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad. Barukk sheim k’vod malkhuto T’olam ra’ed. V’ahav ta eit, Adonai Elohekha b,’khol T’vav’kha uvkhal naf’sh’kha uvkhol m’odekha. V’hayu, had’varim ha ‘eileh asher anokhi m’tzar kha hayom al T’vavekha. V’shinantam’.

“My brothers, we are living in trying times, and from what I can deduce we may be in for worse yet to come. There is an old saying; ‘It will get worse before it gets better’. If I understand the Torah correctly, Messiah is on His way. We live on the precipice of His return to rebuild the third temple in Jerusalem. Our job is to ensure that everything is ready and waiting for that glorious day. The work that Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai started nearly two-thousand years ago is at long last about to come to fruition. As he was alive then to see the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, I, being his namesake, will be alive to see the restoration of that temple. Not unlike a woman entering into labor pains, we shall help birth the Messiah as He comes to establish Israel as the center of His kingdom and the capital of the world. There can be no doubt that He is already alive, here on earth.

We must be watchful and be looking for the one spoken of by Malachi

Chapter four and verse five and six.”

‘Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. And He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse’.

“And lest we forget what it is we are looking for, let us recall from II Kings how Elijah departed from earth (II Kings 2:11).”

‘...there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven’.

“If I have learned anything about the Torah in the last 90 years of my life it is this. Elijah will come again in the same manner in which we read about him leaving. By this we will know the Messiah. This is also one of many reasons we know that two-thousand years ago this Jesus, Yeshua, was a fraud.

Now to the important part of this meeting Some of you may be aware, some may not. There has been talk and reports of a large celestial object headed inbound from deep space. Many believe this to be an internet hoax. I have good reason to believe that this is true and that it poses a viable threat to the planet and life as we know it. Some are associating this with the coming of Messiah and see it as the last contractions of the birth pangs that Isaiah wrote about in Chapter twenty-six. You all know these verses. A senator from America and a Chilean astronomer I heard several months ago alluded to the fact that whenever martial law is enacted worldwide, then disclosure of Planet X would be made public knowledge. I want all our teachers and students to be made aware of these findings so as to be psychologically and spiritually prepared for if and when this occurs. I will use my contacts with the Knesset to find out as much as I can in case they are privy to yet undisclosed information. But in the meantime, I want as much stability and structure for the students as we can provide. No students are to leave the grounds unless supervised by an adult and only for necessary reasons including buying food, doctor’s appointments and the like.”

One Week Later



“Rabbi Z, turn on your television. The prime minister is about to come on the air and make an important announcement. It has something to do with what you spoke of last week,” declared a trusted aid.

“And now from an undisclosed location somewhere in Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,” said the announcer.”

“My fellow citizens, I come to you today with a heavy heart. I never in my life could have dreamed of this day. I’m afraid we, and by we, I mean all the people of earth, are in for a bumpy ride. Yesterday our government was put on notice by the Director General of the United Nations who, going forward, will play a leading role in providing important information and leadership.

In anticipation of such a possibility of an event of this magnitude there has been, for a decade or more an international agency put in place by former United States President Barack Hussein Obama. This agency was created in 2016. The purpose of forming this agency was to search for, prepare for and to mitigate any threat from inbound objects from outer space.

There is, I fear, a very large celestial object headed for earth that threatens our way of life, however hectic it may be at present. The earth change scientists are now coming to a new realization that ‘global warming’ is not a result of carbon emissions as had been previously thought. Now it is understood that this rogue planet’s electromagnetic field has been the cause of climate change. Astronomers who have been able to see this object suggest that it is seven to ten times larger than our planet and is comprised of a solid core of iron. Within the next week or so astronomers around the world will be able to spot it through ocular telescopes for the first time.

To put your minds at rest, the scientists have unanimously concluded that it will not be striking the earth. With that said, however, it is apparent that earth will pass through this planet’s debris field that it pulls behind it. The tail is fourteen million miles long and has meteors and asteroids ranging from marble size up to about one hundred and twenty miles wide in diameter. To put things in perspective, an asteroid about the size of three football fields caused an extinction event millions of years ago that wiped out the dinosaurs.

What more can I say? We will be bringing regular daily reports and updates. As I have said before, we are a resilient people. And as of today, I want us to become a praying people. Pray as if your life depended on it.

And now I have to be brutally honest with you. With some foreknowledge of this event, the industrialized nations of the world have been preparing underground bunkers for world leaders and government officials along with a host of scientists, engineers, doctors and the like. This is to preserve ‘continuity of government’ and to ensure that we have the brightest and the best for the aftermath and for rebuilding our infrastructure when it becomes safe to emerge from below ground. As of today, I, along with our elected and appointed leaders will be locked in these sealed bunkers. We are still in control at the helm and with your help and guidance from the Almighty we will offer all the supplies and assistance that we can humanly provide. I offer these parting words. ‘Fear not’. Shalom.”

“Brethren, quiet please! Everyone calm down please,” said Rabbi Z as he tried to speak above the din of voices all trying to speak at once. Finally, one loud voice could be heard above the others, calling for quiet.

“We can look at this two ways. Through the eyes of fear or through the eyes of faith. I choose the latter. I am reminded of the story of the Exodus when Egypt was experiencing the full effect of the ten

plagues throughout their land, our descendants in the land of Goshen experienced nothing of the plagues. As long as they were obedient to God's messenger, Moses, they were blessed. If we continue in keeping the laws of Moses, I do believe that we as a nation shall be spared the worst of what our scientists and politicians say is coming. This final birth pang shall usher in our long-awaited Messiah. Please don't be seen by Him as a trembling cowardly people. Our God is mighty and He will make a way where there is no way, just as He did with Moses and His people at Pi-hahiroth by the Red Sea. I say to you what Moses said back then; 'Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today'."

"Come what may to the rest of the world, the Almighty will spare us. Let's be prepared to go out and worship Him. So now go back to your classes and double down, as the old saying goes," concluded Rabbi Z.

Spontaneous applause filled the room as new courage and resolve replaced the previous fear felt by all who heard the report. One Week Later

At this point in the lockdown, television was left on 24-7 as updates had become a daily part of life.

One week later, the head of the Israeli Space and Astronomy Agency came on the air and presented photographs of Planet X taken by N.A.S.A. and the E.S.A. The planet was presenting with its classic 'wings' and 'tail' but was still not visible with the naked eye. The image did not look as if it could present a threat to earth but the scientist assured those watching the broadcast that it did indeed. It was explained that there would be a sudden tilt of the earth's axis. This would create six-hundred-foot-tall tsunamis that would totally devastate coastlands for at least three-hundred miles inland. Volcanoes would all be activated as the earth's crust would be cracking, continental plates would be shifting, magma would be spinning, mountains would be crumbling, islands would be washed away and the north and south polar caps, being loosed from their moorings, would be free to float in the reformed oceans. All this would take place as Planet X's gravitational field came within earth's gravitational field. The scientist used the term 'Roche's Effect' to describe the what and how of this all playing out.

An American scientist came on the television to describe the effect on North America. It was suggested that the middle section of the country, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes, would recede due to the New Madrid fault line and with the centrifugal force from the sudden shift, and with the rising sea levels. Ocean waters would fill in the depression for hundreds of miles, effectively draining the great lakes, thus splitting the continent in two.

The next scientist spoke English but with a heavy Spanish accent. His name was Dr. Hosea Rodrigues. Rabbi Z recognized both his name and his distinctive voice and turned up the volume.

"I have been asked many times since my Coast-to-Coast interview with Senator Kelly and John Anang why I'm no longer in hiding. Easy answer. That cat's out of the bag. World governments are no longer trying to keep this horrific secret from the population of the world. We are no longer a threat to their plans, which by now have been implemented in full."

"And in anticipation of the next question I get quite often, Senator Kelly and his family did not utilize their prerogative to go underground. As a result of his example, there were several dozen senators and a few congressmen who also refused to go. They are working tirelessly to make the American public as prepared for what is coming as is humanly possible."

"Enough about me now. Here's what you need to know. As bad as things are going to get from the 'fly by', what will happen next will be far worse. Some things that my research has uncovered and that

other scientists are reluctant to acknowledge or talk about is that there will be electrical discharges between earth and Planet X of a magnitude that will equal ten Hiroshima atomic bombs. This will be a result of different polarities of their respective electro magneto spheres. In addition, the electromagnetic forces will affect human brain waves which will cause a form of temporary madness. People will lose control of their mental, emotional, and physical body responses. It will be like someone has opened the door to the 'Mad Hatter' or like 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'. This will pass in a few days. But then the worst happens as earth passes through the debris field. These millions upon millions of large asteroids will be moving at nearly eighty-thousand miles per hour. When they penetrate our atmosphere, they will reach many of thousands of degrees Fahrenheit as they smash onto the earth's surface. Fires will combust everything that can burn. Nothing will be spared. Sand will turn to glass. The last record of this happening involved North America, twelve-thousand-eight-hundred years ago and nothing survived from coast to coast. According to John Anang's assessment of events from the book of Revelation, it appears that all of Asia, Africa, and Europe will be spared since they are the key players during what the Bible calls the seven years of tribulation. This suggests that the Western Hemisphere will bear the full impact which correspondingly aligns with the scripture that states that one third of the earth will burn. When you compare North, Central, and South America to the Eastern Hemisphere, it is by comparison one third of the land mass. This might account for why America is not mentioned in prophecy.

The earth will pass through the debris field of Planet X on its twelve-month orbit around the sun. Five months later, it will pass through this debris field a second time. The first pass through, according to John Anang, will be what Chapter Six of Revelation describes. Chapter Eight describes what happens five months later and if you read the account, it will be much worse than the first pass through. I am not fully qualified to speak about biblical matters as much as scientific, but once you understand just how interconnected they are, it's difficult to talk about the one without talking about the other." Rabbi Z got up from his chair and turned off the television.

Though he had never read the book of Revelation, much of what Dr. Rodrigues was describing had a clear ring of truth. The Tanach possessed plenty of passages, especially Isaiah Chapter 24, that were oddly reminiscent of what was being described. Having been born and raised in America, he was saddened that his birth land would likely be destroyed. But Israel was his true home and he was encouraged that Dr. Rodrigues indicated that Europe and Asia would be spared the worst.

Later that night, the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were filled to overflowing with angry protestors. If they weren't angry about Covid-19 and its second wave that had started in mid-June, they were angry because of the attacks on Black Aliyah African Jewish Ethiopians by the white police. If this wasn't bad enough, there were rioters who were looting, burning, killing and taking advantage of an already bad situation.

Their government admitted that they had been preparing for decades to go deep underground leaving the people without the time or resources to prepare. And to add insult to injury, the thermometer kept rising day by day as tempers rose with it. That night all restraints were ignored. Good, Godly people started throwing rocks at the I.D.F.

troops who were responsible for maintaining order. Fires were ablaze everywhere. Soldiers and police were siding with the protestors.

Major General Eyal Zamir had fifteen hundred soldiers under his command. He also had a teenage son enrolled in Rabbi Zakkai's yeshiva. It suddenly occurred to him that he needed to do something to

protect his son. He ordered one-hundred-and-fifty of his men to pack their gear and head straight over to the school. Transport trucks and light armored tanks started rolling in the direction of the school.

Within forty-five minutes there was a double line of men and equipment surrounding the city block at the school's location. As the general walked up to the front gate, he was greeted by the old rabbi himself.

"Shalom, it's good to see you, Major General," said Rabbi Z.

"Shalom. Are all your students and staff safe?" asked Major General Zamir.

"They are now," Rabbi Z replied with a smile.

"Just following new orders," said the Major General. Since he had no other good explanation for the show of force, he lied.

The rabbi welcomed his protection.

## Chapter 4

### Attempted Conversion

Within a few days, some sense of order was restored to the streets. This scene was played out in every country of the world.

A notice came to the school addressed to Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, Head Master of the Jerusalem Yeshiva. It read:

“Shalom, Rabbi Zakkai. A group of rabbis are calling for a meeting to discuss our collective concerns for Israel’s uncertain future in light of current circumstances. We will meet at 10:00 A.M. at Viola Convention Center, Tel Aviv on this coming Tuesday. Your attendance is very much appreciated. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 A.M. and lunch will be at 1:00. We expect to end at 5:00. Travel passes are enclosed for the I.D.F. checkpoints.”

Just then Jonathan Cohen knocked on the Rabbi’s door. “Enter,” said Rabbi Z. “Just the student I wanted to see. Whatever you came for can wait. I want you to pick one other student to attend a function this coming Tuesday in Tel Aviv. We will be ready to leave by 7:00 A.M. Breakfast will be waiting for us. Bring note books. Many rabbis will be in attendance and I have been asked to attend. Whatever you came to ask for, the answer is yes. I’m in a good mood today. Wish granted!

Tuesday

After being stopped at the second roadblock, it occurred to Rabbi Z that they should have allowed more time for the one hour and fifteen-minute ride to Tel Aviv. As they pulled into the parking lot of Viola Convention Center in the Yafo section of Tel Aviv, breakfast was just being served. There was plenty of hot wurst and eggs, cholent, challah, as well as toast and latkes. Both students went back for seconds, not being used to such sumptuous cooking.

It was time for the meeting to begin. But first there would be a reading, and a prayer would be said to set the appropriate tone for this unprecedented meeting.

A young rabbi from Tel Aviv walked up to the podium with his Bible. “The reading this morning will be from Isaiah 49:5-8. Will everyone please rise?”

‘And now says the Lord, who formed me from the womb to be His Servant. To bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him. (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and My God is My Strength), He says, “it is too small a thing that You should be my Servant. To raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nation’s so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and its Holy One, to the despised one, to the One abhorred by the nation, to the Servant of rulers. “Kings shall see and arise, Princes shall also

bow down; Because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.” Thus says the Lord, “In a favorable time I have answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you; and I will keep you and give you a covenant of the people, to restore the land.”

“Remain standing for the Shema.”

“Sh’ma Yisra’eil Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad. Barukh sheim K’vod malkhuto T’olam va’ed V’ahav,ta eit Adonai Elohekha b’khol Tiav’kha uv’khol nafsh’kha uv’khol m’odekha. V’hayu had’ varim ha’eileh asher m’izav’kha hayom al T’vavkha V’shinan ‘tam T’vanekha V’debar’ta lam b’shev’t’kha b’veitekha uv’lekh’t’kha Uk shar’tam T’ot a lyadekha v’hayu T’totafot bein einekha Ukh’tav’tam al m’zuzot beitekha uvish’arekha.”

“Hear, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One. Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart. And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

“Please be seated. Allow me to introduce our keynote speaker today who will be addressing Israel’s future in light of the past. He will do so both from a prophetic and contemporary view point. Here is Rabbi Joseph Shulman from Brooklyn, New York.”

“Shalom, good morning. To borrow a phrase from the pages of literature, ‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.’ This quote was penned by Charles Dickens in a Tale of Two Cities, which depicted the French Revolution. But how appropriate it is for us today. As to the worst of times, it is obvious for all the world to see. What is not so obvious to some, perhaps I should say many, is that believers in the Torah should be looking for the coming of the Messiah. ‘It was the best of times.

Now for those who don’t know me, let me share a little of my background. I was born and raised in Brooklyn to a Hasidic family. My father worked in the diamond business and did O.K. for himself and his family. He wanted me to go to a Yeshivah and to become a rabbi. The only problem was, I didn’t believe in God’s existence. There was so much division in the religious world, not to mention division within the Judaic culture. If, as the rabbis taught, there was only ‘one God’ then it seemed logical to me that there should only be on religion. How could so many hundreds of millions or even billions of people all claiming to be reading the same book come away with so much confusion? Some followed the ‘Old Testament’ and others had a ‘New Testament’. Others rejected the oral traditions. How did God’s name change from YHVH to Yeshuah, Jesus? I wanted nothing to do with any of it. But then when I was in my early thirties, my grandmother converted to Christianity. She called me one Saturday night and invited me to attend the church where she had been attending. I said, “Grandma, I’ve looked into many different churches and none of them offered me anything that satisfied my soul.” She said to me, “Joseph, just try this church one time and I promise you I’ll never ask you again.” I said, “Grandma, I’ll do it for you.” “I expected, possibly, a band on stage or a large pipe organ, but in fact there were no instruments in the service at all. I expected a lot of shouting and finger pointing. Maybe a preacher yelling, “Sinners repent!” Nothing of the sort. Perhaps a miracle healing service. Nope.”

“There were just good sound scriptures read and explained both from the Tanach and the New Testament. As the preacher explained them, they were like mirror pieces of a puzzle. Each piece from the Old Testament perfectly fit a scripture from the New Testament. It was like the Old Testament was asking all the questions and the New Testament was providing all the answers.”

“But there was one thing that pushed me over the edge and brought me back a second time, then a third time; this was the genuine love that I saw, one member for the others. They had whites, blacks, Hispanics and

even a few Jewish members. It wasn't long before faith was kindled in my heart in the God of my ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But what I learned that really blew me away is that the 'one God' of our Bible had a 'Son'. It was in our scriptures all along. Right there for the reading. There it was in Psalm 2. I'll only read Verses 7-12:

'I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord; He said to Me, 'Thou art my Son. Today I have begotten thee. Ask of me, and I will surely give the nations (Gentiles) as thine inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt shatter them like earthenware. Now therefore, O Kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!'

"Many passages of scripture testified that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. In keeping with the law found in Deuteronomy 19:15; 'On the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed'. As a second witness, allow me to turn to the Father of our faith, Abraham. In Genesis Chapter 22, we all know the story, we find God orchestrating this most bizarre situation by ordering Abraham to offer his only begotten Son of promise to die on a hill we all know as Golgotha on Mount Zion. We refer to this as the "AKE DAH" or "the binding". It turns out to be the very exact location at which Yeshuah was crucified by the Romans, two thousand years later. There is a very cryptic passage that holds the secret of the meaning that the Lord was trying to convey through the scriptures to future generations. It is found in Verse eight. I'll be reading from the Orthodox Jewish Bible Breshis 22:8:

'And Avraham said, "My Son, G\_d will provide Himself a seh (lamb) for a burnt offering; so, they went both of them together.'

"Other translations twist the original texts to say:

'And Abraham said, "God will provide FOR HIMSELF the lamb for the burnt offering, my Son'."

"He's not providing it FOR Himself. What He's saying is that He, God, will be the offering. That is to say God's Son, Yeshuah, will be the offering just as Abraham's son was to be the offering. Abraham looked up and there above him was a ram with his head stuck in the thorn bush."

"There it was in plain sight for all to read and understand. There had to be a human, unblemished lamb, that would be of equal or greater redeemable value for the sacrifice. As John the Baptist said when Jesus arrived at the Jordon, "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). It just all made perfect sense and from that time forward things only got better."

"My heart was turned to my own heritage, the Jewish people. But my attempts at converting them was a dismal failure. After years of frustration, it finally occurred to me that I had to honor my father's wishes. I went to school and got my master's degree and was ordained a rabbi. All of this was back during the Y2K hype and that's where I got plugged into the scriptures dealing with end times."

“We all know that the sages viewed history in two-thousand-year segments. The first two-thousand-years we recognize as representing chaos which led us to Abraham. The next two-thousand-years we recognize as the time of the law and promise. This brought us to the time of Jesus. Our sages called the next two-thousand years the time of preparation for the coming of Messiah. This would be followed by the seventh millennium called the

‘golden age of the Messiah’.”

“Rabbis, this is where we are right now. We are at the seventh day, when God’s work is finished. There’s so much more I could say about this, but I would be here all day. So, moving on.”

By this time, Rabbi Z’s temperature was rising as he looked for the nearest exit. Messianic Judaism, to him, was the worst kind of betrayal. He felt totally betrayed and was on the verge of leaving when Jonathan noticed his beloved rabbi’s agitation. Ever so gently he whispered in his ear telling the rabbi to let it go. The rest of the day would be both informative and instructional, he told the rabbi. As it turned out it was both, and the old rabbi was glad he had stayed.

On the return trip to Jerusalem, both Jonathan and his roommate, David Levine, kept poker faces. Both of them were undergoing some internal spiritual surgery as they replayed the testimony of Rabbi Joseph Shulman from earlier that morning. Questions started flooding their minds as if a dam had broken and neither of them had answers. They knew enough, however, not to ask Rabbi Z. No, no, no! That would not go well at all. The ride back was quiet despite all the excitement generated in their hearts and minds.

Many Messianic Rabbis and many more evangelicals were keeping a close watch on their calendars for both the upcoming Feast of Trumpets and on the night sky for the first sighting of Planet X.

By the end of August, a small star appeared in the Southern Hemisphere, which was visible with the naked eye. For those who had held to the idea that it was all a carefully crafted hoax, now there was no one who doubted. Night by night the small star moved almost imperceptibly and grew larger, little by little.

Although its progress seemed ‘Oh so slow’, time here on earth felt as though it was speeding up at an accelerated pace. Days felt like hours and hours felt like minutes.

People became increasingly aware of Christ’s words found in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 concerning what was called ‘the sign’ of His coming. Nobody doubted that Planet X was indeed the ‘What’ of Matthew 24:3. ‘What’ will be the sign of your coming? For as long as people kept tying it to the idea of ‘When’ as ‘When are you coming? Now it became apparent that it had to do with a ‘thing’, not a ‘when’.

People were coming forward by the tens of thousands, confessing Jesus as the Christ for the first time in their lives. Televangelists were leading thousands at a time through the ‘sinner’s prayer’. Churches were packed to overflowing around the world. Even Jews were being persuaded that Jesus was the Messiah and that He was coming for His church. All the while, the Messianic congregations were also being filled to overflowing.

None of this sat well with Rabbi Z. He sensed that even some of his students were becoming persuaded that Jesus was their Messiah, which prompted him to apologetically refute this idea with a renewed vigor.

In the last weeks leading up to the month of Tishri (7<sup>th</sup> month), the words of Jesus took on a new meaning. (Luke 21:25, KJV).



‘And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.’

Oceanographers now at least knew the reason for a new phenomenon that appeared at first to be nothing more than extra strong lunar tides. The Atlantic Ocean in the Southern Hemisphere would recede for miles on the Eastern Coast and the Western Pacific Ocean would rise with an intensity never before witnessed. The cause? Planet X.

‘men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world;’

For those who hadn’t accepted that all of this was a prologue to the return of Christ, many were jumping off of roof tops. Others took their lives by a single shot to the head. And some were in fact simply dying of heart attacks caused by the stress. Business and commerce had come to a grinding halt for the most part. Food and supplies, including gasoline, were in short supply. Many were fleeing to remote areas especially mountainous locales. In America the government was busy moving military equipment and people away from the coastline to inland F.E.M.A. camps which had been built decades before in anticipation of Planet X.

‘For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’

Astronomers were seeing our close neighboring planets and their moons wobbling and being thrown off course as the effect of Planet X’s magnetosphere and gravity played havoc. This was due to something they were calling ‘Roches Law’.

