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return; then the genealogy of the High Priests; a further list of priests and heads of Levitical families.

It is worthy of note that beyond the rulers, the inhabitants of Jerusalem were to be chosen by lot. Perhaps it was considered burdensome and dangerous to dwell there, for the people blessed those who willingly *offered*, and of the remainder one in ten was selected by lot for Jerusalem. Here is a little reminder for the people of God that it is good for them to be in the place of His choosing.

God, too, has His record of those who have any part to play in the spiritual Jerusalem, and no sacrifice for Him will pass unnoticed and without reward. This section concludes with a description of the dedication of the walls and the account of the Levitical organisation concerning the Temple. While we live in a dispensation characterised by the freedom and liberty of the Holy Spirit, it is well to be reminded that our God is a God of order, Who likes all to be done decently and in order.

(To be concluded next issue)

THE PRELUDE TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST

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Read: Daniel 2:31-45; 9:24-27; Rev. 6; 8: 1; Isa. 10:5-7; 20-21

Sir Edward Denny made the following observation during his ministry—'Daniel's seventy weeks is the backbone of prophecy'. Most prophetic students agree with this but unfortunately many of the skeletons suffer from curvature of the spine! It should be observed that Daniel's seventy weeks has much to do with Gentile Imperialism.

God chose Israel, and as a nation she was distinctively for God, who, through the lips of Balaam in Numbers 23:9 stated, 'the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.' This people of divine choice proved unfaithful and

because of her grievous sins divine action was taken against her. God took from her that power which He alone had bestowed and deprived her of that unique place which she had above the nations of the earth; and handed over world dominion to a Gentile monarch. Nebuchednezzar, the King of the Chaldean Empire, had a dream which so troubled him that he searched throughout his great empire for some person who could make the dream known to him and interpret it to him. The dream was of a great image with a head of gold, breasts of silver, belly and things of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay. The image represented the Gentile Imperial power as a whole: while Daniel in chapter 7 of his prophecy views the same Imperial authority in the separate characteristics, or in its successional course.

<i>Gentile Empires</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Daniel 2</i>	<i>Daniel 7</i>
1. Babylonish	... 70	Head of Gold	Lion—(magnificence)
2. Medeo/Persian	... 203	Breasts of Silver	Bear—(rapidity)
3. Grecian	... 100	Belly of Brass	Leopard—(rapacity)
4. Roman	... 500	Legs of Iron	Monstrosity—(strength)

It is noteworthy that the Grecian empire was mentioned in Daniel 8:21 before it ever existed: and also that Caesar Augustus taxed the whole world—Luke 2:1.

<i>Daniel 2: 42</i>	<i>Daniel 7: 7</i>	<i>Revelation 13: 1</i>	<i>Revelation 17: 12</i>
10 Toes	10 Horns	10 Horns	10 Horns
		7 Heads. (7 Hills upon which Rome is built)	

The number 10 plays an important part in the two prophetic books viz. Daniel and Revelation. This harmony of factors is unique and confirms what has been affirmed by able Bible scholars during the past decades that the power that will yet arise shall have a confederation of ten powers or kings as Daniel 2:44 indicates. 'In the days of those kings' refers to the ten kingdom confederacy of the coming day.

Gentile dominion exists today and will persist 'until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled' (Luke 21:24). Gabriel's words to Daniel were:

'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city. . . . ' Daniel's people are undoubtedly Hebrews and

Daniel's holy city is Jerusalem. The extensive period of time outlined here is for a six-fold purpose carefully detailed in Dan. 9:24.

There is yet one week of this great prophecy to be fulfilled. The seventieth week is still future. When may we expect its fulfilment? Many and varied are the attempts to explain the meaning of this last week of the seventy weeks, and it behoves us carefully to examine the Holy Scriptures for the answer, for only therein shall the true elucidation be found.

The term 'the people of the prince that shall come' is important. Many are arguing today that there can not be a Revived Roman Empire; but is this so? Who are 'the people of the prince that shall come?' History indicates that in 70 A.D. Titus the Roman General came against the city of Jerusalem and destroyed it—as foretold by Christ Himself in that little parable in Matthew 22:7. The Romans were 'the people that shall come'. There will be a prince or chief ruler of that people who will confirm a covenant with 'the many' for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease, and because of the protection of abominations there shall be a desolator, even until the consumption and what is determined shall be poured out upon the desolate.

This chief ruler of the Restored Roman Empire shall make a covenant with 'the many' for one week, or seven years. Who are the 'many'? They stand in contrast with the 'remnant'! The remnant of that day will be characterised by paucity in numbers and will be feeble, while the 'many' will embrace the apostate portion of the Jews.

A common misinterpretation of this passage is that the covenant is broken in the midst of the week. The covenant is never broken; what actually will happen is declared here for us: the sacrifice and oblation, which is part of the divinely prescribed ritual will terminate through the intervention of the Prince that shall come and in its place idolatry will be established. Anything that would remind the people of God, the God of Israel, must be abandoned, and a shrine raised at which the devotees of this godless dictator shall bow in worship.

God cannot and will not tolerate idolatry, and because this is prevalent God directs His judgment against this league. 'The Lord hath a mighty and strong one, as a storm of hail and a destroying tempest; as a storm of mighty waters overflowing, shall be cast down to the earth with might. Isa. 28:2 (N.T.) Jehovah speaks again in verse 15 of the same chapter saying 'hear the word of Jehovah, ye scornful men that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.' For ye have said, 'We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol have we made an agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.'

Who is this 'mighty and strong one' whom Jehovah shall send against this people who have made a covenant with death and are in agreement with Sheol? Isaiah 10:5 answers this question. 'Ho! Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against a hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge.' This is the 'overflowing scourge' that shall sweep away the refuge of lies in which the two covenanting people have placed their trust.

The Assyrian or King of the North Dan. 8:9 will be the weapon God will use to execute His just judgement upon the rebellious people who have apostasised from him, and the ten kingdom confederacy from the west. For Revelation 17:8 tells us that 'the Beast thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition'. The Roman Empire was in existence when Christ was here on earth—did the leaders of the Jewish people not say 'We have no king but Caesar?' The Roman Empire is not—that is, it does not now exist. The Roman Empire shall be a political power in the future day.

East and West are going to meet in a terrible conflict in the Valley of Megiddo. The Assyrian shall lead the forces from the east, as 'the prince that shall come, shall take the leadership of the western forces. Jehovah leads the eastern forces against apostate Jewry and her confederates and 'Jehovah shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong and executeth His word: for the day of Jehovah is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?' Joel 2:11.

It is obvious that the first half of the prophetic week still to be fulfilled is characterised by events under the seal judgements. When three years and a half have expired then the Great Tribulation will commence. God has sealed for Himself one hundred and forty four thousand out of the twelve tribes of Israel and they shall enter into the Millennial earth. Rev. 4. The Devil is always characterised by imitation and he shall have the seal put on the earth dwellers. The mark of the Beast which shall enable people to buy and sell and without which they shall not be able to survive; except through Divine intervention, Rev. 13:16-17, for God shall sustain the faithful remnant until the Tribulation is over Matt. 24:22.

Two great battles shall have had their battleground in the land of Palestine—Immanuel's land: the first fought by a lone combatant, our Lord Jesus Christ: Who

‘Through what might seem defeat,
He won the meed and crown;
Trod all our foes beneath His feet,
By being trodden down.’

The second great battle will be the ‘Battle of that Great Day of God Almighty’ Rev. 16:14. This bloodiest of all fights will end in a complete rout of the Western powers. ‘Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind’ Ps. 48:7 suggests that the navies of the western power shall be smashed and the fighting forces, caught like rats in a trap shall perish. (See also Daniel 11, the King of the North triumphs here.)

‘Jehovah shall be jealous for His land and pity His people’ Joel 2:18. In verse 20 of this chapter God says ‘I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, (Persian Gulf) and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, (Mediterranean Sea) and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.’

It is obvious from a careful scrutiny of the Holy Scriptures that God will deal in judgment with the world's fighting forces first, then He shall deal with the civilian population as indicated in Matthew 25:31-46.

The scourge of the Great Tribulation enacted during the last half of Daniel's seventieth week shall conclude by the appearance of the Lord when 'his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof . . . and ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; . . . and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee' Zech. 14: 4-5.

This deliverance for the faithful remnant can best be understood as you read the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel from verse 31.

Nor will there only be the sealed company of Revelation 7 brought into the Millennial earth, but 'a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues' v. 9.: and when the elder asked who these are, he gets the answer, 'These are they which came out of Tribulation—the great—and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb' v. 14.

Those who have received the messengers of the Gospel of the Kingdom are the righteous who go into life eternal in Matthew 25:46: those who refused the messengers and the message go away into everlasting punishment.

Now that the tragedy of human revolt against God has been told the 'Sun of Righteousness' arises with healing in His wings Matt. 4:2. The Millennial Kingdom shall supersede all other kingdoms—as the stone cut out of the mountain without hands, and which smote the image upon his feet and it became as the chaff of the summer threshing-floors Dan. 2:—and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth: so the Kingdom, established by the God of heaven, shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people. God will vindicate His well beloved Son; for He must reign till He has put down all rule and all authority and power. See 1 Cor. 15.

To know that the once maligned and rejected Jesus of Nazareth shall take the reins of this world's government into His hands and rule in equity makes our souls bound forth in delight and say 'Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.'