Then on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Elul, something strange and unexpected occurred around the world. This was the day before the Feast of Trumpets. Planet X was still many months away from its ‘fly by’ earth. A great calm fell like a warm blanket. More than one reporter used the term, ‘The peace before the storm’ to try to describe what had happened.

Some people were ecstatic while others were apprehensive but all acted as if they were holding their collective breath. It was surreal.

Even Rabbi Z felt a great relief as he was thinking to himself that by this time tomorrow, he would be vindicated and could get his yeshivah and students back on track. Then they would know that Jesus was no Messiah at all. Sundown came and the first of Tishri had arrived.

By 9:30 P.M., Rabbi Z was fast asleep as he was accustomed to the idea, ‘early to bed, and early to rise.’

## Chapter 5

### The Last Trump

Precisely two and a half hours later, while deep in his dream state, Rabbi Z was jolted from his bed by the blaring sound of a shofar. As he opened his eyes, he realized that it was still dark. His bedside clock showed precisely midnight, 12:00 A.M. He asked himself, has everyone gone mad? The Toke'im was to begin blowing the shofar in the morning at 9:00 A.M. And, he thought, that sounded nothing like past years. And why only one blast? The first thirty of the one-hundred blasts were blown in quick succession.

He quickly donned his robe and slippers and proceeded to the rooftop where he would be able to catch a glimpse of the Western Wall to see what he could. Reaching the roof, he discovered that many students and staff were already congregating. Some were pointing down into the streets and crying out for everyone to look. There were many men and women walking side by side wearing white linen robes. A glow emanated from their bodies like glow sticks on steroids. The I.D.F. soldiers who had been placed at the check points let them pass withing stopping them or checking for I.D.'s, reminiscent of the scene from Star Wars when Obi-Wan Kenobi said to the storm-troopers, "These are not the droids that you are looking for."

They all appeared to be about thirty years of age and they all wore precisely identical tunics, each with a leather belt. They were all casually looking about, as though touring Jerusalem for the first time in their lives.

Suddenly, and unexpectedly, as though a general had just given orders, each person in this procession was engulfed in a bright white light and transported upwards quickly and forcefully. They were traveling so quickly that it was inconceivable that they could still be alive. In less than a minute they were out of view. All together there must have been tens of thousands of these lights all rising in unison.

After fifteen more minutes of milling around, Rabbi Z gave an order for everyone to return downstairs. Before anyone could turn, someone yelled, "Look," while pointing straight out over the roof parapet. A second wave of bright lights rose into the air but this time there may have only been a hundred or so.

Not knowing what to think, the group waited another fifteen minutes but by now they were very cold from the chilly night air.

On the way down the stairs the rabbi found the chief cook and ordered him to put on a large pot of coffee and to boil some water for tea. "Oh, and please serve some nosh in the cafeteria."

After warming up, the rabbi ordered everyone to assemble in the auditorium. “Please take a seat and come to order,” said the rabbi in his most authoritative voice. “No one can deny that what we all saw tonight certainly is unprecedented and without explanation. It would be foolish to speculate and to start rumors that are not true and which cannot be substantiated. Beginning first thing in the morning, I will be conducting an investigation into the matter. This may take some time.

Meanwhile, let me provide a biblical reason with the contention of what this night’s event was not! Some will be saying this was Messiah’s return. The Christians and Messianic Jews would argue for this explanation. Now listen to what Zechariah 14:1-5 says. All rise for the reading.”

‘Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.

For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; And the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.’

The Rabbi interjected, “Drop down to verse 9.”

‘And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the

Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.’

“Now, unless we find the Mount of Olives split down the middle in the morning, we can safely assume that the Lord has not yet returned. With that said, let’s all retire, get some sleep. Morning classes will be delayed one hour tomorrow so reset your alarms.”

Later that morning the newscasters were all abuzz with spirited debate about last night’s events. Many caught the night’s events on video which was replayed over and over.

Meanwhile at the Wailing Wall the Toke’im blew the first thirty trumpet blasts on the shofar announcing the commencement of the first of three fall festivals. This day set the stage for ten days later, leading up to the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

A total of one-hundred blasts on the ram’s horn would conclude at sundown with one long single blast referred to as the ‘Last Trumpet’. In the days preceding the destruction of the temple, the doors of the holy city, Jerusalem, would be closed and locked from within. The rabbis associated this with the doors of heaven being closed so none could enter after sundown at the close of the resurrection day, the Feast of Trumpets.

From all around the world, reports of people disappearing into the sky were pouring in. No country was excepted. One thing they all had in common was that a trumpet sound was heard locally and always at the stroke of midnight. Many photographs and camera footage captured the event. Some newspapers pulled out their ‘Second Coming’ headlines.

Reporters were clamoring to get an interview with Pope Francis who had agreed to be interviewed later in the day.

Christian television, such as the 700 Club, Day Star and T.B.N. were also abuzz as shows that aired daily were in panic mode to come up with an explanation before going on the air. Those who

prerecord were also scrambling to get the cameras rolling to try to explain the nights' events for later viewing. This included the Jewish Messianic rabbis like Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, Rabbi Kirt Schneider, Rabbi Jonathan Bernis and Sid Roth, to name a few.

The collective thinking was that whatever had just happened was definitely NOT the rapture of the church. This did not mark the return of Christ. Why? Simple! All the Christian folks were still on earth.

And yet, isolated reports were coming in that loved ones, in some cases entire families simply went missing. Gone! Vanished! No word, no notes left behind. Cars were still parked in the driveways. Oddly, in households where the adults disappeared, all the children woke up to the fact that either one or both of their parents were gone.

Nothing made sense. Theories abounded and yet whatever the explanation, no one was denying that something huge had just occurred. Some reporters commented that there were no planes or trains crashing, as had been depicted in Tim LaHaye's Left Behind series. Rabbi Z had received a list of the names and phone numbers of those who had attended the conference in Tel Aviv. He looked up the number for the Messianic head speaker, Rabbi Joseph Shulman.

"Shalom, this is Rabbi Shulman. How may I help you?" asked the voice on the end of the line.

"Shalom. This is Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai. You're still here? Can you explain last nights' events, rabbi?" he asked with a little sarcasm in his voice.

"Honestly, no...I can't. I was awakened at midnight as I'm sure you were, and I witnessed the same things you saw. I have not been back to bed, trying to determine what happened. By one o'clock I placed a call to a close colleague in Brooklyn. It was 6:00 P.M. in New York. I asked had he seen anything unusual, anything out of the ordinary. He assured me that nothing was amiss. I explained to him what had occurred here in Israel. I told him to keep an eye open. He promised he would."

"A little after 7:00 A.M. this morning I received a call from him. It was shortly after midnight in Brooklyn and he explained that he heard a loud trumpet sound. He rushed outside and much to his surprise he witnessed the same exact things; glowing people, dressed in white tunics walking the streets, looking around. While we were on the phone he screamed, "They're being taken up into the sky in balls of light!" He became speechless for several minutes. I told him to wait about fifteen more minutes and that he would see a similar event. Sure enough, exactly fifteen minutes later a second, smaller group went up in less than a minute. Then it was all over. Then he said something startling that stopped my heart. He said with conviction, that he had just witnessed the rapture of Christ's church, at which time his voice started to break up; he was crying and sobbing. "And I wasn't in it!"

"I thought to myself, if that's true then neither was I. What makes matters worse is that as I started investigating, I discovered that none of the evangelicals from the denominational world had been either. Then I came to another conclusion. There must be another explanation and that the truth would come out sometime soon. So how are you holding up, Rabbi Zakkai?" asked Rabbi Shulman.

"I agree with your last assessment. An explanation will be forthcoming, and I for one will not be guilty of saying, "See, I told you so." Thank you. Our conversation has been very helpful. Unless you have anything further, I promise to stay in touch. Shalom."

As if the situation couldn't get any crazier, in fact it did. Later that day a live interview with Pope Francis was being scheduled to take place from Jerusalem at the Western Wall. Hundreds of chairs were being set up in anticipation of a large crowd.

Exactly at noon, twelve hours after the nights' strange events, CNN began airing a live feed from Vatican Square in Italy. Two Vatican correspondents were speaking over one another from behind a desk in the Vatican Press Room. Suddenly the feed went to an outside camera that was panning the sky directly above the Pope's chambers.

A silver disc popped into view, appearing to be approximately sixty to seventy feet in diameter. It dropped slowly down, landing in the street at the Piazza San Pietro in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

The small crowd in the square drew back, seemingly in shock but they were unwilling to flee. They were caught like a deer in a car's headlights in a struggle between fight or flight. After several minutes of inactivity, the crowd started to inch closer for a better view.

As Pope Francis exited St. Peter's Basilica and entered the street headed toward the shimmering craft, the crowd erupted in thunderous applause. Pope Francis was followed closely by the Black Pope. The crowd boldly stepped closer. A hatch opened and a short-robed alien creature exited the craft and greeted Pope Francis with a Masonic hand shake, not visible to the public. But through the telescopic lens of the camera, people watching via television could see, if they knew what to look for. They spoke together for a moment. Then Pope Francis motioned for the CNN crew to come up close. They approached ever so cautiously. Speaking of himself in the third person he stated:

"The Holy Father has been anointed to make a great proclamation to the world along with an official explanation of last nights' events. This statement will occur from the Western Wall at the Temple Mount. Let me introduce my friend and counselor Sir Zadok from the Stellar Interplanetary Confederation. Among other things, he will be my chauffeur today. The confederation will be working strategically with mankind during the months ahead as earth undergoes a spiritual awakening to a higher consciousness. And everyone knows the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Father Arturo Sosa. We will be arriving at the Temple Mount in about two minutes. See you there."

After clearing the ramp, the hatch closed behind them. After about thirty seconds the craft shot upwards like a ball of fire to about one mile high, then shot off like a scene from Star Trek, headed east southeast.

The scene returned to the desk with the two Vatican reporters who now were speechless. Two minutes of babbling and head scratching followed.

The CNN cameras from Jerusalem panned to an outside film crew on top of the Temple Mount. Being warned ahead, they panned the sky when from the west the shimmering craft appeared on the horizon as it slowed down to about two-thousand feet above the Temple Mount. This time as it slowly descended, there were clouds of gas being ejected from all sides. The purpose for this was unclear. Two minutes and ten seconds later the hatch opened and Sir Zadok emerged with Pope Francis and Father Sosa, waving like rock stars. The Pope appeared to be ten years younger looking and he had a spring in his step which was not noticeable two minutes earlier in Italy. As all three of them began walking southwest to the Court of the Gentiles, they descended the wide staircase at the Southern Wall and walked up Ha ko'tel Street toward the Western Wall. They were hastily ushered to the makeshift podium, which had been set up by a proxy governor in order to make an unprecedented announcement. Many rabbis, Messianic and Orthodox, along with priests from the Coptic and Armenian Church were in attendance. Many Muslim clerics and dignitaries with hosts from several Christian television programs also were in attendance, all hoping to make sense of last nights' events and to possibly obtain a photo opportunity to use in the next day's shows. Reporters from every news outlet with a camera

crew were poised and at the ready. Absent were all of Israel's elected officials who were all locked below ground in the D.U.M.B.s (Deep Underground Military Bases).

Two chairs had been set up behind the podium. Sir Zadok sat in one and the Black Pope sat in the other. The cameramen could not take their camera view off Zadok. No one was at all sure of what he was.

Shortly, Pope Francis took the podium as he tapped the mic to see if it was on.

"Everyone knows who I am but many of you may not know Father Arturo Sosa," said Pope Francis, introducing The Black Pope, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

"And over here is Sir Zadok," indicated Pope Francis with a wave of his hand. "He is an Ambassador of the Stellar Interplanetary Confederation. His so called 'chariot' on the Temple Mount helps identify him as a star traveler, better known as the 'greys'. They have been a part of earth's history going back far beyond Adam in the Garden of Eden. They are here right now to assist mankind through the terrible times that lie ahead, all designed beforehand to raise mankind to a higher level of consciousness and to help rebuild earth into what it is destined to become, a unified peaceful New World Order. Now may we all pray."

'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen'.

"A new part of my mission here on earth is to restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers. Had we been doing this all along, the odds are great that the earth would not be experiencing what it is going to experience as a result of Planet X passing in the months ahead.

Last night's events, along with events over the last six months or so, have been misinterpreted by many pundits. I have been in contact with the architect of the universe and have been authorized to act as his spokesperson to explain what is in reality going on. Much is revealed through the prayer we just recited. God's kingdom is coming to earth."

"His Messiah will soon be revealed. I am speaking right now by the authority of His name. There is coming a true peace on earth, 'as it is in heaven'. There will be a fair and equal distribution of food, 'give us this day our daily bread'. No more hunger or poverty. There will be forgiveness of debts on an international, state and local level, as well as individual debt, private and business. This will become available through a new form of currency which is to say a 'cashless society'. The economy will reset itself and carefully constructed safe guards will prevent any future bankruptcy from occurring. Of course, it will be required of everyone that they be willing to forgive others debts owed to them and vice versa. 'Forgive us our debts as we forgive others'."

"That there has been much evil in the world causing all this trouble has been dealt with once and for all. A certain, narrow-minded group of Christian zealots who many referred to as a 'cult' have been transported, last night, off this planet to the 'Mother Ship' that our 'space brothers' (turning to Zadok), have been so thoughtful to provide as a re-education camp. We will reprogram their narrow-minded and misguided ways. Those who pass the test, so to speak, will be allowed to return. 'But deliver us from evil'. It is easier to remove the evil from among us than the other way around."

“Before the King can come, the Temple in Jerusalem will have to be rebuilt. We at the Vatican have been working tirelessly behind the scenes for a long time with the authorities in Israel to do just that. I will be moving my headquarters from Rome to Jerusalem, near the Temple Mount. Soon, in about a week, we will be visited by our space brothers who have been here amongst us through all the ages, as far back as time itself. As I said earlier, they are here to see us through this time of transition. Soon we will see all the nations come together in solidarity as our space brothers, along with the United Nations, will begin to disarm and dismantle the nuclear capabilities of all the advanced nations.”

“At the appropriate time, after Planet X passes by the earth, plans for world peace will begin in earnest. We anticipate some resistance from certain factions but they will be dealt with swiftly and thoroughly, with force.”

“The visionaries from the days of Nimrod after the flood, along the Plains of Shinar, failed to achieve a unified world government. Now we are poised to bring to fruition those lofty goals. Whatever is left standing after the ‘destroyer’ passes will become the foundation for a new king who has been waiting in the shadows for his coronation, since the Garden of Eden. The Phoenix shall rise from the ashes.”

“Don’t let last night’s events disturb your thoughts. What happened last night is a like a woman sweeping her floors and then taking out the trash. It was nothing more than cleaning house. This event was not what some are claiming, that is the return of Christ. I know this, because as His Vicar, I have been in touch with Him for some time now. Believe me when I say, He has not yet come.”

Rabbi Z turned off the television feeling somewhat vindicated. Whether true or not, at least an explanation by a respected world leader had paved the way for an alternative understanding of last night’s events. It occurred to the rabbi that the Pope said his mission was to restore the hearts of the fathers to the sons. He was quoting from Malachi 4:5-6. And didn’t he refer to the UFO as Zadok’s ‘chariot’? Was it possible that the Pope is wearing the mantle of Elijah, paving the way for Messiah? The Pope came in the same fashion as Elijah had left (II Kings 2:11). This account did not have the language that we might use today. This vehicle was called a ‘chariot of fire’; today we would call it a UFO.

Seeing that the Messianic Jewish community was still present, along with followers within all the evangelical denominational communities, this explanation, as ‘out there’ as it was, seemed plausible. But what was it he said? Something about a small group of zealots. A cult of some sort gone missing? This troubled Rabbi Z as he thought it might need further investigation. But not now, not today. Another troublesome thought came to him. What did the Pope say concerning the rebuilding of the Temple? He was going to move his headquarters near the Temple Mount. Rabbi Z was thinking, “Over my dead body!”, but if in fact he was the incarnate Elyah, then perhaps his initial reaction would have to be reconsidered. Time and events would tell all.

## **Chapter 6**

### **The Four Horsemen And the 144,000**

One Year Earlier

Back on the Ojibwe Reservation in Minnesota, Meskwa Anang, better known as John, was wrestling with a difficult decision. One for which there seemed to be no biblical precedent. His understanding of the book of Revelation grew over many decades of reading and research. But one sticking point troubled him more than any other. It had to do with the 144,000 first mentioned in the seventh chapter and later in the fourteenth chapter. John had decided that John the Revelator had written about the seven years of tribulation twice. First from chapter six through to the end of chapter eleven. This was through the eyes of secularism. Then chapter twelve through chapter nineteen deals with the same seven-year period only now it is through spiritual eyes dealing with the religious, political, and economic view point.

Despite claims by one denomination, it was clear that these men were Jewish converts who would follow the Lamb wherever He went. All the tribes were Jewish except one group from the tribe of Manasseh. One's lineage was determined and predicated from the mother's side. Jesus was Jewish because Mary was Jewish, not determined by the father who in His case was not Joseph. Manasseh, as recorded in Genesis 46:20 was born from an Egyptian, Gentile mother:

'Now to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphar, priest of On bore to him'.

The problem that John Anang had was; who would be around from the Lord's church to teach them the truth? John knew that all the denominational folks would still be here on earth and that most of them would fall for the 'great deception' coming from the 'Man of



Lawlessness” also called the ‘son of destruction’ in Second

Thessalonians. It occurred to John during a major winter storm, to seek God’s face and volunteer himself, if God agreed, to stay behind after the rapture of the church. After much discussion with his wife, children and the elders of the church, all agreed to support his decision.

Roger Kelly and Dr. Hosea Rodrigues also were in agreement and promised to watch after things when John left for Israel, if his departure preceded the rapture. As it turned out on the night of the rapture an angel transported him to a motel room near the old quarters of Jerusalem, much like Philip in Acts Chapter eight. This would be John’s new residence. The angel promised him that his personal needs and opportunities for instructing would be provided for.

With tensions running high and production of goods grinding to a near standstill, the President of China moved to seize the moment by launching an all-out cyber war. Power grids were taken down. Israel was spared. Accusations as to who was responsible flew back and forth but without power to run computers, no one knew for sure who was at fault. This led to an outbreak of war and millions died in the short-lived battles. While these battles were winding down, a second more virile wave of Coronavirus, plus a new deadly swine flu out of China took the lives of millions more. Farmers were unable to get their crops out of the fields and even if they could, processing plants were not able to process them. Millions more died from starvation. The locusts from Africa increased and ate what few crops were in the fields, while a wheat rust destroyed grain for bread.

All this was going on as night after night people shook in fear as Planet X loomed ever larger. By Christmas Planet X became visible in the day time hours. By spring of the next year, Planet X was about to fulfill one of its ancient names given it by the Sumerians; that is ‘Nibiru’, or Planet of the Crossings’. As Planet X passed through earth’s orbit, a magnitude 13.5 earthquake occurred. By far the largest ever recorded in history, a pole shift of thirty degrees took place all at once. These combined forces caused mountain ranges to crumble. As anticipated, six-hundred-foot-tall tsunamis inundated the eastern seashores in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. The Americas and Asia were the hardest hit. Islands like Indonesia, Hawaii, and the Philippines were gone from the map, moved out of place.

As Planet X moved past earth, it entered the zone between the sun and the earth. True to the Bible, the sun became black as sackcloth and the moon became like blood; Bible terms for a solar and a lunar eclipse. The upper-level winds all reversed course as the clouds were racing at speeds in excess of two hundred miles per hour, as though the sky was being split apart like a scroll as it was being rolled up.

As a final assault, the earth was subject to hundreds of thousands of meteor strikes as it passed through the tail of Planet X. Fortunately, this was a glancing pass, just a harbinger of more to come. Scientists had calculated that there would be a five-month reprieve between Planet X’s first and second pass as it completed its elliptical path around the sun.

Those who were not fortunate enough to have had access to a sturdy underground bunker, ran to known caves. Israel was blessed to have had hundreds of bunkers fabricated for her people to escape the bombing threats from Hezbollah and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. These offered a safe reprieve.

Rabbi Z and his students, along with his staff, fared very well in their underground safe room.

Finally, the ‘all clear’ signal was being broadcast from the sirens that alerted all Israelis of any danger.

As John cautiously left the shelter where he had been for the last two days, he was surprised and shocked at the scene above ground. The city of Jerusalem had been spared any visible damage, however there was a cloud covering over the sky from east to west and north to south. It was in fact a combination of volcanic ash mixed with red residue left by the iron dust cloud of Planet X. Along with it was dust from the Sahara Desert that had been kicked up by the extreme winds. The sun was out of its place, even to the untrained eye. Absolutely no wind was moving from any direction. From all these signs over the last two days, John knew that his job here was about to begin. He reasoned that Revelation Chapter Six had just been fulfilled and he was in the time frame of the beginning of Chapter Seven. John knew this scripture by heart:

‘And I saw another angel ascending from the rising sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God on their foreheads.”’

‘And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.’

John knew from his studies that this left a five-month window to reach these Jewish men before Planet X passed a second time. He knew that he had to rely on God to set up some kind of divine encounter, as he had no clue where to begin. How would he be able to identify these men? Where could he find a space large enough for so many students? Ten football stadiums would not be anywhere large enough to hold that many people at one time.

John had decided to make his way to the Western Wailing Wall to pray before he returned to his room. Many rabbis and yeshivah students had similar plans, for the stone floor in front of the wall was packed. John stood out as an oddity. Not many Native Americans visit the wall. Out of an acknowledged respect, many of the Jews gave way to him, allowing him to come face to face with the ancient stone wall.

John started praying in his Ojibwe language for God’s help in locating the 144,000. Standing next to him was a young man in his early 20’s praying in English.

‘God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, please confirm to me if I have been mistaught concerning this man Jesus. Reveal to me whether he is the Messiah, the King of Israel. Please lead me to someone who can show me the way. I don’t know what’s happening in the world. Please give me some answers and lead me to someone who has the knowledge I am seeking.’

At this moment John, having overheard this young man’s prayer, turned his head to see the face of the young man. At the exact same moment, the young man turned his head to the right. Their eyes locked on each other. It was as if both of them knew and understood that God had arranged this divine meeting and was answering both their prayers at once.

‘Aho, I’m John Meskwa Anang, Ojibwe Indian from America,’ said John.

‘Shalom, my name is Jonathan Cohen, from Israel,’ said Jonathan.

‘We both might be looking for the same thing. Perhaps we’ve met here for a reason and perhaps I have what you’re looking for and you might have what I am looking for. Can we go somewhere to talk?’ asked John. ‘How about my hotel or a restaurant if we can still find one open.’

‘Your hotel is fine,’ said Jonathan. Realizing that they were both hungry, John heated up the remains of his famous Indian stew and put the kettle on for tea. They set the dishes aside after eating and John

brought out his Bible and placed it on the freshly wiped down kitchen table. He then placed two chairs side by side so each of them could see to read the word of God. “I couldn’t help overhearing your prayer at the wall,” John said.

“I apologize,” Jonathan replied. I heard you speaking in another language and didn’t realize you spoke English.”

“Where to begin,” said John. “There are so many crazy things unfolding that seem to make no sense to the average person. Unless... one has a well-grounded view of the Bible. That includes the Old and the New Testament. Only then can one begin to understand the world events that are unfolding.”

“You’re telling me that you understand everything that’s going on right now?” asked Jonathan.

“I do. Yes, I am telling you,” stated John. “And I need some help to complete a difficult, but important task for the immediate future for the Jewish people here on earth. And just so you understand, the worst is yet to come. This will all last for seven years as foretold in the book of Daniel.”

At this statement, Jonathan’s interest was piqued. “My favorite book of the Tanach,” said Jonathan.

Realizing that this would be some common ground, John suggested that they start in the book of Daniel. Jonathan agreed.

“In Daniel, Chapter two starting in Verse thirty-one we find Daniel both relating and explaining a dream that King

Nebuchadnezzar had. Most every commentary on this dream draws the conclusion that there are only four kingdoms being identified.” “That’s what I believe,” said Jonathan.

“Well, if you read carefully, there are five kingdoms. The four that everyone agrees with are as follows. Number one, the head of gold, being the Babylonian Kingdom. Number two is the breast and arms of silver being the Medo-Persians. Pay attention; though the arms are mentioned, there is no mention of hands and fingers. This is a clue. The Medo-Persians were followed by the belly and thighs of bronze. This is Greece under Alexander the Great. And then there is the fourth kingdom with the legs of iron. This represents the mighty military power of Rome whose armies encompassed all the previous kingdoms. This was the kingdom into which Jesus was born, five-hundred years later; the legs of iron. The Roman Empire was a divided kingdom with

Rome to the West and Constantinople to the East. Thus, the two legs.”

“But now take notice, Jonathan. The feet with the ten toes are described as a separate entity, but being a part or an extension of the legs of iron, the Roman Empire.”

V.40 ‘Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.’

“Meaning all of the previous kingdoms. Now see how the next sentence begins.”

V.41 “And in that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potters clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.”

“Now, Jonathan, the next verse is perhaps one of the most difficult passages to interpret in all the Bible.”

V. 43 “And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another IN THE SEED OF MEN; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.”

“Most Bible teachers teach that the feet with the ten toes was a part of the Roman Empire that existed back two-thousand years ago and was eventually destroyed about 500 A.D. by invaders from the north. Not so, for reasons we’ll get to. These ten toes are identified as ten kings and also as ten horns. They reappear in another book you’re not familiar with.”

“Let me show you. First, look at Daniel Chapter seven, Verse seven. This is Daniel retelling his version of his own dream, which was the same dream as Nebuchadnezzar’s only with different symbols.

“After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it HAD TEN HORNS.”

“This is still identifying Rome as the fourth beast. But now the ten toes are symbolized as ten horns. In Chapter seven Verses twenty-three through twenty-four we read this:”

““Thus, he said, “The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

As for the TEN HORNS, out of this kingdom TEN KINGS WILL arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.””

“Now I will take you to a book in the New Testament called

Revelation, Chapter seventeen. This book was written by a man named John. John also was given a peek into the future. I just want to make one point here. There is a lot of symbolic language here but the book of Daniel helps us identify those symbols:”

V.3 “And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names having SEVEN HEADS and TEN HORNS.” “These are those same TEN HORNS again,” interjected John.

V. 7 ““The angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I shall show you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the SEVEN HEADS and the TEN HORNS.”

“The Beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.””

“Jonathan, in modern terms we refer to him as the Anti-Christ, the one who comes alongside of, and attempts to pass himself off as the Jewish Messiah.”

V. 9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The SEVEN HEADS are SEVEN MOUNTAINS on which the woman sits and they (the seven mountains) are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other HAS NOT YET COME; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth (Kingdom) and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

And the TEN HORNS which you saw ARE TEN KINGS, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.” “Meaning a short time,” said John.

“These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast.”

“A little explanation is in order. Look at Verse ten again. The seven mountains are seven kings or ‘kingdoms. They are broken down into three groups. One! Five have fallen. If you trace through your Bible, you’ll find the five fallen kingdoms. First is Assyria, Genesis 2:14. Next is Egypt, Genesis 12:14.

Followed by Babylon,

Medo-Persia and the Greeks. That is five which have fallen.”

“One is, Revelation 17:10.”

“That’s Rome, the kingdom John was contemporary with. That’s six.”

“The other has not yet come. That kingdom is the one referred to by Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniel’s dream. It will be in a future time from when John wrote nineteen-hundred years ago. It will be identified as being divided into ten regions, ruled by ten kings. That is when the real Messiah, Yeshua Hamashiach, will return to destroy the Anti-Christ with the ten kings and establish the eternal kingdom,” John concluded.

“This is a lot to take in and I don’t want to overwhelm you, and by the way, you’re a great listener. Allow me to mention one more thing. This book of Revelation, which is a continuation of the book of Daniel, mentions the fact that there will be 144,000 Jews who come to a saving knowledge of Yeshua, Jesus. This is why I am here, to locate and teach them about the gospel of Christ. I feel that if I could find them and get in front of them, I could convince them that Jesus was, is and will be the Messiah they’ve been longing for. Hear the Revelation,

Chapter fourteen, Verses one through five:”

“And I looked, and behold the lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one-hundred and forty-four thousand having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps.

And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one-hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.”

“John,” said Jonathan. “I didn’t follow everything you just shared with me. I thought it best to be quiet and just listen, but I see now, how much I really don’t know and I feel sure that you can provide answers for all the questions I have about Jesus being the Messiah.

Ever since the Feast of Trumpets event which I witnessed for myself, which was preceded by a Messianic Rabbi giving his personal testimony about Jesus, I have become more confused than ever. I want to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. I see it now in the scriptures but then why didn’t the Evangelicals and Messianic Jews go up if that was the rapture as some claim? The Pope said it was part of a re-education program to get rid of some trouble makers.”

As Jonathan went on, he started to cry, saying how much he wanted to believe.

“I want to be able to sing that new song before the throne of God.”

The tears turned into sobs and soon he was hugging John, pleading for help.

“There are thousands of men like me all asking the same questions but no one knows where to go for answers. Our rabbis are no help. They say we’re damned if we turn to Jesus. Our lives are over.”

At this, John asked in a hushed tone, “Thousands. How do you know there are thousands?”

“There is a website on the internet I started shortly after the event on the Feast of Trumpets. I’ve had so many visitors that I have lost count. But I still only have questions, no answers,” said Jonathan.

“Hey, could you be our teacher? I can set you up with a monitor and video here in your room. You can make a video archive on different topics. I can provide you with questions and have a set time for live video chats. If you’re up for something like that?” asked Jonathan.

“When can you get started?” asked John. “What about your classes at the yeshiva?”

“I’ve completed all my requirements ahead of time and was just waiting for the next ordination ceremony. I can come and go as I please. Oh! I want you to meet my roommate too. He feels exactly like me. If it’s ok, I’ll bring him with me whenever you say. He’s good with computer equipment.”

“How about tomorrow, midmorning?” asked John.

“I’ll see you then. God really does work in mysterious ways, doesn’t He?” Jonathan asked.

“Oh, indeed He does,” replied John.

## Chapter 7

### Born Again

The next morning Jonathan and his roommate, David Levine, pulled up to the loading dock behind the hotel. After unloading all the equipment, David pulled the car around to the parking lot while Jonathan started loading the boxes onto the service elevator.

On the ride up to the seventh floor, Jonathan tried describing John's appearance to David since he had never before seen a real live American Indian.

After introductions and some small talk, the two young men began assembling computers, keyboards, microphones, and lights in a corner of the room that had access to all the necessary electrical outlets. With permission from the hotel, a small satellite dish was bolted to a post on the roof and a wire was inconspicuously dropped through one of John's windows. This would allow their prospective audience to be reached by satellite. Before turning on the power switch, John paused to pray.

"Almighty God and Father, in Jesus' name I come to you for your blessing of this project, and for these two young men who are searching for answers. My prayer request is that these efforts are more than adequate to reach the 144,000 men described in your Word and that you use me to bring them the pure truth of your Word that leads them to fully understand the work of grace that your Son accomplished two-thousand years ago. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. Aho!"

John heard both young men say 'Amen' in a hushed tone under their breath. What he didn't know is that this was the first time either of the two young men made a public proclamation acknowledging Jesus with their mouth.

"Johnathan, sit down and crank her up," said John, pointing to the chair in front of the computer screen. In the only open corner of the hotel room, David had set up a large chalkboard, screwed to the wall, with a podium in front of it. A camera was set on a tripod and some professional back drop lights were also strategically placed around on tripods.

After booting up the system, everything was operational. Jonathan adjusted the angle width on the camera and moved two of the four lights to get better coverage. All was set.

"Let's test the mics," said Jonathan. John placed the lapel mic on his cowboy shirt and stepped in front of the camera. "Say something, John. I'm going to record you so we can play it back for a final check." John opened his bible to John 3:5-6:

"Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not marvel that I told to you 'you must be born again.'"

John turned to Jonathan who gave him the two thumbs up signal. "Sit down and watch how I do this so you can repeat this process for all your videos," said Jonathan.

In a few minutes, that segment was recorded and placed in an archive for future retrieval by anyone logged into the site.

“How about we rename our site?” asked Jonathan.

John offered up, “How about we call it ‘The 144,000’? Is that ok with both of you?”

“Yes, now that I have some understanding of what it means,” said Jonathan. “By the way, John, do you happen to have some small New Testaments? We have never read it and aren’t allowed to own one at the yeshiva. Rabbi Z would kick us out if he knew we had one.”

“I do,” replied John, who had purchased as many as he could lay his hands on. Reaching into a box, he grabbed two copies and gave one to each of them.

“How about lunch? I’ll bet you guys are starving by now?” asked John.

“After lunch, can you explain what Jesus meant about being born again? I’ve never heard about this before. Is that really a thing?” David asked.

As John set seeded rolls, pastrami, cheese, and fresh salad on the table, with all the trimmings, he thought to himself that he should videotape this segment as it would become his introductory, foundational lesson. If he delved deep enough into the text, he could answer many of the questions he could imagine inquisitive minds would be asking in the future. He decided to go for broke.

“Do you guys have time if I decide to go deep on this lesson? And can we record it for my introductory lesson? This will answer a lot of questions pertaining to what’s been going on. It’s an opportunity to set the record straight,” John said.

“Yes, we’re good for the whole day. Let’s eat and then we’ll get started.”

After cleaning up the dishes, John changed his shirt and washed up. He took his position on the makeshift set, opened his Bible and waited for Jonathan’s cue.

“Ready, three, two...,” said Jonathan. He was counting down, with his fingers in the air and when he pointed at John, John began to speak.

“Aho, Shalom. My name is John Meskwa Anang. I’m a fullblood Ojibwe Native American. In my language my name means ‘Red Star’. I am here in Israel by choice. My calling was as a Christian evangelist, but now my calling is to locate and train 144,000 Jewish young men in the knowledge of who Jesus is and for them to understand the work that He accomplished two-thousand years ago. Everything that has happened over the last two-thousand years has transpired to bring us to this point in history to fulfill all the prophecies from both the Tanach as well as the Brit Hadassah (New Testament).

With the fulfillment of the sixty-nine weeks of years, found in Daniel Chapter Nine, God’s two-thousand-year relationship with the Jewish people was drawing to a close. Because they rejected His Messiah, God rejected them and turned his attention to the Gentiles, what Paul describes as the dispensation of grace. Many call it the church age.

This still left a seven-year period, the seventieth year, where we see God fulfilling His promises with the Jewish people and the holy city of Jerusalem as recorded prophetically by John in the book of Revelation.

The events of several months ago, particularly concerning the night of the Feast of Trumpets, started the prophetic clock ticking once again. The final seven-year period is well underway and is designed for God to reveal Himself to His chosen race, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This period of time is referred to by your rabbis as ‘the time of Jacob’s distress’ (Jeremiah 30:7).



“My lesson, coming out of the chute, as we American’s say, is from the Gospel of John. Allow me to read from Chapter three, Verse one through Verse twenty-one.”

‘Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Him by night, and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”’

‘Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”’

‘Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”’

‘Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

‘Nicodemus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?”’

“Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness.

If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

That whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.

For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

“The first thing we see is that some of the rabbis were looking into this man’s pedigree, so to speak. This Pharisee is to be commended. He was cautious, he came by night, but he was observant and

inquisitive which is how anybody ought to be, especially when someone is making bold assertions about themselves and are working miracles besides.”

“Nicodemus openly acknowledged that the man was of God because of the miracles. He called them signs. Many Old Testament passages indicated that the Messiah would come opening the eyes of the blind, restoring hearing to the deaf, giving speech to the dumb and of course, turning water into wine. I can reference Isaiah 35:5-6, 42:7, 29:18-19, and Psalm 146:8-9.”

“But then Jesus says something no one saw coming. “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot SEE the kingdom of God.”

“Let me address this concept of the KINGDOM of God. There is much confusion and different teachings about this topic. Both John the Baptist and Jesus appear on the scene preaching, “Repent, for the KINGDOM of heaven is at hand.” This is recorded in Matthew 3:2 and 4:17,” said John.

“Question? Is the idea of the ‘Kingdom’ something new or can we find references to it in the Tanach? Go with me to Daniel Chapter 7:13-18. Follow along:”

“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a KINGDOM. That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away. And His KINGDOM is one which will not be destroyed.”

“In Verse eighteen Daniel writes,

“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.”

“Now there have been several misconceptions concerning this KINGDOM as prophesied. The Jews were looking for a physical kingdom, not unlike King David’s kingdom. This was not yet to be. Jesus points this out for us in John 18:36 where He tells Pontius

Pilate:”

“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

“Certain dispensationalists will argue that God intended for there to be an earthly kingdom two thousand years ago, but the Jews rejected Jesus as their king. Because God’s plan was brought to naught, the church age was a stop-gap measure, so say the dispensationalists. This was put into place until the time when He was able to correct this unforeseen issue of rejection. The scriptures don’t support this theory. It makes God out to be less than all-knowing and all-powerful.”

“In Matthew Chapter 16, Verses 13-19, Jesus responds to Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Messiah, or the Christ:”

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, (Petros) and upon this rock (Petra, the rock being Peter’s confession), I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the KINGDOM of Heaven...”

“The church was not an afterthought. It was the purpose for His coming. Keys do two things; they open and they close.”

“And whatever you shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven and whatever you shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

“Jesus uses two terms as synonyms in these verses; The CHUCH and the KINGDOM.”

“Follow me now to Mark Chapter Nine, Verse one.”

“And he was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste of death until they see the KINGDOM of God after it has come with power””

“In Luke 23:42, as Jesus was dying, the thief on the cross said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”

As of Christs’ death, the kingdom had still not come. Remember, Jesus said, “The gates of Hades shall not overpower it”, meaning My death will not prevent the kingdom from coming. The truth is, it took His death to pay the legal purchase price for the kingdom, His blood. After His resurrection, He made this statement found in Luke 24:49:”

“And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

“On the last of the forty days of His appearing, the disciples were gathered with Jesus and asked Him a question pertaining to the promise of the coming kingdom (Acts 1:6-8):”

“And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

“Again, the implication here is that the kingdom had still not arrived:”

“He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive

POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...””

“Remember the verse from Mark Chapter nine:”

“There are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste of death...”

“Judas was the exception,” John interjected.

“until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

“And Jesus, in the book of Acts, told the apostles that the Holy Spirit was the power.”

“Ten days later, in Acts Chapter two, on the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came; which is to say the KINGDOM came. Remember, His kingdom is not of this world but is rather a spiritual kingdom.”

“A kingdom needs three basic things to exist. One, it needs a king. That would be Jesus. A king needs subjects to rule over. That would be the ‘called out’, the church. And thirdly, there must be law. We now operate under the government of the New Covenant. No longer are the ten commandments, six hundred thirteen ordinances or the traditions of Moses binding, in that they were all fulfilled by Jesus, along with all the first coming prophesies.”

“After Acts Chapter two, any reference to the KINGDOM is spoken of in the past tense, as having already come. For instance, in Colossians 1:13:”

“For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the KINGDOM of His beloved Son.”

“Now, last question. Will there be an earthly kingdom? Absolutely. After Christ Jesus returns to earth at the end of the seven-year tribulation period, which we entered this last Feast of Trumpets.” “Now I said all that to say this. Back to John Chapter Three.

Jesus states that unless one is ‘born again’ he cannot SEE the kingdom. We’ve already learned that His kingdom would be a spiritual one that can only be seen through eyes of faith.”

“Poor Nicodemus is blindsided and is only thinking in physical terms. But then Jesus says this, and in doing so He ups the ante:” “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born...”

“Jesus doesn’t repeat Himself, saying, ‘Born again’. It is implied.”

“...unless one is born of WATER and the SPIRIT he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

“Previously he used the term ‘see’ but now He states cannot ‘enter’ the kingdom. And we’ve learned that the church which He promised to build is synonymous with the kingdom, the church simply being the subjects of the kingdom. The church is where Jesus reigns and rules in the hearts of saved believers and is not some country or city here on planet earth.”

“So how does one ‘enter’ this kingdom? I am an American citizen because I was born in America. Most of you are Israeli citizens because you were born in Israel. But some of you have transferred your citizenship from America, or Ethiopia, or perhaps Russia and have become citizens of Israel. A few of you have dual citizenship. No one can simply be born into this spiritual kingdom. Nor can you just show up at some church door steps and become a member just based on your presence there. Jesus said one who’s already been born of the flesh must be born a second time, a spiritual birth. Coming to Israel and hanging around makes you a tourist, not a citizen.”

“This new birth encompasses two elements, water and Spirit. It takes both to be born again in the sight of God; for Him to accept you as a citizen of His kingdom. So let’s break down these two elements. Let’s start with the first. Water. Let’s not make this harder than it has to be. Many denominational folks would have you believe that Jesus is referring to natural childbirth here, by correlating the modern layman’s term associated with the ‘breaking of the water sack’. Women going into labor today say ‘my water broke’. Of course, it is not water. You wouldn’t want to drink it. The term means the amniotic fluid that surrounds the fetus in the womb.”

“I want to suggest to you this is not what Jesus had in mind.

Jesus was already talking to a man who had been born naturally. When

Jesus was done speaking with Nicodemus, who became a disciple by the way, here’s what we read immediately afterwards, in John Chapter 3, Verses 22-23:”

“After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea; and there He was spending time with them, and baptizing. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salem, because there was much WATER there; and they were coming and were being baptized.”

“Baptism, done biblically, requires much water. Sprinkling or pouring do not act as a substitute or replacement for ‘Baptizo’ which in the Greek means to immerse or submerge in water.”

“Question. What was required of Jesus before He was able to shoulder the mantle of the Messiah with all its duties and responsibilities? Go with me to Matthew 3:13-17:”

“Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus

answering said to him, “Permit it at this time, for in this way it is fitting for us to FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Then He permitted him.”

“And AFTER being baptized...”

“Did everyone catch that phrase? After being baptized, not before,” said John rather emphatically.

“And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold a voice out of the heavens saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

“Despite the fact we are not told how or why submitting Himself to baptism helps to FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS, we can safely conclude that it does. Regardless of whether we understand it or not, Jesus could not have received the Holy Spirit and been acknowledged by Almighty God as His beloved Son. Not until he had been baptized in water.”

“Thus far, through the ministry of John the Baptist, baptism was associated with ‘baptism unto repentance’. Repentance might help balance the scales of justice but it did nothing to remove the deadly stain of sin on one’s soul. The take away here is that God’s Word is showing us the significance that baptism, in WATER, would play in regards to entering into the KINGDOM of God.”

“You see, or maybe you don’t yet but you will, baptism is one of the main reasons that all the denominational groups failed to be a part of the catching up, or as some call it, the rapture which took place this past Rosh Hashanah or Feast of Trumpets. The simple reason is that over the last five hundred years they have been taught that it was not a requirement, or prerequisite for salvation. In a nutshell, they were all following the right MAN, but they were following the wrong PLAN.”

“How do I know that baptism is a necessity for salvation? Easy. Jesus said so, Paul said so, and Peter said so, as do a few of the stories of the Tanach.”

“After Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus gave His ‘marching orders’ to His apostles:”

“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed...” “Has believed is past tense. Question. Believed what?”

Jonathan, who had been following closely uttered out loud, “Believed the gospel!”

“Yes,” said John. Now, what is the gospel?”

Both men shrugged their shoulders and threw up their hands.

“Go with me to First Corinthians Chapter 15, Verse one through four for the answer. Paul wrote:”

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the GOSPEL which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved.”

“So here, Paul contends that the gospel has to do with our salvation.”

“If you hold fast the Word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,”

“Listen up, now. Paul is going to identify the gospel that he preached years earlier at Corinth.”

“That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures.”

“Of course, all they had in the way of scriptures back then was the Tanach. It’s all there, laid out in the Old Testament. Over three hundred prophecies all pointing to one man born to a particular tribe, from a virgin birth, in a particular backwater town. The list just goes on and on and on. Let’s jump back to Mark 16:16 now that we all know that the term ‘gospel’ refers to Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.”

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized...shall be SAVED; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

“Are you taking note that there are basically two requirements that precede salvation? The first being that one has to believe in the atoning death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The second being that one must be baptized.”

“Another way of saying this goes back to our conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, when Jesus stated, ‘unless a man is born of water’...that is baptism, ‘and Spirit’...that is, believes the gospel, ‘he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Now let’s go to John Chapter three.”

“We’ve only scratched the surface about baptism but let’s hone in on the second requirement, born of the ‘Spirit’. The more general topic being discussed by Jesus is called being ‘BORN AGAIN’.

“In I Peter 1:3 we read:”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be BORN AGAIN to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

“Here again, we have a portion of the gospel, Christ’s resurrection from the dead, being the force that causes us to be ‘born again’. And remember now, Jesus said one has to ‘believe’ the gospel as a prerequisite to being saved. Drop down to verse twenty-three of I Peter:” “For you have been ‘born again’.

“Notice this is in the past tense,” John said.

“not of seed which is perishable but, imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding WORD of God.”

“So, what exactly is this speaking of? What kind of seed is Peter referring to? We find the answer in the parable of the sower of the seed found in Mark Chapter four and Luke 8:4-15. There are two different kinds of seed being discussed. First is agricultural seed like corn, beans, wheat. This is ‘perishable seed’ subject to rot, decay, blight or being eaten. Then Jesus draws a parallel between it and another type of seed:”

“And His disciples began questioning Him as to what the parable might be. And He said, “To you it is granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, in order that seeing, they may not see, and hearing, they may not understand. Now the parable is this; the SEED is the Word of God.”

“You might be surprised to know that in the agricultural world there are three types of seed available for farmers to use for sowing. One is called heirloom seed. This is the original seed that God created on day three back in Genesis. Then there is hybrid seed where two different types of seed are cross bred creating a new fruit. Like mixing an orange with a tangerine and producing a ‘tangelo’. Then there is a third kind of seed called G.M.O. seed.”

“This stands for ‘genetically modified organism’. Monsanto Company developed this type of seed in the laboratory by removing the D.N.A. that would allow farmers from taking a portion of this year’s

harvest and using it to replant next years' crop. It will simply not grow. It is dead and farmers and herdsmen who use this type of feed have encountered disease and sickness in their herds and many refuse to use it any longer."

"Seed coming from hybrid fruit and vegetables will also not grow and reproduce. The only seed that can reproduce is the heirloom, original seed."

"We are all aware that seed produces after its own kind; tomato seed produces tomatoes, orange seed produces orange trees."

"What does this 'imperishable seed' that Jesus called the 'Word of God' produce? Let's look at Romans 10:17 for the answer:"

"So, FAITH comes from hearing and hearing by the 'Word of Christ'."

"Let's look at two other passages; John 16:13 and John 17:17:"

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth..."

"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy WORD is truth."

"By taking the knowledge of these verses and applying them back to John Chapter three Verse five, I quote:"

"Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

"One is born of the water when he is baptized. One is born of the Spirit when one believes. This is why salvation is preceded by, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved."

"In conclusion, the two types of unfruitful seed, the hybrid and the G.M.O., represent the entirety of the denominational world. They all begin with the Bible, which represents the pure heirloom seed, but then they either introduce some other teaching, practice or name in addition to the Bible, thus creating a hybrid religion; Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, Mormon, etc. Or, they cut something out of the New Testament teaching, thus creating a G.M.O. religion. Those seeds look like the original to some extent from the exterior, but inside they are different and there is no life within them. This, as it turns out, is why all the denominations are still here. Those who went up months ago were not the trouble makers as Pope Francis would have you believe. They were those who were truly in Christ. I look forward to your questions. Please go to our new website at [www.the144000.space](http://www.the144000.space) and sign up for all our upcoming lessons.

Shalom, this is John Meskwa Anang signing off."

"When John took off his microphone, he turned to look at Jonathan and David. They were transfixed as if they had seen a ghost. Neither could speak or move. It was obvious that John's lesson had reached their hearts."

John clapped his hands and said loudly, "Can anyone go for some ice tea?" At the loud clap, the two men came back down to earth.

"Yes, that would be great," they replied in unison.

## Chapter 8

### 143,998 To Go

After a hot cup of tea and a nosh, David was the first to speak. “John, what you just taught has made more sense to me and has given me more insight than I can convey to you. And I know you said that you were only scratching the surface. Let me get this right. Are you suggesting that to become a Christian, a Jesus follower, all one has to do is believe in His death, burial, and resurrection and be baptized? To be accepted into the Jewish faith, one must memorize all six hundred thirteen laws, learn to speak and read in Hebrew and be circumcised along with adhering to all the customs and traditions.” “Yes, that’s pretty much all there is to it,” replied John.

“As long as one has been taught correctly and baptized for the right reason. Let me show you an example in the book of Acts Chapter eight. You know what a proselyte is, correct?” asked John.

“Yes, a Gentile who has converted to Judaism,” replied Jonathan.

“Ok, right, then let me start in Acts eight. We find Philip, an evangelist, being sent to an Ethiopian eunuch who was in fact a practicing Jew, a proselyte, as he was returning from Jerusalem to worship.”

“And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot. And when Philip had run up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “Well, how could I unless someone guide me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of scripture which he was reading was this: “He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He does not open His mouth. In humiliation His judgement was taken away; who shall relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth.”

And the eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?”

And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this scripture he preached Jesus to him.”



“For two-thousand years the Jewish rabbis have rejected the idea that Jesus was the subject of Isaiah 53. But under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, one Jew, Philip, preached Jesus to another Jew, the eunuch. Now pay attention to what transpires next to properly answer your earlier question, David,” John continued.

And as they went along the road they came to some water;”

“I can only envision an oasis with some tents, camels, and palm trees,” John said with a smile.

“and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

“Now let’s pause for a moment,” said John. “Had there been any mention of baptism prior to the eunuch’s question?” asked John.

“No, none that I can see,” replied Jonathan. John looked at David with an inquisitive look. “No, John, no mention at all,” said David.

“Correct,” said John. “What we do see however, is that Philip preached Jesus to him. The only reason the eunuch would ask about baptism is that in ‘preaching Jesus’ to him, Philip much have included baptism in his teaching. The great commission says to go and preach the gospel, which is what Philip was doing. Jesus included ‘and has been baptized’, so it stands to reason that Philip taught the eunuch about baptism when he ‘preached Jesus’ to him.

David answered, “It makes perfect sense to me, John. Point well taken.”

“Let’s continue,” said John. “There is one, and only one thing that would stand in the eunuch’s way of being baptized.”

“Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”

“David, back to your original question when you asked, “To become a Christian, all one has to do is believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and to be baptized?”

“Philip didn’t tell the eunuch, “You need to repent of your sins, you need to bow your head and say the sinner’s prayer, you need to take a vow of poverty and chastity, you need to keep certain festivals and feast days and you need to stop drinking caffeine. He said none of that. Just believe with all your heart and be baptized. As simple and plain as that is, men have screwed it up almost from the very start. That’s why I’m so thankful that God saw fit to have His Word, His teaching, written for all posterity. Here is something worth thinking about. Satan knows he can’t make a frontal assault on people who have faith in the gospel. So, he gives little resistance to those of faith. But then he deviously and deceptively turned his attention to the second and only other requirement, which is baptism.

He has relentlessly attacked this subject from the church’s inception. First, under Satan’s influence, baptism was changed to sprinkling and pouring. Then his influence allowed for baptizing infants. This was followed by the Anabaptist theology that salvation was by faith only and baptism was simply an outward sign, or symbol, that one had been saved. Therein lies the problem that has plagued the Lord’s church from its beginning. Now back to the text.”

“And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered, and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water,

the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.”

As John turned to where Jonathan was sitting, he noticed tears streaming down his cheeks falling to the floor.

“Jonathan, what’s wrong?” asked John.

“Nothing is wrong. Everything is right,” replied a tearful Jonathan. “I feel like I’ve been waiting to hear this truth my entire life. With all the commandments of Moses, and my sin standing between me and God, and with me failing nearly each and every day, I have never felt that a relationship with God was possible. But now I am beginning to see that Jesus fulfilled all those commandments which made Him the pure, unblemished Passover lamb that was sacrificed to save me from death and bondage to sin. Just like in Egypt with the first Passover. John, I want to be baptized right now, today!” “Me too,” echoed David, who had also started crying.

“Not so fast,” said John. “There now exists another requirement.”

“I don’t get it,” said David. “You just said that believing was the only requirement prior to being baptized.”

“Yes, I did, and that was all under the dispensation of grace which started on the first Pentecost fifty-three days after Christ’s death. But now we are no longer under the age of grace. The tribulation saints are described as being under a different dispensation which is revealed in Revelation Chapter seven. After naming all the tribes from which the 144,000 come, the next verse says (Revelation 7:9):”

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the lamb clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the lamb’. And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Those who are clothed in white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?’ And I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB....’

“This simply says that those who would follow the lamb will have to die. The means of death referred to repeatedly in Revelation is by beheading. I would be remiss if I failed to point this out to you. There are many similar passages found in the Revelation,” John said as a tear formed in the corner of his eyes.

“Is that it? Is that all,” asked both young men.

“Oh, and he adds, ‘those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand’. That’s it.”

“So, what are we waiting for? Will you baptize us?” Jonathan asked as he turned to David, then back to John.

“Well, ok then,” said John with a huge smile on his face. “I’ve got one question for you Jonathan and David. Do the two of you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God and do you believe in His atoning death, burial, and resurrection?”

Jonathan answered, “Yes, I believe in the atoning death, burial, and resurrection and I am not just willing to live for Jesus. I am ready to die for Him as well.”

David repeated the same answer almost word for word.

“Well, let’s grab a few towels and go find some water,” said John as he wiped the tears from the corners of his eyes.

Jonathan led the way to a city park he knew of that had a large fountain. “Is this deep enough?” asked Jonathan.

The water appeared to be at least two feet deep and John nodded his approval. “The horse trough we used at our church was two feet deep,” John mentioned with a nostalgic expression on his face.

After removing their shoes, socks, and wallets along with cell phones and belts, John and the young men stepped into the water.

“Because of your public confession of faith in Jesus and because God is still in the business of saving souls, by the authority of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I hereby baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of yours sins.”

As John finished immersing both young men, he happened to glance off to his left and noticed a yeshiva student capturing by cell phone the entire scene in the fountain. The young man quickly pocketed his phone and vanished into a crowd. With the excitement of the moment, John soon forgot the invasion of their privacy as he hugged both young men and welcomed them into the Lord’s church.

The day was coming to a close and John suggested that Jonathan and David come back to his room for more Bible study at a later date. This would provide them with a good opportunity to brainstorm how to reach out and identify the remaining 144,000. “But now we only need to locate 139,998,” quipped John in his usual dry manner.

## **Two Days Later**

John answered his ringing phone to learn that Jonathan was calling. “John, this is Jonathan. David and I are headed your way. We have been busy and have some good news to share.” “I’ll see you in a few minutes,” came John’s reply.

As John opened the door, the two young men were beaming with excitement.

“Over the last forty-eight hours we have been able to sign up over thirteen-thousand students, most of whom have already viewed your first video. As they reach out to their friends and friends of friends, it won’t be long before we meet our goal. You need to get more lessons ready as soon as possible,” Jonathan said.

“Praise the Lord,” said John. Truly God has been busy getting everything lined up.”

David said, “Isaiah 55:11 says:”

“So shall My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

“So, if God said He had 144,000 then He will perform it as He said.”

“Agreed,” said John.

As the days turned into weeks, and the weeks into months, John, along with Jonathan and David’s help, created dozens of gospel teaching videos. John answered most of the questions on live chats and a few by text and email. John knew he only had a five-month window before Planet X came by on its return journey. It would take a deep elliptical path that would unleash another round of devastation to the planet during which time there would be something like a ‘great star falling from heaven, burning like a torch’. It would kill one third of life on land and in the oceans. As a result of its impact, one third of the light of the sun, moon and stars could not reach the earth.

John knew that his beloved country and friends he had made over his lifetime would be destroyed, gone up in a puff of smoke. Fortunately for him, he had little time to dwell on these thoughts as he stayed busy from sunup to well past sundown trying to prepare these young men for the challenge that lay just ahead.

Then the proverbial calm before the storm came as the television stations were flooded with N.A.S.A. and E.S.A. space shots from Hubble and I.R.A.S. cameras showing Planet X’s approach in the opposite direction from which it first came into view.

First came hail and fire. Then there were hail stones weighing up to one-hundred pounds and then molten hot meteors. This was followed by a repeat of plasma discharges and thunder so loud that those in proximity had their ear drums burst. As in the first passing, another huge earthquake occurred in Northern Iraq which effectively dried up the Euphrates River.

The entire American continent was destroyed and left without life. A third of life in the oceans died as one third of the ships were destroyed from the tidal wave of a fifteen-mile-wide asteroid landing in the South Pacific Ocean. Around the world nuclear power plants, the ones that remained after the polar shift, were destroyed by large meteors and small asteroids making direct hits on their cores. The escaping nuclear waste waters ran into the streams and rivers as well as soaking into the soil to belowground aquifers. Millions more died.

As if by a miracle, the entire nation of Israel was spared from these judgements. After the dust settled, people around the world began to take stock of the damage. Some countries fared much better than others. One disturbing fact leaked out, that is, the world leaders and many of the elite had perished in their underground bunkers. The power of the earthquakes fractured continental plates and what had been their sanctuaries in fact became their tombs. There would be no ‘continuity’ of government. The entire world was ripe for the picking. If a new charismatic world leader were to arise with answers and solutions, there would be no one to deter him from taking charge. He would be welcomed with open arms by one and all.

John Anang, after emerging from his underground shelter, also took stock. The fruit of his labors had yielded him 144,000 light bearers of truth and grace. He had personally baptized about three thousand young men who in turn baptized many others. All he could do now was tell them all to go out to the lost sheep of Israel and to preach the gospel. On the outside John beamed with pride for all these young men. But in his heart, he wept, knowing that eventually they would all be martyred for their faith. He prayed for all of them, nonstop, that not one of them would succumb to temptation.

## **Chapter 9**

### **The False Messiah**

Rabbi Z had kept busy during the last year caring for his students, keeping them safe and ensuring that their education was on track despite all the chaos, death and disruptions. He knew that birth pangs are but for a season and once the Messiah was ‘birthed’ all would revert back to normal, or as he reasoned, a new normal, whatever may come. When Messiah comes and the Temple is rebuilt, the past year would be a distant memory. That’s what drove him and kept him on course.

It broke his heart when he saw a video someone had posted online of two of his students being baptized. He decided that they were now dead to him but he kept the matter to himself. He would wait until the next graduation class to spring it on them, by refusing them their rite of passage.

About one week after the second passing of Planet X, an announcement was made on television that Pope Francis would be speaking from the balcony of his personal chambers; not only to Catholics, but to a worldwide audience.

Rabbi Z called to the auditorium all who were not busy teaching a class in order to view the telecast. With the vast majority of the world leader’s dead, the Pope was one of the few known and respected leaders to whom people could turn during these uncertain times.

Pope Francis stepped out onto his balcony and walked up to the waiting microphone. “Brothers and sisters of the world, Maranatha, come quickly Lord. Our astrophysicists have given the all-clear sign regarding the passing of Planet X. Unfortunately, we who have survived will be living with the after affects for some time. But this too will pass. It is now time to pick up where life left off before Planet

X. We have new challenges as well as new opportunities before us. Like the mythology of the Phoenix rising from the ashes, so too shall something far better rise from the ashes. It appears, however, that one strategic nation stands in the way of the world powers moving forward to form a new one world government, as well as a new one world religion.

As we speak, one of the generals from the United Nations, Vespasious Muhammad, is amassing a large army that will once again level Jerusalem and break apart those who stand opposed to the formation of a single, unified coalition of nations. We cannot allow this obstinate people who cling to old, outdated ideologies to stand in the way of progress. As I said earlier, the trouble makers have been removed and are being reprogrammed. Those who readapt will be welcomed back. Those who do not, will be eliminated. It is truly sad that force will once again have to be utilized unless another solution can be quickly agreed upon. Until then, Jerusalem will be put on lock down. No one in or out; no goods will pass in or out either, until a solution emerges.”

Rabbi Z was stunned, as were the other men who had been listening. Who was this general and from whom did he receive his orders? Generally, everyone agreed that Israel would not be willing to go along with these lofty goals of creating a one world government and relinquishing its sovereignty to some other power. We are God’s chosen people and He and His designated, ordained leaders’ rule over His people. After the Holocaust, the guiding principle became ‘Never again’. Yet here we are once more.

This conversation went on for hours as the thought of losing sovereign control stirred passions nearly to the boiling point.

Later that night, Rabbi Z finally calmed down enough to ready himself for bed. It was out of character for him to get so excited. But the prospects of another war against Israel, despite all the horrific changes that the world just came through, rattled him to the core. He was a man of peace awaiting the coming of Israel’s Messiah.

Although Rabbi Z fell into a deep sleep, his dreams were most disturbing and more vivid than any he could remember in his one hundred years on this earth. When he failed to come to breakfast the next morning, a young student was sent to his room to check on him. Standing at his door, he could hear the Rabbi’s alarm buzzing. Finally, he knocked on the door. There was no answer. Mustering up all his courage, he opened the door. His fears faded when Rabbi Z opened his eyes and turning to the young student, greeted him with a hearty ‘Shalom’. “Sorry, young man. I just had to see this dream of mine through to its end,” said the rabbi. “Run along now. Tell the chef to hold a plate for me. I’ll be along shortly.”

This was the kind of dream one has which never needs to be written down. This sort of dream will never be forgotten. Rabbi Z saw the face of the Messiah. That is not something one forgets.

Shortly after breakfast Major General Eyal Zamir stood knocking on Rabbi Z’s office door.

“Shalom, enter,” said the rabbi as he stood to shake the general’s hand. “Have a seat, General. What brings you to my humble establishment this morning?”

“Well, rabbi, this morning the I.D.F. has been put on full alert. Now that the rioting has calmed down to nearly nothing, something new pops up to replace it. We are pulling back to prepare for war. Our interim Knesset and acting Prime Minister are resisting all efforts to force Israel to concede our sovereignty to the United Nations. You, Rabbi, as much as anyone, know the dreadful history of our people and our pledge, ‘Never Again’. Be sure to resupply your air raid bunkers to full capacity. I’m

sorry to say we can no longer provide your school the protection we had put in place. The invading forces are already amassing in southern Syria and will be headed south towards Jerusalem. If they make it this far, we will be at a real disadvantage.

Without our nuclear abilities it appears they have a superior advantage. The outcome would be unsure. That's all I can say at the present. It's time once again to pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Two Weeks Later

As a result of the U.F.O.'s disabling all nuclear capabilities around the world, the invading force had the upper hand simply due to their size. Israel's forces were not large enough to stop the invaders from making their way south to just north of modern-day Jerusalem.

With the I.D.F. in full retreat they did, however, leave troops and tanks inside the city limits. Soon the inhabitants of Jerusalem were surrounded. This situation went unchanged for weeks. Nothing came in, nothing went out. The U.N. forces seemed reluctant to attack the city. During this time, negotiations were underway through back channels, but the Israeli's were ready and prepared to fight to the death; to the very last man.

Rabbi Z hatched a plan. He did not want to see Jerusalem razed, as had occurred in 70 A.D. He had a light weight coffin delivered to his school. Later that evening he called for Jonathan and David to assist him.

"Men, I need your help. I'm pulling this plan from an old playbook. It worked then and I'm praying it will work now. You are to place this coffin on the back of our old pick-up truck with me in it. I'll be playing dead. You two drive to the northern checkpoint. And if they ask who it was that died, tell the guards that the Chief Rabbi from our school passed away. If they refuse you passage, you are to say that we're not permitted to let a corpse remain in Jerusalem overnight. They will let you through. Then under cover of darkness, take me to the front line and tell the sentries you wish to speak to the General, Vespasious Muhammad.

Just before sunset Jonathan and David set out toward Highway 60N. The guards cautioned them not to travel far north as this is where the main army encampment was stationed. After driving about fifteen minutes, they slowly approached the first check point. The soldiers wore blue helmets and sported AK47's. Two Merkava's, also known as 'chariots', were manned and ready to fire if called upon.

Jonathan pleaded with the guards for passage to General Vespasious. He told them that their deceased, beloved rabbi had a message of peace to deliver, even though it be from the grave. A quick peek inside the coffin corroborated their story and ensured that there were no explosives hidden inside. Just an aged rabbi, Yohanan ben Zakkai, whose time had come to an end.

Unbelievably, the guards agreed to let them through the check point. An escort, one in front and one following, led them up the highway for about ten more minutes.

Jumping out of the cab of the pick-up, Johnathan and David slid the coffin out and carried it up to the Mobile Command Unit parked in an open parking lot. The escort had already radioed ahead. Flood lights came on as out stepped General Vespasious Muhammad, viewing two Jews holding a coffin. The two young men were shocked at the general's huge size. He stood over seven feet tall and was easily three-hundred pounds of solid, chiseled muscle.

"General Vespasious, Sir. My name is Jonathan Cohen and this is my fellow student, David Levine. We bring you important news from our venerable Rabbi, Yohanan ben Zakkai, blessed be his memory, from his own mouth."

“What, do dead men speak now?” Vespacious asked with a sarcastic smirk on his face.

At this, the two young men sat the coffin down and took a step back. As the lid slowly opened, all the AK47's were poised to open fire as Vespacious stumbled backwards.

To everyone's surprise, the elderly rabbi sat up with his prayer shawl draped over his head and shoulders. Slowly he raised himself out of this would-be death chamber. As he was in the middle of his hearty greeting, “Shalom, are you the great General Vespacious?”, a change in his countenance ended with him barely being able to get the final words out of his mouth.

It was obvious to all that Vespacious was amused at this clever ruse but before he could give an appropriate response, the aged rabbi jumped out of the coffin and prostrated himself before the general.

Both Jonathan and David were shocked. This was not appropriate behavior for a Jew, especially a learned rabbi, to subjugate himself before another man. This position of humility was reserved for deity. Only one person in this group of men (other than the Rabbi) considered this action to be appropriate, Vespacious himself.

As Rabbi Z stood up, he said that he had feigned his death, escaping the lockdown in the city to try to broker a peace deal in order to spare the Holy City. He offered up that he had received a dream vision in which the Messiah's face was revealed to him, but that all this could wait until morning if it pleased the general.

At this revelation, the general was wide awake. “Please, come in to our command center and enjoy some food and drink. Do you drink tea?” asked Vespacious, as he gave orders for the guard units to return to the front lines.

After the first cup of tea was finished, the rabbi cleared his throat and began to tell of his dream vision.

“About five weeks ago, it was shown to me that Israel was to be spared a future attack. The United Nations army under your command is here because we Jews regard our sovereignty as sacred and will not give in to pressure to surrender our sovereignty to anyone but the LORD, Yahweh, or His Messiah. In my dream, I was shown the image of the Messiah's face. And you, General Vespacious Muhammad are the Messiah. It was your face that I saw. With my contacts and influence, I will be able to persuade our people to not only surrender our arms to you, but to honor you with all due respect.”

There was complete silence in the room. No one moved; no one spoke. Suddenly the rabbi reached into his coat pocket and pulled out a glass container of pure olive oil. As he started pouring out the oil on the general's head, he professed that God's anointed had arrived to bring peace between Israel and her neighbors. No longer would there be enmity, violence, and bloodshed between the Jews, the Palestinians, and the Arabs.

After the initial shock wore off, Vespacious felt obligated to reveal to Rabbi Z that his mother was one hundred per cent of Jewish ancestry, but that the identity of his biological father was unknown. His mother later married an Arabian prince who saw to his upbringing with the best of schools. He had graduated at the top of his class with a commission into the army of Italy. He had been raised as a Roman with close ties to the Vatican. At the age of thirty, he was recruited and advanced to general by the United Nations Army Corps and that this was his first assignment under this newly acquired command. And now that Jerusalem would soon give into his demands for surrender, he felt that the future was his. No obstacle could stand in his way. He felt that all his lofty dreams and aspirations for power and wealth were at his fingertips and about to be realized. And now, this aged rabbi would be the catalyst for bringing this all to pass.



As the general was reaching across the table to pour himself another cup of tea, Jonathan noticed a red mark, a tattoo, on the general's right hand which read 'DCLXVI', or 666 in Roman numerals. Jonathan filed this away for a later discussion with John Anang.

After promising to meet together very soon, the rabbi bid his good nights and he and the two students returned to the city. In his hands was a letter of passage written and signed by Vespacious that ensured they would be able to pass all the check points.

On the short trip back, there was total silence until, suddenly, all three started talking at once. Again, silence. Then the rabbi spoke.

"Jonathan, David, I saw the video of you both being baptized by that American Indian preacher. You both broke my heart. Now, unless you both repent of this decision, neither of you will be ordained in the upcoming ordination ceremonies that are being planned. Even if you do, I'm not sure that either of you are now worthy of the title, 'Rabbi'. To me, you are both dead. You have both now become aware of the true Messiah's identity. Have no doubts about it, this man will bring true peace to Israel and assist in rebuilding the Temple. This Jesus you took an oath to follow was and is a fraud. You have until

the day before graduation to reconsider. You will soon see with your own eyes that this man, Vespacious, is our long-awaited Messiah."

Both men wisely remained silent and withheld giving an answer directly. Both thought it best to talk with John at the next available moment before addressing the rabbi's ultimatum.

Sleep that night was simply not to be had for any of the three.

With the total destruction of New York City, the Council at the United Nations had decided to move their headquarters south of the city of Baghdad, fifty-five miles away, to Babylon. In short time, Saddam Hussein's rebuilt city was retrofitted to meet the needs of a reconstituted United Nations. With the void in leadership around the world and the absence of America's influence, the U.N. vision was now in sharp focus and being fast tracked to full implementation. With the world in an upheaval, the cream was quickly rising to the top. The world leader was soon to be known by one and all, not just by an aged rabbi and two of his students.

Before Rabbi Z was able to gain audience with the acting leadership of Israel to discuss a peaceful surrender to General Vespacious, the general was, unbeknownst to anyone, taken back to Vatican City by a small transport U.F.O. later that very night.

With tensions in Jerusalem high, but in check, each side was content to observe an unspoken cease fire.

# Chapter 10

## Smoke and Blood

“This meeting will now come to order,” said Sir Anthony Rothchild. “The Order of the Illumined Ones, sound off as your name is called.”

It went without saying that many of the names had been scrubbed from the rolls, including the previous head speaker, Sir

Reginald Stillwell. Over fifty percent had perished in their multimillion-dollar underground bunkers, which became their final resting places. Fitting tombs with all the amenities, not unlike the tombs of the Pharaohs, encased in the stone pyramids, surrounded by gold, silver, servants, and food for the journey into the afterlife. So much for D.U.M.B.s.

Conspicuously present was a new, yet familiar face. He sat next to Pope Francis and next to the Pope sat Father Arturo Sosa, Jesuit Superior General. Beside him sat Sir Zadok.

It was now the witching hour where there would be few peering eyes above ground to take notice of a steady stream of black robed men as they entered the doorway to the Vatican underground catacombs.

The four Guardia Svizzera Pontificia (Swiss Guards) who guarded this doorway were all sworn thirty-three-degree Free Masons. They acted as the ‘Tyler’ officers to rebuff intrusions in official Masonic meetings.

The dark, stony corners and alcoves carved into solid rock surrounding the main Hall were lit only by torches protruding from the wall and hanging chandeliers made of human skulls. At the end of the roll call, one last name was read, that of General Vespasious

Muhammad.

As the General arose from his seat, each member rose simultaneously. A thunderous applause erupted, with loud shouting. Five minutes later, General Vespasious motioned for the members to be seated and come to order.

Sir Anthony Rothchild continued. “Most of you have known

General Vespasious from his childhood.” More applause exploded, and Sir Rothchild motioned for silence. “But now he has come into his own, for such a time as this. Most of you know his step father who helped raise him, Sir Josephus Muhammad. But what most of you do not know is the true identity of his biological father. May I remind all of you of the blood oath you have sworn to, regarding the secrets of Free Masonry. We all know the name of his biological mother, Miriam. Now I will reveal the name of his biological father.” After a long pause, Sir Rothchild announced the name, “Lucifer.”

The silence was deafening. No one dared to take a breath. The smoking torches seemed to dim. Smoke billowed forth, filling the room, making it even darker. One by one as the full realization of what had just been said sunk in, smiles spread across faces throughout the room. The Pope and the Jesuit General

were the first to prostrate themselves. In seconds, the entire lodge covered the floor with outstretched arms. Some were laughing; others were crying.

After basking in more praise than any other ego could absorb, Vespasious stepped to the microphone and with a commanding voice said, “All rise. Please, gentlemen, everyone take your seat. Thank you for your support. My father thanks you. When you honor me, you also honor him. Our moment has at long last come. No more waiting. The plans of world dominance which began long before Jehovah created Adam six-thousand years ago are now back on the fast track. What Nimrod could not accomplish after the flood is now attainable. I have a new ally that I recently encountered in Jerusalem who will aid in the removal of the final roadblock to world domination. One Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai. He anointed me with pure olive oil but I am here before you tonight to be officially and properly anointed. Not with olive oil but with human blood. Since life is in the blood, it is fitting for us to use blood. My father’s first child was Cain and this son was the first to spill human blood. I am Lucifer’s second son and my father and I are still at war with the descendants of Adam. There is still enmity between the woman’s ‘seed’ and my father’s ‘seed’. What happened two-thousand-years ago was a temporary setback.

With the advanced technology we have introduced through the Digital Angel microchip, we will have the ability to alter human’s D.N.A. with angel’s D.N.A. Their offspring will be in Lucifer’s image. But I digress. Tonight, is about Luciferian ordination. That namby-pamby do-gooder two-thousand-years ago didn’t receive His power until after He was baptized in water. Tonight, I will be baptized in human blood. We have lined up twenty-four virgins to help fill the vat, and here they are.”

Twenty-four beautiful, naked, young women were paraded out. Each was chained to the other. Each was drugged and unable to respond as they were seated, one by one. Blondes, brunettes, red heads, one more beautiful than the next. Each in turn had their throats cut in the same fashion that Kosher butchers use when bleeding sheep. One by one they were unshackled and carted off with grappling hooks, like dead cattle. Water was added to fill the remainder of the tub.

Vespasious approached Pope Francis, saying, “I consider you to be my John the Baptist. I have need to be baptized by you. Suffer it at this time, for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all unrighteousness.”

Taking off his robe, Vespasious stood completely naked. Pope Francis raised his right hand high and said, “By the authority of Lucifer, and his son the Mahdi and the Unholy Spirit, I baptize you to receive your power and your kingdom.”

And after being baptized, Vespasious went up immediately from the water and blood, and behold the heavenly vaults were opened and he saw the Spirit of Evil descending as a raven, and coming upon him.

And behold, a voice out of the catacombs saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Still naked, Vespasious returned to the podium to finish his short speech. “The Club of Rome has done a wonderful job of dividing the world into ten regions as planned. Tomorrow at 1:00 P.M. we will have a business meeting of the twenty-four elders to assign the ten locations to ten newly selected kings; to those who have worked the hardest and have remained faithful to the Nimrod Objectives. So, unless there is any further business, we will end with a prayer. May I? Oh, Mighty Architect of the Universe, the God of this world, Destroyer of all that is good, we beseech your favor upon us and our efforts to usher in your kingdom. May your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in the

underworld. I thank you, Father, that you have given to me the Keys of the Kingdom. In Your Unholy Name I pray.”

“In exactly one hour, as is our custom, the orgy begins.”

## **Chapter 11**

### **Apollyon Rises**

Following the night’s events, Rabbi Z wasted no time. Later that day, he met in Jerusalem with his contacts in the Knesset, along with Major General Eyal Zamir and others from the temporary ad hoc Sanhedrin.

Rabbi Z greeted the group with a heart “Shalom”. “Thank you for meeting with me on such short notice. Last night was a landmark night for Israel, Jerusalem and the Jewish people.” Pulling the letter of passage from his briefcase and pointing to the signature at the bottom, Rabbi Z proudly stated, “This signature is that of our long-awaited Messiah. Last night I left Jerusalem and had a face-to-face meeting with General Vespasious Muhammad. He is currently leading the United Nations invasion army now surrounding our Holy City. A few weeks ago, I had a dream vision where I was shown the face of the Messiah. Until last night I had never seen this man before. We talked for over an hour. The take away is that he wants to bless our land, our city and our people. His people. His mother is Jewish; he is Jewish. By surrendering our arms to him, he in turn will fashion a peace treaty between us and our enemies and we will be a part of a united, one world government with no borders. We will be allowed to maintain our laws and customs while benefitting from peaceful relations with all countries, and in particular our Muslim neighbors. And let’s remember, with our only ally, America, gone from the map, we don’t need more enemies. We need friends. This will pave the way by removing territorial arguments over the Temple Mount. The millennial third Temple is ours for the taking. This cannot be a bad thing, can it? What could possibly go wrong?”

After admitting that he, the rabbi, didn’t have all the answers, it was agreed that there seemed to be few options that would leave anything left standing in Jerusalem. This seemed to be the best, if not the only, way forward and in time everyone else could make their own informed decision as to whether this man was in fact the Messiah or not.

After conferring with the interim leadership, there was a unanimous decision to offer an olive branch to General Vespasious and to open up face to face negotiations while agreeing to a temporary total cease fire.

A message was forwarded to the general through official channels. The rapid reply stated that the general would proceed on horseback through the Lions Gate tomorrow at noon. This gate is the only gate on the Eastern side of the Ancient City facing the Mount of Olives. It opens onto the Via Dolorosa, the ‘way of suffering’. This narrow cobblestone path ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Rabbi Z smiled when he was given this news. To him this was further confirmation that Vespasious was the Messiah. This understanding was supported by the scriptures from Ezekiel Chapter 43:1:

“Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east; and behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw, like the vision which I saw when He came to destroy the city. And the visions were like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house. Then I heard one speaking to me from the house, while a man was standing beside me. And He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever...””

Furthermore, Rabbi Z saw the parallel between General Vespasious and King David who was likewise a man of war, but who strove to bring peace to the land of Israel as recorded in Ezekiel 37:2428:

“And My servant, David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep my statutes, and observe them. And they shall live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they and their sons, and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant shall be their prince forever. And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also, will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.”

Tomorrow’s meeting would be pivotal, helping to fulfill all the dreams, aspirations and hard work that the rabbi had labored over for so many decades. It would be the fulfillment also of the ‘First Rabbi, Yohanan ben Zakkais’ dream of keeping Judaism alive until the rebuilding of God’s Temple. It was so close now, it was palpable, and he could taste the sweetness of victory like fresh honey over freshly baked apples. And then he realized that tomorrow would be the ninth of Av. The date made infamous to the Jewish people as the day that the ancient temples were both destroyed and on which they were also rebuilt.

Word spread quickly throughout the entire land of Israel as the evening news spoke of little less. That evening a courier came to the yeshiva with an official invitation for Rabbi Z to be part of the official negotiation team ensuring Israel’s religious community involvement. This would include no breaches of Halacha codes, laws, or traditions that would undermine or compromise the peace deal. Also included in the peace talks were representatives of many of Israel’s neighbors; Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and the P.L.O. as well as Hezbollah.

Late in the morning, an army pickup truck pulling a horse trailer arrived at the top of the Mount of Olives. A beautiful white Lipizzaner stallion was off loaded and saddled with a red saddle blanket and a military black saddle. At 11:45 A.M. a camouflage N.A.T.O.

Jeep pulled alongside the truck. Out stepped General Vespasious, looking at his watch. As he approached the horse, he called him by name. “Lesus, you have a job to do today. I shall ride on your back as you present me as the Messiah. Not just to the Jews but for the entire world to see.”

As Vespasious mounted the horse, the stallion reared up and tried to buck him off. But being the able horseman, a quick crack to the head brought the horse under his control. A kick to the ribs and they were off, headed down the slope towards the Kidron Valley.

In front of the Lions' Gate, several camera crews from around the world were 'rolling film' as they zoomed in to get the first glimpse of the horse and rider. Suddenly, four U.F.O.s popped into their viewfinders from overhead as they flew in formation and followed directly above the advancing General. Ever the punctual man, Vespasious came up to the Eastern Gate as his horse gingerly wove his way through the many headstones of the ancient Muslim cemetery. Precisely at the stroke of twelve, he reigned in his horse, dismounted, and posed for a photo shoot.

"Today marks the beginning of the New World Order that has been in the making for a very long time. Today marks the beginning of a new world peace that will begin in the ancient city of Salem, now Jerusalem. Light and peace will shine from this spot to the uttermost reaches of this planet, dispelling the darkness of earth's past. All people, races, religions, and tongues will be as one. No more poverty, famine, or war will be seen or heard of from this day forward. I, and my second, will ensure this and surely bring it to pass. Now if you will excuse me, I have a peace treaty to negotiate. I'll see you on the other side."

Vespasious once again mounted his war steed and made his way up the Via Dolorosa. Only now he held a young male lamb in one arm that had been secretly hidden in the archway of the Lions' Gate and handed to him as he passed. The street vendors had all closed their shops yet the street was full of onlookers pressed tightly to both walls, leaving only about four feet of clearance in this passageway. Palm branches were waving as cloaks were laid in the street. Hosannas rang out from the crowd and many were in tears. Tears of joy as many had already decided that this was the long-awaited Messiah.

There was some skepticism, mainly from the Messianic Jews who were out in full numbers to observe. Before the day's events would come to a close, there would be few doubters even among the Messianic Rabbi's. The Jewish people were always about 'signs and wonders' and today they would not be disappointed.

Besides the Messianic Jews, the Catholic priests of the Roman, Armenian, and Coptic branches of Catholicism would also come to believe that this was the Messiah. If seeing is believing, then today they would get an eyeful.

By this time, the U.F.O.s had blinked out of view.

A very large table had been set up within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Leaders from the interim government, the military, and the religious communities, rabbis, priests and clerics, sat at the table as well as Pope Francis and the Black Pope, Arturo Sosa. Included was the U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres who, as fate would have it, missed the deadline for going underground.

As General Vespasious made his way to the arched doors of the church, he handed the lamb to an attendant for safe guarding. Before dismounting, he turned his horse toward the adoring crowds and waved.

At his arrival, all in attendance rose to greet him as he slowly made his way toward the head of the table, shaking hands with all who were there to be witnesses to this historic, unprecedented occasion.

As he approached the head of the table, the Pope and the Black Pope bowed, ever so slightly, at the waist. As Vespasious took his seat he motioned for everyone to be seated. As the last chair was slid into place, there was a moment of compete silence. Suddenly from somewhere behind the General's chair, two small caliber gunshots rang out, hitting Vespasious in the back of the head. His body lurched forward, slamming his face to the table and knocking over the glass of water before him.

Security guards jumped into action. Two placed their bodies over the General's to protect him from further attack. It was apparent though, that he was already dead. Others identified the gunman and slammed him to the floor. Everyone in the building had ducked for whatever cover was near and available. After a quick search the 'all clear' was shouted. All this was caught on live television and was being seen live around the world as it happened in real time.

A loud shout for a medic and a call for an ambulance went out by a guard. "Is there a doctor in the house?" someone asked.

At this moment Pope Francis stood up and shouted above the din for everyone to remain calm, have a seat and to be quiet. After several minutes some level of order was eventually restored.

Three men were performing C.P.R. on General Vespasious but to no avail. Vespasious was dead. Two shots to the head was a fatal wound.

"Clear the body," the Pope said quietly, almost in a whisper. The three men did as he ordered. Blood was flowing out freely. Its color was off, not quite red, but with a purple tint. No one noticed.

Pope Francis threw himself on top of the corpse which was face up on the floor. He placed his hands on Vespasious's head and said some words in an unknown tongue. Not in English, not Italian, not Spanish, and not Hebrew. The last word spoken was clear to anyone listening; it was "Lucifer".

Then, in an instant, Vespasious's eyes opened. The Pope arose and held a hand out to Vespasious to help him to his feet.

The images of the entire scene were captured by the camera crews and were transmitted around the world with a three second delay. Every major television station in every country was pre-empted by the scene captured on video.

As the ambulance crew arrived, the head medic was filled in on circumstances surrounding the event. He was given permission to examine the back of Vespasious's head. There were no entrance wounds. No scarring or loss of hair. Nothing except some purplish red blood beginning to mat in his hair. All his vitals were normal. "Gentlemen, I assure you I am fine. If I could be given a few minutes to clean up, we will resume where we left off." He and the Pope were led off to the restrooms. Twenty minutes later they came out, each wearing the black robes of the Monks who worked at the Holy Sepulcher.

"Where were we, gentlemen?" asked Vespasious. as he took his seat at the head of the table once more; his chair having been replaced and the blood cleaned and scoured.

"First allow me to comment about the man who fired the shots. Although, honestly, I can only recollect one shot. I want to see that he is treated fairly and justly as he knew not what he did. I wish to forgive him and pardon him for his transgression."

"But, sir, he was one of the security guards put here to protect you," said the head of the security team.

"No matter," said Vespasious. "All the more reason to forgive him. He truly thought he was doing God's will, and perhaps he was at that."

A voice from another guard could be heard across the room, as it echoed throughout the chamber. "Surely this man must be the Son of God.

Negotiations were straightforward and uncomplicated. Vespasious had written out all the conditions of peace. As each article was read aloud, everyone followed along with their own copy. Questions were given their due and explanations were provided either by the General Secretary of the U.N. or

Vespasious himself. Soon all signatures were provided on the original document which was then rolled up as a scroll and handed to Vespasious.

“Gentlemen, allow me to clarify one very important point.

Under my second in command, Pope Francis, not only will we have a New World Order but also a new One World Religion. Those who come to know and believe that I am the long-awaited Messiah who will rule over the new United Kingdom are now my friends Those who continue to believe in and worship fake Messiah, Yeshua, or Jesus, as many call Him, I will make war with and will overcome them anywhere on planet earth. I will not tolerate the use of his name or any images of crosses or fish symbols. There will be no more Sunday worship, no more Christmas or Easter or statues of Mary and scenes of old Bethlehem. All the Christian religious sites in Israel will be shut down and renamed. All church bells will be removed and soon we will reset the calendars to eradicate the B.C. and A.D. factor. Also, all ‘Blue Laws’ are rescinded.

In a few weeks I will be rolling out my new economic plan as final adjustments and safeguards are put in place. I will also be dividing the planet into ten kingdoms each ruled by a man of my own choosing. And now I have saved the best for last. Will everyone please use the restrooms and reassemble outside as we all head to the Temple Mount.

Twenty Minutes Later

Vespasious recognized Rabbi Z among the crowd as he approached him. Rabbi Z bowed before him. All the religious clerics saw this. All took note.

“Old friend, would you do us the honor of leading us to the Temple Mount? I know you know the best route. I will follow by your side if you agree,” said Vespasious. And Rabbi Z did just that. After a fifteen-minute walk through the Old City they all assembled on the Temple Mount.

A large pile of split fire wood marked the exact spot where it was believed the holocaust altar once stood. Vespasious knew this to be the precise location of the Temple, and the area was cordoned off since only Levites were allowed to tread on the holy ground.

The sun was hot and no cloud was in the sky. A strong westerly breeze blew as this was the highest elevation in all of Jerusalem. Rabbi Z knew that originally this had been a threshing floor, during King David’s time.

“Gentlemen, I know that there are many here who have trusted in this Jesus. I offer you proof this day that he was not the Christ and that last Rosh Hashanah was not associated with his coming. The proof is that those who trusted in him are still here. How much more proof does one need? I also know that many of you question my authority and my power. Perhaps this will put all doubts to rest. Observe please.”

At this, Vespasious took the rope holding the one-year-old unblemished lamb, and led him up to the wood pile. He pulled out a gold-handled knife shaped like a scimitar from beneath his black robe and commenced to slit the lamb’s throat. The blood was caught in a bowl and sprinkled on the pile of wood. The dead lamb was placed on top of the pile by two Jewish priests.

“Everyone, stand back now!” shouted Vespasious. A moment passed as the camera crews repositioned their cameras.



Pope Francis stepped in front of the CNN cameras and offered this prayer:

“And now Great Architect of the Universe, sanctify your son in the sight of all men, so they can now believe that it was you who sent him. So, they will believe that he is the Messiah.”

The next sound that was heard was an ear-splitting ‘Crack’! A fierce bolt of lightning came down from heaven and set the wood ablaze while consuming the lamb.

“I am!” shouted Vespasious as the crowd fell backwards and cameras rolled off their tripods.

The Pope smiled, Arturo Sosa smiled, Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai smiled.

“Gentlemen, Governor, Mayor, Rabbis, you are free to start rebuilding the Temple of God here on this spot. It has now been cleansed.”

That night, regular television programming was replaced by commentators and news anchors discussing the day’s events as the stations continuously replayed footage from the Temple Mount. News reporting of the events of 9/11 paled in comparison. This date was now called the ninth of Av or 11/9. This was the official beginning of what was to be a short-lived peace.

#### Daniel 7:19-25

“Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet, and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts, and which was larger in appearance than its associates. I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. Thus, he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from the others kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.’”

## Chapter 12

### The Third Temple

Revelation 11:1-2 ‘And there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it. And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread underfoot the holy city for forty-two months.’

Rabbi Z received a telephone call on the morning following the historic meeting. “Hello and Shalom,” said Rabbi Z. “Who is this?”

“Rabbi, this is Rabbi Chaim Rickman from the Temple Institute. Shalom to you. I cannot begin to tell you how blessed we are with your efforts in helping to bring this all to fruition. We’ve met several times in the past but now I look forward to working with you closely on rebuilding the Temple. As I’m sure you are keenly aware, the ‘Temple Mount Faithful’ led by Gershon Salomon have been busy getting the political and legal affairs in order since 1987. What they could not accomplish in thirty-three years you did in one day. Our contractor claims that we can dedicate the Temple in eighteen months if the weather cooperates. I know we have an ad-hoc Sanhedrin now, but we need to plan for the final, permanent Sanhedrin which will one day interface with the Israeli government from the Prime Minister on down. We know that you have specifically groomed your yeshiva students for that purpose. So, what I am asking is for you to be a part of the official transition team and to compile a list of qualified men, perhaps starting with yourself as the number one choice, to help select and install the governing body over the next eighteen months. You helped identify the Messiah and you are on a first name basis with him. What do you say? Why don’t you think about it and get back with me in a day or so?”

“I’ve been dreaming of this day for nearly seventy years,” said Rabbi Z. “I accept your offer. I don’t need to think about it. I’ll be in touch. Shalom.”

At noon on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Av, the general contractor, Aaron Cohen, a descendant of the Kohanim lineage, was seen leading a group of surveyors to the Temple Mount. All of these men were Levites. Pausing at the exact spot where yesterday’s sacrifice was offered, he drove a peg in the very center of the pile of ashes.

“Gentlemen, I have been given specific instructions from Vespasious Muhammad that this is the precise location of the ancient holocaust altar that King Solomon had built with the architect Hiram of Tyre three-thousand years ago. You have all had these architectural plans for many years by now. Using this peg as the official starting point, I commission you to lay out the grid stakes for the Temple.

Remember now, only Levites and Kohanim may work within the outside batter boards. Tomorrow we will have a ceremony to set the cornerstone, the Primarii Lapidis. After a short prayer the men got to work setting up their tripods while establishing true north with their compass. By day’s end the precise location for the Third Temple had been staked out.

The following day was a day of pomp and ceremony. On this day the ‘chief cornerstone’ was to be permanently set. Three-thousand years earlier King Solomon gave the dedication for the building of the

First Temple. This day the Messiah, Vespasious Muhammad, would preside over the dedication. The history of this stone had been told for over thirty years. In 1989-90 the director of the Temple Faithful, Gershon Salomon, whose life had been spared by God in battle, had set out to locate a Jewish stone mason to provide a cornerstone for the rebuilding of the Third Temple. He came to the house of one Ezra Alafi whose ancient family had been stone masons on the Second

Temple. He had left his birth land of Babylon and had made Aliya to Israel. When asked by Gershon Salomon to provide the cornerstone, he fell off his chair in unbelief stating that the story had been passed down through his family sometime after the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. A descendant would once again be involved in cutting stones for the third rebuilt temple.

He proceeded to his rock quarry in the Negev Desert in southern Israel near the town of Mitzpa, Ramon. Knowing that no tools could be used, he stumbled across the perfect stone. A six- and one-half ton natural marble stone covered in gold. This stone had been moved to a secluded park near Jerusalem awaiting this day.

Unlike modern architecture where a 'cornerstone' is literally just that, ancient cornerstones, as they're referred to in modern times, were actually set dead center of a building and after being set plumb and level, they became the jumping off place for all the building's measurements; height, width, and length. They were left raised from the finished floor elevation by several inches and became a stumbling stone of offense for any and all who were unaware of it being there.

The entire building was referenced to this one stone.

Every dignitary, rabbi, news reporter, and camera crew were in attendance. At the center of the shoulder-to-shoulder throng of humanity was Vespasious alongside the Pope and the Black Pope.

"Gentlemen, today is a momentous day. One that will help unify the world and which will lead to peace and prosperity for all. Especially those who have been marginalized on the sidelines of life. Mankind is evolving into the very essence of why he was created. To become like the very image of me and my Father. So much is at stake now. The small sacrifices that I ask for are nothing compared to what you will be receiving in return," said Vespasious.

Turning to the group of Levites gathered in the center of the Temple footprint, he nodded for them to start digging. A large vat of cement was poured in the hole that had been prepared and a crane lifted the cornerstone and set it into place. Levels and compasses were used to set the stone in its correct and final position. Earlier That Morning

Earlier that same day, while mulling over recent events and the content of the phone call from Rabbi Rickman, Rabbi Z decided it was time to confront Jonathan and David's decision to become Christians. Rabbi Z called the young men to his office.

"Sit down, men. Take a seat. What I have to say will not be easy for me but I have your best interest in mind. I find no way around it. With the events of the last two days, I feel I must back track some recent history with the two of you. With a graduation soon to be scheduled and added to that a new edict from Vespasious Muhammad concerning Christianity, I want you to recant your new found allegiance with this Jesus as well as this Indian preacher. Neither of you has a future. Confess your sin now and recant or pack your bags and be off the premises by night fall. I need your answer now, before you leave my office. Here we all are, you and myself; we have all witnessed the Messiah and had confirmation by two great signs yesterday. It's time to choose."

After several minutes of silence, Johnathan stood up. He walked over to the rabbi who was standing behind his desk and grabbed him in an affectionate bear hug.

“Rabbi Z, you know I have loved and respected you since I came here six years ago. That has not changed nor will it ever. But recently I’ve learned about another kind of love called agape love. The kind of love that God has for His people. This is a different level of love than I’ve ever experienced before. It comes through accepting Jesus, God’s only begotten Son and receiving forgiveness of sins based on faith, not our performance. I want you to know and experience this kind of love for yourself. I will never give up my profession of faith in Jesus being my Lord and Messiah. I can’t speak for David but I believe he feels the same way,” said Jonathan.

“I do indeed. Rabbi, you’re making a huge mistake. We have learned so much about the Law of Moses from you but Jeremiah 31:31 says, “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant.”” “This new covenant is based on truth, faith, and grace.”

“Stop!”, shouted Rabbi Z. “You’re trying to confuse me and I won’t stand for it. If that’s your answer, then I recommend you both march upstairs and start packing. That will be all! You are both dead to me. You are marked men. Christ is dead, Christianity is dead and unless you change your ways, you will soon be dead men.”

After both men left the room, Rabbi Z closed the blinds in his office and fell to the floor sobbing, heaving, and moaning at the gut-wrenching loss he felt. What he was unwilling and unable to do as of two days ago, before encountering Vespasious, he found within himself to do now. Something within him had changed. Something had snapped. He couldn’t put his finger on it, though he tried.

After a quick phone call from Jonathan to John, it was settled that he and David could stay at John’s place. After packing, they both went to the dining hall and ate their last meal as they said their goodbyes to all the students, teachers, and staff. There was barely a dry eye as the news came as a shock. Things were going to be different, but few realized just how much so. There was now a holy war that would end with many heads being decapitated from the sword of the new Messiah. There was a new sheriff in town and he brought with him his own rule book.

Over the next eighteen months construction was underway around the clock, twenty-four hours a day for six days a week. Since only the Levites were allowed to set foot within the footprint of the Temple, the work came to a stop each Friday evening at 6:00 P.M. until sunrise Sunday morning.

Structural engineers were called upon to examine the Al-Aqsa Mosque, particularly the foundations. It was discovered that there had been tons of soil removed from under the Mosque over the last sixty years by those who were attempting to excavate and destroy any and all archeological evidence supporting the contention that the Jews had ever had a presence on the Temple Mount. Irreparable damage had already occurred which jeopardized not only the Mosque itself, but also the southern wall which had already been showing structural stress on the existing stone work. Rather than compromise the integrity of the entire Temple Mount, permission was given by Vespasious to raze the Mosque and use it as filler for the voids that existed below ground.

The original plans, as drawn, had specifically been reconfigured to leave out the ‘outer court’ that had originally been built to allow gentiles a place to gather and watch the daily sacrifice. This compromise seemed, at the time, to be the only solution to finding enough space on the fifteen-acre Temple Mount. The Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque took up over half the area. By the time it was decided

to raze the Mosque, the foundations had already been laid for the Temple and there was no going back. What was not realized by those who drew up the plans was that this was all in keeping with God's prophetic time line. The gentile church, which the 'outer court' symbolized, was in fact His Church which had been raptured and did not look to animal sacrifices as a solution for sin. Thus, there was no need for the gentile court. God was now only dealing with the Jews.

This action further solidified the affection of the Jews toward Vespasious as being the Messiah, who had come to reclaim his rightful place as the 'prince' over the house of God. The Muslims were provided another piece of property of their own choosing near Jerusalem.

Vespasious donated many billions of dollars of his own resources in gold, silver, and bronze that was needed to fabricate the roof and capitals. He helped oversee some of the daily activities to ensure that no expense was spared or any corners cut in construction. This project was quickly being praised as one of the seven wonders of the world.

Although all the stones had been quarried and timbers cut years before and prepared as per the architectural plans, there were still many important features lacking. The two bronze columns at the entry way, Boaz and Jachin, along with the molten sea which sat on a pedestal of twelve bronze oxen, were being carefully crafted. Most of the smaller implements for ceremonial use inside the holy place, having already been produced, were on display in the Temple museum.

During the construction over the next eighteen months, Vespasious was seen on television nearly daily either offering advise at the Temple site or giving a speech at the United Nations, now located in Iraq, or he was seen meeting with the ten kings of the New Confederated States as the old borders between autonomous states were obliterated. This was all accomplished in accordance with the original plans as established by the 'Club of Rome' as it had originally been called. It would soon become apparent that three of the kingdoms were no longer habitable. Two had disappeared under the ocean waters after the polar tilt had finally stabilized. And North America? It was only half its original size. In addition, it was polluted by radioactive contamination from its many nuclear sites and spent uranium storage sites. Everything that wasn't underwater had been burned to ash. Nothing would live there for another thousand years.

It soon became clear to Vespasious that three of the ten kings were no longer required. The best laid plans of mice and men don't always turn out as planned. On one certain day, three of these men simply didn't show up at the office. The Black Pope's men were, after all, the best assassins on the planet.

While Vespasious was busy with matters of state, Pope Francis was on a whirlwind tour of the world, providing the new template for 'religious correctness'.

Where pictures of Jesus, Mao Zedong, or Stalin formerly had hung were images of Vespasious. Where crosses, moon and sickles, and statues of Buddha stood were now the iconic image of a pyramid with the all-seeing eye. Where appropriate, the ANKH symbol replaced crosses. The meaning was clear, that this Messiah was the one who created life in the beginning, and now, here he was in the flesh, to lead mankind in this evolution towards a higher consciousness.

The progress on the Temple had an unexpected effect upon the minds and hearts of the Jewish people, both those in Israel and those around the world. More and more Jews were making Aliya to Israel, leaving their old lives behind. Jews were the only race allowed to leave and resettle outside the, now, seven kingdoms. The miracles of both the Pope and Vespasious had won the hearts of not just the everyday Jew but even all the rabbis, who were now referring to him as 'Mashiach Vespasious'. The Jewish people were the only people not forced to change their religious teachings or practices. Why?

Because Vespasious, in their minds, is the fulfillment of the Torah. He is the one that Moses spoke of, Isaiah spoke of, and Daniel pointed to. Why change the religion that birthed the Messiah? Photos of Vespasious spontaneously began to appear in the foyers and classrooms of the synagogues. But in keeping with the second commandment to 'make no idols or likenesses of that which is in heaven or on earth', no photos of him were placed in the sanctuary.

The interim Israeli government had come to a fork in the road. Do we hold elections and vote in a permanent Prime Minister to replace Benjamin Netanyahu or do we alter our constitution to accept the leadership of Vespasious as our king? Isn't this what Jews have been praying for since the days of King David?

After being advised by Rabbi Z, who by now was becoming a regular contributor on the Governing Council, the aged rabbi stood in their midst and read aloud Ezekiel 34:23-24:

"Then I will set over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will feed them; He will feed them himself and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken."

A hush and a sense of peace fell over the assembled leaders as this word sank into their spirits. Everyone was moved. A proposal to rewrite their constitution, clearing the path for installing Vespasious as their new king, was made and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. It was agreed that the coronation would coincide with the Temple dedication.

While Vespasious worked to solidify the governments of the world into a cohesive whole through enacting new laws and undoing old traditions, the Pope was busy dismantling all the world religions and blending them into a new unified religion. The motto of the previous 'New Age' sect was adopted; 'Unity through Diversity'. The unifying theme was worship of Vespasious. Whether one used the term King, Messiah, Mahdi, Buddha, or Allah, they all pointed to this one man. A diversity of names all unified under one man.

Just as in the Roman days of two thousand years ago, every inhabitant of the occupied Roman Empire was required to kneel and pay homage to the image of the Roman Emperor as God incarnate, which was emblazoned on the shields of the Roman soldiers. Failure to do so would end in death and destruction of homes or businesses. Every March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Ides of March, was a holiday. Every able-bodied citizen was required to go the Civic Center and bow before the image of Vespasious which hung on the wall. A purple mark was given on the right hand with indelible ink. Anyone seen the following week without the stamp was picked up for questioning, possible torture and or death.

As the Pope was busy capturing the hearts and minds of one and all, Vespasious was fulfilling his promise to revive the world economy. All cash was deemed illegal tender and credits were given to new electronic accounts, as cash was brought in for credit and its elimination.

The ability to buy or sell was linked to a small microchip which was implanted under the skin of the right hand, between the thumb and first finger. For those individuals who had no right hand, the chip was placed at the base of one's hairline on their forehead. Wages from one's work was paid by electronic deposits which were accessed by use of hand-held scanners waved over the microchip. Rent, mortgages, and loans were deducted automatically, as were taxes. No one was able to spend more than they earned. As promised, all debts were eliminated on every playing field; international, business and personal. It was a complete and total reset. A special tribunal was created to deal with any inequities real or perceived.

At roughly the half way mark from the beginning of the construction of the Millennial Temple, as it was now being called, a strange series of events began to unfold in the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem. Two men roamed the streets, clothed in sackcloth, a covering made from black goat hair either as a sign of mourning or submission. At first, they were ignored as a minor nuisance but then the realization came that they were prophesying against Vespasious and the Pope and all that they were doing.

When asked who they were and by what authority were they preaching in the streets the reply shocked those doing the questioning. Chief among these people was Rabbi Z, as his fame had grown tremendously in the city.

“I am Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam,” answered one man. The other man replied, “I am Elijah. We are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. We adjure you to repent from following these men and to acknowledge that Almighty God has already sent His son nearly two-thousand years ago. The same one that you crucified and rejected. This is all God’s punishment for you rejecting His sacrifice. You have brought this upon yourselves. But God’s promises are everlasting. These seven years are designed to get you to ‘see’. There was a partial blinding that occurred in the past, but now God is removing those blinders and renewing your sight. If you would only open your eyes and see. He wants to heal your nation. Listen to us and the 144,000 that he has sent throughout the world. There are yet many more plagues and ‘woes’ to come.”

“If you are who you say you are, show me a sign,” demanded Rabbi Z. Enoch turned to one of the many fountains in the Old City and spoke three words, “Turn into blood,” as he lifted the staff that he held in his hand. Immediately the crystal-clear water turned blood red and carried a stench of death.

“So, you can do even as Pharaoh’s magicians could do in Exodus 7:22? That proves nothing. Be gone and leave us be,” exclaimed the rabbi. “You do these things by the power of Beelzebub.” This back and forth would go on for forty-two months, long after the Temple was finished and dedicated.

During this same time frame, Vespasious was cleaning his threshing floor. His rhetoric against Christians which now included the innumerable young Jewish preachers who had by now fanned out to the entire world, was culminating in thousands upon thousands of deaths. Scimitars gave way to guillotines which had been manufactured by the thousands and shipped abroad to all seven kingdoms. Beheading was now the new means of execution. This method of death was fast, painless, and inexpensive, and it was thought, would act as a deterrent against open rebellion.

Finally, the big day arrived as the final touches were being put on the Temple. World leaders had been flown in via U.F.O. transports. Leaders from the Inter-galactic Space Force were present, giving this once in a lifetime event an aura of other-worldliness.

Along with the dedication, the presiding governing officials had also prepared Vespasious’ ordination as Israel’s newest King since Hoshea (II Kings 15:30, 17:1-6), in 721 B.C.

From a secret place known only to a handful of priests, the ashes of the red heifer, preserved in a cave since before the destruction of the Second Temple, were brought out. A specially bred red heifer had been sacrificed and its ashes had been mixed with those from the Second Temple. These would be used later to sanctify the outer court and all the furniture including the lavers, the holocaust altar, and the molten sea, as well as the very ground on which they sat.

No church bells rang, but in their place, the shofars were blaring all morning, nonstop. The atmosphere of the Old City was electrified with anticipation and excitement. Men, women, and children cried

shamelessly. Tears of joy. The age-old custom of saying at Passover, “Next year in Jerusalem” had at last been fulfilled, never to be uttered again.

Rabbi Z was to be a guest speaker. It was remembered that he was the one who dared defy the odds, years ago, when he went out in a coffin to help negotiate peace. Now he would be reading the finalized list of seventy men who would preside over the affairs of the Jews in the years to come. The men of the Sanhedrin. The fulfillment of the dreams of a man two-thousand years ago, who bore the very same name, who pleaded with Vespasian to allow him to build a school to keep Judaism alive until this very day. Rabbi Z beamed with pride at his accomplishments. He wondered in the recesses of his mind how pleased God would be with his efforts and sacrifices. Little did he know, or understand.

Later that evening after the priests had closed the doors of the Temple and had seen to it that the Temple guards were in place, the sun began to set below the horizon. This was like millions of days which had gone before yet this day set the stage for the end. An ending which had been foretold in John’s Revelation. An end to Satan’s lease upon this planet and its people. An end to the ‘great Harlot who sits on many waters. Behold a Mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”



## Chapter 13

### He Takes His Seat

“John, have you reached out yet to the two witnesses?” asked David.

“No, I haven’t. I think it’s high time that we do. They can usually be seen at 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. in front of the Temple gate when the sacrifices begin. Otherwise, they might be anywhere in the city prophesying,” said John.

“I know I’ve read about them in the Revelation; I think it’s Chapter 11,” said David.

That’s correct,” said John.

“But are they mentioned anywhere else? I feel like I should know this but this is all still new to me and I think I sometimes fail to make the connections,” said David.

“That’s O.K., you guys are really doing great, absorbing all this information. And don’t forget, John the Revelator was forced to use figurative language, some call it apocalyptic language, so only serious readers would be able to comprehend. For example, today we say ‘the names have been changed to protect the guilty’. John chuckled at his own joke.

“To answer your question, yes! Open to Zechariah 4 beginning in Verse 1. Jonathan, would you read through to the last verse?”

“Then the angel who was speaking with me returned, and roused me as a man who is awakened from his sleep. And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; Also, two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side.’ Then I answered and said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, “What are these, my Lord?” So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, “No, my Lord.”

“Jump down to verse 11, please,” said John to Jonathan.

“Then I answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?’” And I answered the second time and said to him, ‘What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?’ So, he answered me saying, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, “No, my Lord.” Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.”

“Take note,” said John. “The last line says that these two anointed ones were ‘standing by the Lord of the whole earth’. And in Revelation 11:4 they’re described with the same words, ‘that stand before the

Lord of the earth'. "Before they appeared and revealed their real identity, Enoch and Elijah, many bible students had decided that one of them might have been Moses. The reason for this is that the signs described could also be construed as one and the same as what Moses was able to perform and that Moses was a Jew. And who better to prophecy to the Jewish people than Moses? Additionally, Moses was with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration."

"That would seem to be sound reasoning,' remarked David.

"It would be except for two things that I would like to point out," cautioned John. "Hebrews 9:27 states, "It is appointed for men to die once, and after this comes the judgement." We see that both these men here in Jerusalem are appointed to die at the hand of Vespasious, the Anti-Christ. Moses has already died once, 3,500 years ago. And secondly, Moses has already been resurrected," said John.

"What?," asked Jonathan and David. "How do you know this?"

"In Mark Chapter 9, the story of Christ's transfiguration, He was surrounded by three of His apostles, Peter, James, and John.

Alongside were Moses and Elijah."

"Oh, yeah," said Jonathan as he suddenly made the connection in his mind of the story John had mentioned just a few minutes ago.

"Then we have this cryptic verse from Jude 9; 'But Michael the Archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgement, but said, "The LORD rebuke you."' "It appears to me that the dispute wasn't over Moses' dead corpse but his resurrected body. Enoch is alive, bodily, in heaven, (well, he's here alive now of course), and if he weren't one of the two, then he would remain in his flesh and blood body. Paul wrote in First Corinthians 15:50, 'Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...' These two witnesses will be resurrected three and a half days after their deaths and will then be caught up into heaven," explained John.

"I see," said Jonathan. "Wow, John, it's amazing how important the New Testament is when trying to project Old Testament thoughts into the here and now. I can better understand how our rabbis have been operating in the dark, without the light of the entire bible. But, John, what does this mean for you? You're going to have to die in the near future since you are in a flesh and blood body, right? We know we will die, and as I've said before, that's not a problem for me or David. But I could not bear to watch you die." A tear was forming in Jonathan's eye as he said this.

John smiled and gave Jonathan, then David a huge bear hug. "Brothers, watch this. Behold!" John walked toward the bedroom door, which was shut. As he approached the door, he looked at both men, then he disappeared, through the door! Fifteen seconds later, he walked back through the door and reentered the room. Then, before both of them, he reconfigured into a thirty-year-old version of himself, wearing a white linen robe girded with a leather belt. This was the very thing both of them had witnessed from the roof of the yeshiva years ago. John's countenance was radiating as he smiled. He approached them and hugged each one again. He squeezed them especially hard so they would know he was real, flesh and bone. Then, just as quickly, the old John reappeared.

"God used me and allowed me to stay behind but not before he transfigured me. Jesus walked with the two men from Jerusalem to Emmaus, and the Bible says when he approached them 'their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him'. A moment ago, God opened your eyes to a reality that must remain

secret, or Vespasious would hunt me down and try to kill me, if that were even possible. Brothers, you don't have to worry about me dying. It's not even possible."

The two men sat down in shock, trying to absorb and understand what was just revealed to them.

"O.K.," said John as he clapped his hands together to snap them out of their dazed state. "Let's find the two prophets."

Barely above a whisper, each of them replied, "Yes, let's find the two prophets," as they moved toward the front door like zombies who had just seen a ghost. As they left the hotel John said, "We will never speak of this again! Got it?"

At about 2:45 they arrived at the Temple grounds to find a crowd had already gathered, awaiting the opening of the outer gates to the Temple grounds as the evening sacrifices were about to get underway.

From around the corner could be heard the preaching of the two prophets, in spite of the din of the crowd which numbered about five-hundred men and three-hundred women. As the two men turned the corner the crowd began jeering and cursing. Soon rotten vegetables and water bottles were being hurled directly at them. Rotten tomatoes were splatting and running down their robes while some of the contents of the water bottles were finding their mark. It was plain from the odor that this was not water.

"Be gone, you imposters, you're profaning God's Holy Place!" the people screamed and shouted.

Suddenly the silver trumpets began to blow from the top of the walls and the towers surrounding the shining Temple and its compound. The gates were opened and the crowd turned its attention to elbowing for the ideal vantage point.

Finally, John and the young men found the two men, Enoch and Elijah amongst the clamoring crowd. "For being 2,700 and 5,000 years old, you two men of God appear to be in good shape," joked Jonathan with a genuine smile and a hand shake. "Shalom, we come to you in peace and in the name of Yeshua."

"Honored to make your acquaintance. I am Enoch. This is, as I'm sure you have guessed ...".

"Yes, Elijah," interrupted John as he shook each hand a bit over zealously. "I am John Meskwa Anang. My friends and brothers call me John. This is David Levine and Jonathan Cohen."

David interrupted the conversation saying, "I truly regret how badly my people have been treating you. I wish there was something more I could do."

"David, I understand that you are one of the 144,000 proclaiming the gospel of our Lord, Jesus. Is that correct?" asked Elijah.

"Yes, sir, I am, thanks to brother John here. He has been a real God send to Jonathan and I," stated David.

Elijah responded, "Four years ago, John prayed that God would allow him to stay behind and teach the gospel to the 144,000 in Jerusalem. After much heated debate among the twenty-four elders in heaven, there was a tie vote, 12 to 12. Jesus' vote was the tie-breaker."

Elijah turned to John. "My brother, God the Father wanted you to hear His heart. He knew you would volunteer for this assignment from before the foundation of the world. But now that your task is complete, He is anxious for you to come home. You still exercise free will and can refuse. Please beware that the road ahead will soon be harder to travel. Soon you will begin to see huge losses among

your charges. Vespasious is about to do something that will turn the world sideways and there will be much bloodshed.”

John took a moment to consider the offer. “When you go back up, tell Him thanks, but I’m staying for the duration. I may still be needed to encourage our brothers when they are facing death. My job here is not yet complete.”

Both men smiled as they realized that the heavenly council made the right choice after all. “Then John, our eyes are fully open and we see you as you truly are. Would you pray for us and remember us until that day?” asked Enoch.

“Honored to. Heavenly Father, we cannot thank you enough for this once in a lifetime honor to meet and converse with these two cherished anointed ones who have been sent back to earth to complete the assignment that each one was created for and was born to accomplish. Keep them in the palm of your hand until we meet again. We are all honored to have been chosen to play a part in the unfolding plan to reclaim this planet from the hands of Satan. In the name that is above all names, we give thanks. Amen.”

“John, young men, keep an eye on this coming Feast Day of Atonement. Put this word of caution out to all our fellow servants around the world. Hold onto your faith. Oh! And please do not mourn for us when our lives are taken. We’ve already seen our reward ahead of time, and quite frankly, I can hardly wait.”

As was the custom in Jerusalem, holy kisses were exchanged as they said goodbye.

## **Two Months Later**

During the ten days of repentance between the Festival of Trumpets and Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, life in Jerusalem was extremely quiet and peaceful. Life was almost returning to normal, at least in the Levant area of the world.

The High Priest, appointed by the newly formed and active Sanhedrin, had been in preparation mode for an entire month for the one day of the year when he, and only he, was allowed behind the curtain dividing the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. On the inauguration day of the Temple years earlier, the world was stunned when Vespacious unveiled his final gift to the Jewish people, the Ark of the Covenant, made of Shittim wood and covered in pure gold. On either side were four hooks for the carrying poles. On top of the lid sat the Mercy Seat with the two covering cherubs holding their wings over the Mercy seat. It was explained that the Covenant Box had been kept in safe keeping in the small town of Aksum, in Ethiopia, for centuries. It had been removed from the Second Temple ahead of the Babylonian army’s advance against Israel by King Nebuchadnezzar. A most fitting gift from the Messiah himself.

Early that morning, as the High Priest was showering, a dark shadowy figure pried his way into his chambers. He made his way toward the bathroom. As he slid open the shower door, he injected prussic acid (hydrogen cyanide) into the High Priest’s neck. Before the assassin could retrace his steps to exit the residence, the High Priest was dead.

Twenty-five minutes later the police arrived as the paramedics pronounced him dead.

In another part of the city, Vespasious was already prepared to assume the role of the High Priest. If asked how he could take the place of the High Priest, since there was no documentation to show that his mother was of the tribe of Levi, he would quote Psalm 110, Verse 4. “The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind. ‘Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek’. He would declare that he was and is the true High Priest and can offer the sacrifices. By now, no one in their right mind would challenge his authority.

As he was chauffeured to the gates of the Temple, he was greeted by a delegation of priests and a few men from the Sanhedrin. “We’re sorry to inform you Messiah Nagid, the High Priest was found dead in his room this morning. Apparently, he died from a heart attack.

Perhaps the stress was too much for him.”

“Such sad and unfortunate news,” said Vespasious. “Let’s withhold this lamentable news from getting out so as to not deprive the people of the holiness of the festival. I as the High Priest, after the order of Melchizedek, shall take his place and perform his duties seeing that I have been studying them for months now.”

At this suggestion some suspicions were raised privately. But due to his position of absolute authority and power, no one had the courage to voice an objection. And besides, no one had a better plan to offer in place of this one. So, the two male goats, the Lord’s goat and Azazel, were tied to the door posts. Both goats looked just alike. Both were bought at the same price

Vespasious had changed into the priestly robes. He conveniently had a set of his own tailored robes with him and so he was led to the doorway where the two goats had been tied. Lots were cast, one bearing the words, ‘To the Lord’ and the other ‘To Azazel’. The one to the Lord was to be sacrificed on the altar and its blood would be brought into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled on the mercy seat. Azazel was to be set free into the wilderness at which time it was herded over a cliff to its death. To this goat’s horn was tied a red thread which was cut in half before it was sent away. But before Vespasious returned to the outer courts where he would await word that Azazel had died, he craftily changed the red thread to the horn of the other goat, unnoticed by any of the other priests in attendance.

There, of course, was a sinister motive at work here and an uncanny understanding that no one else possessed as to the symbolic relevance of these two goats. Jewish tradition had Azazel representative of Abraham’s first son, Ishmael, who, with his mother Hagar, was sent out into the wilderness at Sarah’s request. This occurred first. Following that, the second goat represented Isaac, who was to be sacrificed in the Temple to God. This idea is significant but only tells part of the real story, known only to Vespasious.

In reality, the sacrificial goat represents not Abraham offering his only begotten son, but God offering His only begotten Son, Jesus, to be the once forever atonement for sin. The second goat represents Satan, who, at the appropriate time will become, at the great white throne judgement, the goat upon which the true High Priest shall place his hands upon Satan’s head and transfer all the sins of mankind into the body of the devil who then will be led to the lake of fire and die.

The cut piece of the thread would turn white at the moment of Azazel’s death at which time the sacrificial lamb would be sacrificed.

After what seemed to be the better part of an hour it happened.

The red thread, held in the hand of Vespasious, in fact changed color.

Not to white, as had occurred thousands of times before, but to black. Immediately Vespasious threw the thread onto the fire before anyone noticed the change.

Not being trained in the kosher execution of cutting the throat, another priest performed this duty. The bowl full of blood was given to Vespasious along with some hyssop branches with which he sprinkled the four horns of the altar. As the carcass of the goat was laid on the flaming altar, prayers were said.

As the procession of priests entered the doors to the Holy Place, a length of rope was picked up in Solomon's Porch. After the hot coals from the altar were placed on the golden incense altar in front of the dividing curtain, all the priests prostrated themselves and praised the Almighty.

Then it was time. The priests tied the rope around Vespasious's waist as he passed through the small opening in the curtain. The bells on the hem of his garment tinkled aloud as he moved about. Once inside, he said a prayer in an unknown language and took the hyssop branches and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat and lid of the Covenant Box. Unseen to those on the other side of the curtain, he commenced to drink some of the blood from the bowl. His body began to glow an iridescent gold color. Setting down the bowl, he placed a knee on the lid and grabbed ahold of the mercy seat and hoisted himself up, taking his place on the mercy seat. After a minute of staying perfectly still, the priest on the other end of the rope gave a quick tug to see if he was alive and well. This had been the custom since the Second Temple when corrupt priests ended up dying at the hand of God for improper thoughts and actions. The priest was caught off guard when Vespasious, using all of his seven-foot frame and hardened muscles, yanked hard, pulling the priest behind the curtain into the sanctuary where he was still seated. As this priest stared in amazement at this unexpected sight, Vespasious bellowed out like a trumpet, "I Am!"

The priest's face grew pale as the blood drained leaving a shocked man holding a rope attached to someone claiming to be God. Someone laying claim to the title of Messiah and King.

As Vespasious smiled at him, the priest dropped the rope and sprinted outside to where two dozen priests and as many Levites were assembled, awaiting the fulfillment of the High Priest's duties.

Barely able to utter a word, he finally was able to describe the event that had just unfolded. Shock and disgust filled the air just as Vespasious stepped out of the Temple with blood dripping down his chin turning his garments and Ephod crimson.

It seemed apparent that his entire countenance had changed, not for the better but for the worse. At the moment, no one had the courage to question or challenge him on what had just taken place. One thing was clear to everyone; things were about to change in ways no one could have expected.

It was just a little over three years since the events of the night of the 'cleansing' as it was now referred to, when the iridescent bodies in the midnight streets were transferred up to the mother ship.

The courtyard was cleaned up for the day. There would be no evening sacrifices on this high Holy Day.

Vespasious left without a word. The doors were shut and latched as everyone proceeded home to finish the day's fast. All were looking forward to a late dinner shortly after sunset. There would be five days of relative quiet until the beginning of Sukkot (Tabernacles); the relative calm before the storm.

# Chapter 14

## A Change of Mind

The news of Vespasious's sacrilegious act spread throughout the Rabbinic communities, the Sanhedrin, then to the common man on the street, spreading like wild fire being fanned by the dry southerly winds blowing from the Negev lying to the south.

As word reached the ear of Rabbi Z, he simply dispelled the claims as an exaggeration due in part to Vespasious's inexperience in the priestly duties, and the lack of his pedigree concerning his mother's tribal affiliation. Yes, he thought, the man has a rough side but he has shouldered the entire world after such a great tragedy and has made great strides in helping to restore fallen infrastructure, commerce, and order to the streets. He tried to rationalize the event and the effect it had upon his fellow 'believers', a new term that was borrowed from the old Christian community. This will pass, he reasoned. The world was well into the seventh millennium, God's day of rest, the golden age, and there was no time for 'another' to emerge on the earth to bring this rest. This was proof enough that he was God's anointed one.

Despite the rabbi's dogged allegiance to Vespasious, other rabbis were having some serious second thoughts. Who is this man who claims that he is God? This was the argument against the imposter Jesus 2,000 years ago. He claimed to be God's son. What kind of crazy person would make such a claim? The questions being asked helped create just enough of a break in the collective mindset of the Jewish people that a door of witnessing was opened for God's 144,000 to begin to preach and to change minds.

Back in John's room, the conversation turned to yesterday's event, which was trending on the television.

"Brothers," John said. "This was foretold by the Apostle Paul." "Do tell," said Jonathan.

“Let me read from Second Thessalonians Chapter two, verses 1-12,” said John as he opened his Bible. “This chapter has had many interpretations due to a few key words with differing definitions and meanings”:

“Now we request you brethren with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him.”

“One historic problem of interpretations deals with the fact that many folks had never been taught that there were to be two ‘comings’ of Christ, following his ascension 2,000 years ago. The first ‘coming’ was not to earth, but rather it would be in the sky, or in the clouds. It is called the ‘catching up’ or ‘rapture’. This of course took place a bit over three years ago when the saints were gathered together with Him to their new abode in heaven. You both witnessed that.”

“We sure did,” said David. “It freaked me out. I had no idea what was happening.”

“I know,” said John. “It caught a lot of folks by surprise.

Mainly the Lord’s church, which honestly, still troubles me to this day. It’s really sad because so many of them perished, suffering cruel deaths either from Planet X, the wars, famines, or pestilence. Many who refused the mark of the beast were beheaded by Vespasious’s henchmen. If only the church leaders had been more like the sons of Issachar who were adept at understanding the times that they were living in. But all of that is now water under the bridge.”

“Not realizing the difference between His coming for His church and Him returning to this earth at the end of this seven years of tribulation is at the heart of so much confusion. Verse two”:

“That you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.”

“Evidently a letter was circulating that the catching up had already taken place. It just goes to show you how quickly the truth of God’s word was being corrupted. Or at least folks were trying to twist the word.”

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it! The ‘it’ here is referring back to the ‘day of the Lord and His coming’.

“For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.” “The word ‘apostasy’ has caused much confusion. It can be interpreted in two different ways. Strong’s # 646 APOSTASIA; from 868; defection, revolt. But when one goes to the root word, # 868, we read this; APHISTEMI; from 575 and 2476; to lead away, to depart from; abstain, depart, departed, drew away, fall away, falls away, leave, left, let go, stay away, withdrew.”

“Many people interpreted this as a time when great deception would be perpetrated and believers would depart from the faith and believe the lie, or a departure from the truth. But the problem here is that the context, the two previous verses, indicate that the church will be departing or leaving the earth. It’s much more in keeping in line with the context that Paul is referring to the rapture of the church, our going to be with the Lord.”

“In the King James version, it reads a bit differently and better reflects that the APOSTASIA is a reference to the rapture. Jonathan, grab the King James Bible next to you and read this text please:”

Jonathan cleared his throat and read, “Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”



“The word ‘falling’ is apostasia, but the word for ‘away’ in Vine’s is the Greek word ‘airo’, which means to seize, to lift up, take away and implies a forcible removal. This suggests that the church will be ‘caught up’ or removed.”

“The ‘son of destruction’ is of course Vespasious. He is, as you both know, the biological son of Satan.”

“Whoa, stop right there!” exclaimed Jonathan. “I don’t know that. How did you come to that conclusion? Satan is an angel and angels can’t, well, you know what I mean, have sex with a woman.”

“They can and they did,” replied John. “What Jesus said in

Matthew 22:29-30 in no way suggests that angels, we’re referring to the fallen angels now, couldn’t have sex with the daughters of Adam but rather that the faithful angels in heaven simply don’t have sex or procreate. Not that they couldn’t. Question. With whom would they have relations, even if they had wanted to?”

“The fallen angels, however, are in a different situation. In Jude verses six and seven we read:”

“And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode.” And in Revelation 12:9 the Bible says:”

“Which had been in heaven, but now they have been ‘thrown down to earth’. Jude further states in verses 6 and 7:”

“He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgement of the great day. Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing punishment of eternal fire.”

“Gross immorality means ‘fornication’ as found in the King James translation. And fornication is defined as ‘illicit sexual intercourse’ and has its own special word in the Greek, ‘EKPORNEUO’, implying excessive indulgence.”

“This is implied in Genesis Chapter Six, verses 1-13. In verse 2 most translators take the Hebrew term, ‘Bne a Elohim’ and translate this to the ‘sons of God.’ Throughout the Old Testament this term, Bne a Elohim is used half a dozen times and in all other cases it’s clear from the context that this refers to angels. The fact is seen several times in the Bible that angels can and did in fact take on human form, no doubt endowed with all the appropriate ‘plumbing.’ The book of Enoch makes reference to this fact repeatedly. Here’s one example in Enoch Chapter 15, verses 2-4. “And go say to the watchers,” John explained. “They are a special caste of angels.”

“And go to the watchers of the heavens... Why have you left the high, holy and eternal heaven, and lain with women, and defiled yourselves with the daughters of men (A’DAM) and taken to yourselves wives, and done like the children of earth, and begotten giants (Nephilim) as sons?

And though you were holy, spiritual, living the eternal hai, (life) you have defiled yourselves with the blood of women and have brought forth with the blood of flesh, and as children of men, have lusted after flesh and blood, as those also do who die and perish.

Therefore, have I given them wives also that they might impregnate them, and bring forth children by them, that thus none might be lacking to them on earth.

But you (angels, Bna a Elohim) were formerly spiritual, living the eternal hai, and immortal for all generations of the world.

And now, the giants (Nephilim) who are produced from the spirits (angels) and flesh, (daughters of men) shall be called evil spirits upon the earth, and on the earth shall be their dwelling.”

“We have further proof,” continued John, “but I can only give you the highlights now. A proper study would take nearly a dozen hours. An angel, Satan, fathered a son. In II Thessalonians 2:3, he’s referred to as the SON OF DESTRUCTION. This was his second son.

His first was Cain.”

“Excuse me,” said Jonathan. “We know that how?”

“The original sin in the Garden of Eden was not, as has been childishly taught, Eve eating a literal piece of fruit and then getting Adam to do likewise. The two trees in the Garden are metaphors. Jesus is represented by the Tree of Life, whereas Satan is represented by the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were told to stay away from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They didn’t. Satan was angry that God had created a being after His own image. Satan interceded to mar that image through impregnating Eve and having offspring. God called these offspring ‘seed.’ After Adam had relations with his wife, she bore twins. Scientists have a name for this; it’s called heteropaternal superfecundations. Cain was Satan’s ‘seed’ and Abel was the woman’s ‘seed’. In Genesis 3:15 God said that the woman’s ‘seed’ would kill Satan’s ‘seed.’ But Satan had Cain strike his brother dead, thinking God’s prophecy in Genesis 3:15 was referring to those two seeds, that is Cain and Abel. Little did he know at the time, that God’s seed wouldn’t be born for another 4,000 years in Bethlehem. John wrote in I John 3:8, 11-12:

“The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose that He might destroy the works of the devil...”

“For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was OF THE EVIL ONE, and slew his brother, and for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous.”

“Cain was OF THE EVIL ONE,” repeated John. “Whereas Abel was of Adam. This in a nutshell tells us that angels can and did procreate with women in the past. This provides evidence that it can and did happen again in Vespasious’s case. The fact of his large stature reflects this relationship. Remember I talked with you briefly about the mysterious passage in Daniel 2:43?” “Yes, I remember; can you reread it for us?” asked Jonathan.

“And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay...”

“That would be referring to angels D.N.A. mixing with human D.N.A.,” explained John.

“They will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.”

“And unless you missed it, this would take place during the time of the ten toes or the ten horns which were to become the ten kings. And here we are today. So, when I said earlier that Vespasious is the biological Son of Satan, I meant is as literally as it sounds. Can you see how this could possibly be so?” asked John.

“I do,” replied David. “Our rabbis have always argued that the type of tree was perhaps citrus or an apple tree, but that explanation does nothing to explain what transpired as a result or why the punishment seemed disproportionate to the ‘crime’.

“So let me finish explaining how this was all foretold by Paul, continuing in II Thessalonians 2:3-7.”

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he TAKES HIS SEAT in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”

“This, of course, was fulfilled yesterday by Vespasious,” said

John, “when he sat on the only seat in the Temple, the Mercy Seat.”

“Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until HE is TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY.”

“Different Bible teachers had different explanations of who or what the word ‘He’ meant,” said John.

“What do you believe it means?” asked David.

“I believe the ‘He’ is the church because that’s how this chapter begins, with the church being ‘gathered together to Him’ and the apostasy or ‘catching away’ comes first.”

“But John, Jesus refers to His church as His bride, a ‘she’, not a ‘he’,” said Jonathan.

“As His bride, yes, as it relates to the bond between a husband and a wife and the love that one has for the other. But here’s another concept people often overlook. Christ is referred to as the ‘head’ of the church, which is His body. I’m referencing Ephesians 1:22-23. Now if the head of a child is ‘male’ then what do you expect the ‘body’ to be?” John paused, awaiting a reply.

“Male,” said David.

“Yes,” said John. Let me read a verse from Ephesians 4:13:”

“For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the BODY OF CHRIST; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature MAN, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.”

“Not to a mature WOMAN, but a mature man. Now go with me to Revelation 12:2,5.”

“and she (Mary/Israel) was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. And she gave birth to a SON, a MALE child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron...”

“Some people want the ‘he’ to be a reference to the Holy Spirit, but why would the term Holy Spirit not be used if that was the subject of the text? But it is not; the church is the subject, and Christ wants to gather it out because the church is not to be subject to God’s wrath. You see, for two thousand years the influence of the church has helped fend off Satan’s efforts to take control and cause havoc on innocent people. America, regardless of what people thought, was a Christian nation and when Hitler tried to conquer the world and destroy your people, the Jews, God-fearing people stood up and fought and died to restrain him.”

“O.K.,” said Jonathan. “Vespasious is Satan’s son. I get it now.”

“Me too,” said David.

Some Time Later

In the weeks and months that followed, a clash of beliefs was battling for supremacy. The 144,000 were emboldened both by the two witnesses and the event that took place on Yom Kippur.

Since none of the ones taken up in the ‘cleansing’ three years earlier ever returned, it became clear that the story was a cover-up, a ruse to offer another false narrative to prevent the truth from being known.

The denominational leaders and the Messianic rabbis finally began to realize that they had been deceived and mistaken about a lot of things. They began to reject Vespasious’s claims of being the Messiah and wholly rejected all denominational affiliations, names, creeds, doctrines and traditions and began to earnestly search the scriptures, the few remaining ones that hadn’t been burned earlier. The great commission took on a new meaning. “He that believeth and has been baptized shall be saved.” This simple command had been hijacked by the Protestant Reformation more than five-hundred years earlier. Baptism for the remission of sin had finally replaced the sinner’s prayer. This one change would have a profound effect on the destiny of millions of believers for eternity.

The sinner’s prayer, of course, was something that had not been a part of Gods counsel. With this, all the denominational affiliations had come to an end. People began publicly proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah, the head of the one church.

When Vespasious caught wind of this through his many spies, he became enraged. He unleashed a reign of terror, death and destruction against Christians. Eventually this led him to ignore his previous fear of the two witnesses whom he had killed, giving strict orders to leave their dead bodies in the streets of Jerusalem as an example to those who were turning away from him toward Jesus.

When this news was broadcast worldwide John, David and Jonathan, along with the 144,000 (those who were still left alive) wept bitterly, along with the Jews in Israel who were to turning to Jesus.

Revelation 11:9-14

“And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. And after the three and a half days the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who were beholding them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up into heaven in the cloud and their enemies beheld them.”

Within one hour of their translation up into heaven, Jerusalem was the epicenter of an 8.0 earthquake which destroyed a tenth of the city, killing about seven-thousand people.

The believers felt vindicated and despite the horror of the carnage, they were able to give God the glory due Him.

“The second woe is past; behold; the third woe is coming quickly.”

# Chapter 15

## The Wrath of God

When Pope Francis began receiving word that most all the rabbis in Israel were rejecting the authority of Vespasious, he hatched a plan to put a halt to this insurrection. The Inquisition was reinstated from an old play book of the Reformation days and the times during which the Knights Templar monastic order was eliminated.

Blue-helmeted gestapo-style police went house to house eliciting confessions. When there was any reason for questioning one's loyalty to Vespasious, the subject was handcuffed and taken to a retrofitted prison where torture was used to detect disloyalties. There was no shortage of subjects. By now, every believer realized that death was a part of the package of being a disciple of Christ.

Those who turned to Jesus were tortured and eventually decapitated. Bodies of dead Christians were unceremoniously thrown in a heap at the lowest point of the Kidron Valley as an example to any prospective defectors. Every vulture for three-hundred miles around Jerusalem blackened the sky. Soon the people of Jerusalem and the surrounding towns were complaining of the awful, foul stench. No one complained publicly for fear that they might be next. Among the Christians who had escaped notice, the common phrase was, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on," as found in Revelation 14:13.

### Six Months Later

The cold weather of winter dampened the awful stench emanating from east of the city. It had become almost unbearable to breathe. But then came spring. Passover was to be celebrated on the fourteenth day of the first month, Abib, as it had been known for more than thirty-five hundred years.

Rabbi Z would officiate over the Seder meal with the help of his staff and students at the yeshiva, as had been his custom since the school's foundation. Only this year he would be missing his two best students. At the head of the table a surprise guest was present. At seven feet tall he needed no introduction.

"Thank you, Rabbi Z," said Vespasious in his most humble tone. "Your invitation was unexpected but much appreciated. How could I refuse my greatest ally in all of Israel?"

"And now I will offer the opening prayer from the Haggadah to begin the Passover," said Rabbi Z.

"Long ago, at this season, a people, our people, set out on a journey. On such a night as this, Israel went forth from degradation to joy. We give thanks for the liberations of days gone by. And we pray for all who are still bound, still denied their human rights. Eternal God, may all who hunger come to rejoice in a new Passover. Let all the human family sit at your table, drink the wine of deliverance, eat the bread of freedom:"

"Leader." "All."

Freedom from bondage (Rabbi Z) and freedom from  
oppression, freedom from (group)

hunger (Rabbi Z) and freedom from (group)  
want, (Rabbi Z) from hatred and freedom from (group)  
fear, (Rabbi Z) freedom to think and freedom to (group)  
speak, (Rabbi Z) freedom to teach and freedom to (group)  
learn, (Rabbi Z) freedom to love and freedom to (group)  
share, (Rabbi Z) freedom to hope and freedom to (group)  
rejoice, (Rabbi Z) soon, in our days.

Amen (All)

“And now I shall break the Afikomen in half and wrap this piece in this linen cloth,” said Rabbi Z. He rose to his feet with a theatrical flourish and said, “In this we are saving the best part for last. It is like a dessert to be savored after the main meal.” He then exited the room after hiding the broken matzah in a secret area in the kitchen.

Before each person sat a plate filled with roasted lamb, bitter herbs and piles of roasted matzah bread. There were plenty of bottles of Kadam grape juice for the students and several bottles of fermented wine for the staff and teachers.

As the Seder meal progressed into the night, Rabbi Z went on at some length to explain the significance of each food as it related to the first Passover in Egypt. During a pause in the ceremony, Vespasious leaned over to ask Rabbi Z about the significance of the first piece of bread which was broken in half and wrapped in a white linen cloth and hidden from sight. Rabbi Z looked directly into the inquiring eyes of Vespasious for an inordinate amount of time as he wracked his brain for an answer. Having lived one hundred years of life, not one answer came to mind. “I don’t know,” replied the aged rabbi slowly. “I really don’t know.”

Vespasious smiled at this answer and simply said, “That’s fine. I was just wondering,” he lied.

As the clock approached midnight, the Rabbi sent the youngest students out to find the hidden manna, the Afikomen. In just two minutes, a happy shout was heard. “I found it!”

“Children, each take a small bite and pass it around. This is the last morsel of food for you to leave with as we make our way to our dorms for the night. What do we say to our highest, holy guest?” asked Rabbi Z.

“Good night, Mashiach Vespasious,” the young men replied in unison.

“Good night, children. Sleep well,” he responded.

As Rabbi Z escorted Vespasious to the door, the clock struck midnight. The darkened night sky to the east of Jerusalem suddenly lit up like daytime. A loud voice could be heard from above the city, quoting from the book of Revelation, Chapter 14, verse 15:

“Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

At this sound there appeared thousands of illuminated bodies arising from the Kidron Valley as they rocketed up into the heavens. When the last body had vanished from sight, another voice was heard quoting from the book of Revelation, Chapter 14, verse 18:

“Put in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.”

Instantly the sky turned dark once more. All this occurred in less than ten minutes.

Rabbi Z had thought that nothing could rattle him ever again, after all that he had witnessed. He stood transfixed as he slowly turned to Vespasious. Vespasious said to him, “Look,” as he pointed back to the same area of the sky. There, far up in the expanse of the sky, was a huge U.F.O., brightly lit and appearing to be over one-thousand feet wide. As they watched, the craft shot straight up into the sky.

“There’s your answer, Rabbi,” said Vespasious as he gave the Rabbi a holy kiss. “Don’t worry, Rabbi. I’ve got everything covered; just a little more clean-up work to do,” he said as he left the school grounds.

### Next Day

As word spread that the bodies of the dead Christians were conspicuously absent from the Kidron Valley, it seemed that no one had a clue what happened to them. John knew precisely what had occurred. Those who were on the ground reporting were quoted as saying that there was not even a residual odor of the putrefied bodies that just twelve hours earlier lay rotting and half eaten by buzzards. In fact, not one buzzard could be seen in the sky where just yesterday there had been tens of thousands of them.

Jonathan asked John, “What does this mean?”

“Well, Jonathan, it means that things are about to get worse. What occurred last night was the mid-tribulation rapture that folks have been arguing about for centuries. Those Christians will be remembered with those who went up three and a half years ago and to me, it is truly one of the great mysteries of God,” said John.

“Why is that?” asked David.

“Well, we know that the scripture states that whoever takes the mark of the beast will be eternally lost. And yet we know that all, or most of these people had worshipped Vespasious and had received the mark of the beast. In Chapter fifteen, speaking of these very people,

John wrote this (Revelation 15:1-2):”

“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.”

“These were the ones to whom the elder asked of John in Revelation 7:13:”

“These who are clothed in white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?”

And I (John) said to him, “My lord, you know.”

“Of course, if they had simply been a part of the first resurrection, John would have known this. But he was totally caught by surprise with this question and declared that he did not know. The elder continued:”

“And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation.””

“Notice he didn’t say, “came out of” as in past tense, because from the moment John was witnessing this event, it was still yet future. It had not yet occurred. Three and a half years future to be exact.”

“And they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God...”

“When I referred to this as a ‘great mystery’ I was referring to the biblical principle of ‘gleaning’,” said John.

“You mean ‘gleaning’ as in the book of Ruth?” asked David.

“Yes. But God has used sowing and reaping, planting and harvesting as mysteries regarding how the kingdom of God operates. It is why Christ’s first and most important parable was about the ‘sower of the seed’. And of course, in that parable Jesus explained the ‘mystery’ to them by identifying the ‘seed’ as the ‘word of God’. That is in Luke Chapter eight.

The first mention of gleaning is found, not in scripture about agricultural laws but rather within the revealing of the fourth festival or holy days. Which is?” John waited for an answer.

“The Feast of Trumpets or as we know now was resurrection day,” said Jonathan.

“Correct. So let me read the text from Leviticus 23:22-24.

Remember now, these are instructions about the feasts of God:”

“When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the LORD your God.”

“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘In the seventh month on the first day of the month, you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.’”

“As I’m sure you both know very well, the gleaning is a part of the original harvest which is why John saw these souls along with those who were in the rapture in Revelation, a number which was so large it could not be counted. The gleaning comes some time shortly after the main harvest and is substantially smaller. This is what happened last night. The angels put in the sickles and harvested the gleanings,” explained John.

“The rabbis never understood this mystery, John. Thank you for explaining it to us. So what happens next?” asked David.

“From this day going forward there will be no second chance. Once again we see the grace of God at work,” said John, as he stood looking out the window toward the Kidron Valley, while pondering the night’s event.

“Over the next several years, the earth, what’s left of it, will experience the seven bowls of God’s wrath,” stated John.

As if on cue with John’s statement, the first curse broke out worldwide. That day, all those who had worshipped Vespasious and who had the microchip imbedded in their hand broke out in ‘loathsome and malignant sores’. Emergency rooms worldwide were flooded to standing room only. Doctors were



unable to find a cure or relief. Many decided that suicide was the only relief available. Others tried cutting their hands off to no avail. Over the next several years, the rest of the bowl judgements were poured out upon the earth. The Mediterranean Sea turned to blood, killing every creature that called it home. Rivers and springs turned to blood causing many to die from dehydration.

Planet earth became the target for solar C.M.E.'s (coronal mass ejections), as certain lands were burned by the intense heat from solar plasma. Humans were cooked alive when caught outside during solar flares. And yet no one blamed Vespasious but rather cursed God and His holy name.

Despite all the calamities in the world, the nation of Israel was spared. It soon became apparent to all the other kingdoms that some supernatural protection was over Israel. Suspicion quickly turned to envy. What did Israel possess that other lands did not?

Next, smoke from countless fires and volcanoes darkened the skies over most of the earth. The headwaters to the Euphrates River dried up causing the great river to empty. War drums began to beat from the east, the north and the south. It seemed that all eyes were focused on Israel with great suspicion.

Finally, in a moment of clarity, the realization came to Vespasious that Yahweh, Almighty God, was still hard at work protecting his people and the land that He had promised to Abraham and his descendants after him. The realization that His favor shown to Israel was now coming around to bite him, would have to be reversed. Colluding with the kings of the earth, a plan was hatched to come against the land of Israel. If Israel was the apple of God's eye, then he would poke a sharp stick in it. If Israel had betrayed him, all except one old rabbi, Vespasious would see to it that he would be spared. He had actually come to adore the old man as a son would love a father. He reasoned that he must have inherited such human qualities from his mother's side of the gene pool. Such feelings did not surface often.

It was decided that China and India would send one-hundred million soldiers and heavy artillery. Russia would send fifty million with tanks. Libya, Ethiopia and its neighbors, along with Iran and Turkey, would provide fifty million soldiers. The plan would be to assemble this great army in the Valley of Jezreel, also known as Armageddo in Northern Israel. Plans would require several months of preparation.

All the while, Vespasious and the Pope were performing miracles designed to motivate and mobilize the seven remaining kings to move their armies into Northern Israel.

Vespasious sent a message to Rabbi Z. As the letter was handed to the rabbi, he opened it and read:

"Dear Beloved Rabbi. It appears that you alone have kept your faith in me and now I wish to repay you this kindness. I have no other recourse but to destroy Jerusalem which you have fought so hard to defend. In one week, on the ninth of Av, my armies will attack your city because of their rebellion against me. Please accept my free passage out of harm's way as a token of my love for you. Your Messiah, Vespasious."

Early in the morning, on the day after the letter arrived, all television programming was preempted by news flashes from around the world, beginning in the city of Babylon in Iraq.

"A nine-point zero earthquake has struck in downtown Babylon this morning at 8:15 A.M. splitting the city into three parts."

Similar reports were coming in from Spain, Russia, Japan,

Germany as well as reports from Australia, Africa, and South America.

Particularly hard hit was the city of Rome, the city on seven hills. Within one hour, Rome was leveled to its foundations. Earthquakes, hail and fire were reminiscent of the days of Nero when one third of Rome burned.

As this news reached the ears of Rabbi Z, he began to question.

Was this God's judgement against those who had sided with Vespasious? Could he have been mistaken, deceived by his own vanity? A huge question now was, how, if Vespasious is the Messiah, could he be attacking his own beloved city? Didn't the scriptures state that Israel would never be destroyed again?

Back in his motel, John awoke to the same news reports. "Brothers, we are nearing the end of the seven years. This morning's events are setting the stage for Christ's soon return to earth." "Do you know the day, John?" asked David.

"No, I don't think we can, David. In Revelation 16:15 we have this message. Now it's not written in red letters by the translators, but it's the same language that Jesus used in other places. Revelation 16:15 says:"

"Behold I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame."

"This fulfills the seventh and final bowl judgement as we are nearing the end of the seven years. Jonathan, I think it's time for you to speak one last time to your beloved rabbi about Jesus being the Messiah. After all that has happened lately, perhaps something you can say or do will impact him to reconsider his position."

"I'll head over there right now if you think it's safe to do so," replied Jonathan.

"We'll be praying for you, Jonathan," said David.

# Chapter 16

## No Greater Love

As Jonathan was led into Rabbi Z's office, he noticed the rabbi's downcast expression immediately. The rabbi held a letter in his hand. He appeared to be tired; worn down.

The rabbi quickly placed the letter in his top desk drawer as he rose to greet his former student.

"Rabbi, I'm sorry to intrude on you without calling..."

"Hush now, young man; no explanations are necessary," said the aged rabbi, stepping forward to hug his good friend. "Come, come in, sit down now. To what do I owe this honor? I was just thinking of you and when I looked up, there you were. And how is our David doing?" asked the rabbi.

"He and I are both well, sir. David sends his regards. I saw you looking at a letter when I walked in. Anything important?" asked Jonathan.

The rabbi hesitated, debating whether to discuss the content of the letter or not. It was, in fact, the reason he was thinking of Jonathan. "Well, yes," replied Rabbi Z as he reached into the drawer to retrieve the letter. "It is a letter from Vespasious sent to me yesterday. In it he spells out his plans to destroy Jerusalem because of the mass reversal of our rabbi's acceptance of him as the Messiah. I never in these last few years was more sure of this truth, but now, I'm not so sure. How could God's anointed destroy the very city He spared only a few short years ago and to which He is eternally bound as is taught in the Tanach? Vespasious wants to spare me from death and has given me a pass to leave, so to speak."

Rabbi Z stared off into space but his mind was racing with question after question as he searched for the missing key. Many of the scriptures pointed directly to Vespasious being the Messiah...yet... something was missing; something was very wrong.

"Jonathan?" asked Rabbi Z. "After all that you've witnessed in these last, what is it now, nearly seven years, what keeps you from connecting the dots back to Vespasious? Why do you still insist on believing in this Jesus of yours? You are still a Christian, I presume?"

"Yes, I am, Rabbi," replied Jonathan. "This is why I came back today to try to persuade you this one last time before Jesus returns to this planet."

The rabbi interrupted, "Jonathan, I was hasty and rash the last time we spoke. I was hurt and convinced that you had been deceived by this American Indian preacher. I am truly sorry for my actions and beg your forgiveness. Do you have it in you to forgive me?"

"Rabbi, David and I both forgave you before we left your office the last time we were here. Jesus is all about forgiveness. Before we became disciples of His I might have never forgiven you. But once we understood the atoning work He accomplished on the cross and we received forgiveness of sin simply by believing and through baptism, we realized that we had to forgive you because He had forgiven us."

When Jonathan realized little resistance from the good rabbi, he ventured to continue the discussion.

"Rabbi, Jesus was Jewish and the Brit Hadassah (New Testament) was entirely written by Jewish prophets and apostles. Christianity was not some new religion that spontaneously arose from Greek or

Roman culture. It was the fulfillment of God's promises both to Eve in the Garden of Eden and to Abraham. There are roughly three hundred prophetic scriptures and stories in the Tanach that present a foreshadowing of the Messiah. But in God's play book His Messiah would come twice. The first time as Mashiach ben Joseph who would not be recognized by his own brothers at their first encounter. But then at the second encounter Joseph revealed himself and forgave them for rejecting him all those years earlier. Joseph's job was to give his family and by extension, the world, the bread of life, that grain that had been stored for the day of famine."

"The second example is found in Mashiach ben David, the 'warrior', who defended Israel from her surrounding enemies. These are not, as the rabbis believe, two different Messiahs, but one and the same coming for two different purposes at two different times. Our Jesus is about to return from heaven to eradicate Vespasian and his king's armies being amassed in Northern Israel."

"In Jesus' first coming, He offered His body as the bread of life that came down from heaven and sustains us as did the manna during the forty years under Moses. This represents Joseph and the role he played. And now He comes to spare Jerusalem from its enemies. In this He represents King David.

"Without having read the New Testament, it's impossible for you to realize all this. Preacher John believes that Jesus will be returning any day now, and so far, he has been spot on with his predictions. Romans 4:7-8 says:

"King David wrote, 'Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD will not take into account.'"

"The apostle Paul wrote the following from Romans 5:6-10:"

"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly, for one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

"But Johnathan," Rabbi Z responded. "What about the commandments? Without them we cannot know if we are in right standing with the Almighty. Our approval by God is predicated on our keeping His commandments. You Christians don't keep the Sabbath?"

"Rabbi, my best friend. The Jewish people were told by the prophet Jeremiah to be looking for a New Covenant; you're familiar with Jeremiah 31:31. It was to be unlike the Old Covenant that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai. At His last Seder meal, the night He was betrayed, Jesus said this, found in John 15:12-14:"

"This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

"Then the apostle John in his epistle of First John 3:22-23 says this:"

"And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."

"Now lest you think He's referring to the ten commandments, let me continue," Jonathan said.

"And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us." "These are God's commandments under the New Covenant."

Rabbi Z chuckled to himself as he stated to Jonathan, "No wonder people become Christians. It's so easy; there's nothing to it."

“That’s not entirely true. You see we have to ‘believe’ (Jonathan emphasized while making air quotes) that Jesus was God’s only begotten Son and that He fulfilled all the Law and the prophecies. And in doing so He was the perfect, sinless sacrifice that was provided for all the sins of everyone ever born, past, present and future. And besides that, one has to believe that after three days dead in a tomb, guarded by soldiers, He arose from the grave to live and intercede between man and Yahweh forevermore.”

“Because the majority of Jewish people rejected Him as the Messiah two-thousand years ago, we as a nation have been set aside. The apostle Paul says that Israel has had a partial blindness of their eyes and a partial hardening of their hearts. But now he is removing the blinders and opening up hearts to the work of offering freedom from sin, once and for all. Many, if not all the rabbis in Israel have come to believe this. You may, in fact, be the last rabbi that doesn’t look stunned at this statement.”

“Rabbi, this is the fulfillment of what God called Abraham to do, the Akedah, offer his only begotten son of promise on the altar. That was but a type or shadow of what God did two-thousand years ago at the same exact location in Israel. And you know that to be true; He offered His son to receive God’s righteous indignation against sin. Jesus bore God’s wrath for us and paid the price for sin by tasting death. But the story didn’t end there; it gets better. On the Feast of First Fruits after the Passover and during Unleavened Bread, Jesus arose in His glorified body from the tomb, thus conquering sin and death. There were thousands who were eye-witnesses to this event, all Jewish people, who were willing to die for this truth. People don’t willingly die for a lie.”

“Jonathan, you have given me a lot to think about. There is still something I can’t quite wrap my head around. When I have these pensive moods, I enjoy a leisurely walk through the old streets. Will you walk with me?” asked the rabbi.

It was a beautiful clear day with a gentle breeze. Birds were chirping and children were playing. As they turned a corner, suddenly a gun-wielding young man stopped them short. “Give me all your money and jewelry, old man, or plan on meeting your maker!” screamed the thug. “You, too, empty your pockets,” he demanded as he pointed the gun straight at Jonathan.

“Is this all you have?” shouted the gunman as the rabbi handed him a twenty-dollar bill.

“I’m just an old rabbi. I don’t carry much money.”

“Well, I’m just a junky in need of a fix, old man,” snarled the gunman.

Jonathan was eyeing the gunman’s hand. As he saw the trigger being pulled back and the hammer move, he jumped in front of his beloved rabbi. The crack of the gun going off startled everyone, including the gunman, who dropped his weapon on the pavement.

The rabbi reflexively grabbed Jonathan from behind and helped break his fall to the concrete sidewalk.

A storeowner stepped out of his front door and shouted that he had called for help. An ambulance was on its way. As Rabbi Z dropped to his knees to evaluate Jonathan’s wound, the young yeshiva student pulled him in close.

“Rabbi,” Jonathan whispered through his pain and clenched teeth. “I love you and God loves you. Tell the gunman I forgive him. He’s not in his right mind and didn’t understand what he was doing. Find him some help. Take my phone and call John. Tell him I ... I ... lo...” Jonathan breathed his last

“I know what to tell him. That you love him. I’ll tell him.” As the rabbi reached into Jonathan’s pocket and dialed his friend, great tears of sorrow fell to the ground and mixed with Jonathan’s blood.

A crowd had gathered and many people were crying as they recognized both the rabbi and Jonathan. Many had come to know the Lord through Jonathan's evangelistic efforts and Rabbi Z was well known as the head instructor of the local yeshivah.

When John and David finally arrived, both the gunman and Jonathan had been taken away from the crime scene. "Rabbi Z, what happened?" asked John as he and David hugged the old man. "Let's get you back to your school, so you can get cleaned up and change clothes."

"No, not yet. Can we sit and talk first?" asked the rabbi pointing to a small park across the way.

After finding a bench seat, the rabbi relayed the entire conversation that had transpired between he and Jonathan just minutes before.

"I could not wrap my head around the entire message of Jesus. There was something missing. But when Jonathan threw himself in front of me to save my life, the missing piece of the puzzle fell into place. What he did was take what to me was a doctrine and he lived it out. He made it come alive. Jonathan had quoted Jesus as saying, 'Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends'. It was Jesus who lay His life down and in doing so He identified His followers as His friends. The key is love."

"Vespasious loves himself and is willing to kill his people. Jesus loved others and was willing to die for them. That's what Jonathan did for me. He did what Jesus did. Now I know why he followed Jesus. John, will you help me to believe as Jonathan believed?"

"They say an old dog can't learn new tricks. Whoever made up that saying didn't know what they were talking about!" David said.

# EPILOGUE

John officiated at Jonathan's funeral, which was held at the yeshiva. Rabbi Z co-officiated as a gesture of reconciliation.

After careful attention to taharah preparation of the body, Jonathan's remains were memorialized and he was buried in his tallit with one corner of the tzitzit cut off. Following the custom of those buried in Israel, there was no casket.

At the graveside, the rabbi, who by now had become a Christian, offered the traditional Hebrew prayer: "Hamakom y'nachem etkhem b'tokh sha'ar avelei tziyon viyrushalayim.

May the Omnipresent comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

Next John spoke about the promise of Christs' return from John 14:1-6:

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how do we know the way?"

And Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me."

"This scripture was fulfilled nearly seven years ago," said John. "But Christ is returning to earth again soon, as these final days come to a close. Jonathan will have to await the second resurrection at the end of the one-thousand-year reign of Christ at the end of the age." At this point, John reached under his seat and pulled out Jonathan's Bible and handed it to Rabbi Z as a departing gift and memorial for him to remember his beloved student.

During the next two months an overwhelming military force was amassed in Northern Israel by Vespasious who quite frankly was terrified, not of what remained of Israel's I.D.F., but rather the hedge of protection that the Almighty had placed around Jerusalem. He was hoping to rush in and destroy the city and its inhabitants by brute force before anyone, God included, could respond.

On the day before this army was to advance, a most unusual event occurred, unlike anything that had ever been seen before by human eyes. In the sky, an opening appeared as a portal from which emerged a host of glorified beings who were led by Jesus Himself. He sat on a white horse wearing a white linen robe, appearing as though it had been dipped in blood.

Following Him was an army of the saints who had been taken up seven years earlier, also clothed in white linen and riding on white horses.

This had also been prophesied by Enoch in Enoch 1 as well as Jude 14:

"Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgement upon all and to convict all the ungodly of their ungodly deeds..."

Again, this had been prophesied by Zechariah in Chapter 14, verse 5:

“Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

As they swooped down just above the Valley of Megiddo, the flesh of those soldiers simply rotted off their bones.

Immediately after the armies had fallen, Jesus came to stand on the Mount of Olives just east of the Holy City. The mountain split in half from east to west. One part moved north, the other south, creating a valley through which He walked into Jerusalem to take the throne of David that had been promised to Him. He was then hailed as the King of the entire earth.

Court was held and both Vespasious, the false Christ, and the Pope, the false prophet, were declared guilty of high treason and were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Shortly after, an angel came down from heaven carrying a great chain. He entered the great abyss and brought Satan to stand before Christ who ordered him to be bound and thrown back into the abyss for one-thousand-years and the abyss was then sealed and shut.

The story of the one-thousand-year reign of Christ upon the earth thus remains an untold story. One in which not very much has been revealed within the Holy Scriptures.

This book has been written to aid and assist the Jewish people who will be alive to experience the tribulation period as described in John’s book of the Revelation. Maranatha.

“Come quickly Lord.”



