

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 13]

THE MYSTERY OF 'THE SEVEN TIMES' EXPLAINED

Reading: Leviticus 26:18, 24, 28 & Luke 21:24

Introduction

- The recent hostilities in the Middle East are the latest episode of a family squabble that has endured for centuries.
- The descendants of Abraham's sons Ishmael and Isaac contesting God's will that made the offspring of Isaac the beneficiaries.
- This was passed on to Isaac's son, Jacob/Israel and in turn to his sons.
- Jacob's sons/grandsons became the heads of the 12 tribes that composed the nation of Israel.
- In the time of Joseph the family of 70 moved to Egypt.

1 Israel In Egypt

- [Genesis 15:13/14]. God showed this migration that would last 400 years.
- In [Exodus 1:8] Israel's status changed from '**favoured**' to '**slaves**'.
- Despite this, their numbers were multiplying.
- In due time, through Moses, God effected their exodus from Egypt.
- The family of 70 is now a nation of some 2.5 million.

2 En-route To The Promised Land

- On the way God gave them 10 great commandments to keep His people healthy and happy.
- God promised blessing for obedience but chastisement for national disobedience. [Leviticus 26:3, 14].

3 What Did Jehovah Mean By 'Seven Times?'

- The fact that God mentions it 3 times shows its importance.

- It can't mean that He would just chasten them on 7 occasions.
- **'Seven Times'** is a measurement of time or times.
- A **'time'** is a complete circle, circuit or revolution.
- A circle or a time meaning moving around in 360 degrees.
- Seven times is 7 circles, circuits each of 360 degrees.
- NB. The ancients used a calendar of 360 days..
- NB. The equator is divided into 360 degrees for navigational purposes.
- A time is 360degrees/360 days.
- Multiplied by 7 = 2520 prophetic days.
- [Ezekiel 4:6]. A prophetic day is equivalent to one literal year. [See Numbers 15:34]
- So 7 times = 2520 literal years.
- What format would this 2520 years of chastisement take for national disobedience?
- Consider [Luke 21:24]. It would be 2520 years when **'Gentile'** powers would rule over Jerusalem.

4 Israel In The Promised Land

- The land is allocated to the 12 tribes.
- Jerusalem would be in Judah as well as it being the kingly tribe.
- Israel were at times obedient but many times disobedient.
- King Solomon allowed idol worship on Israel's sacred soil.
- NB. The nation endured a **'split.'**
- The 10 northerly tribes breaking away to be **'the House of Israel.'**
- The two southerly tribes (Judah and Benjamin) identified as **'the House of Judah.'** (The Jews).
- There were now 2 capitols and 2 thrones.
- The northern 10 tribes were taken away in **'the Assyrian captivity'** never to return.
- The house of Judah lasted longer until God unleashed the **'7 times.'**
- Gentile powers would now control Jerusalem for 2520 years.

5 The Time Of The Seven Times

- It began in 604 BC with the Babylonians followed by the Medo-Persians, then the Greeks and then the Romans.
- After the Romans Jerusalem was in the hand of the Saracens and then finally the Ottoman empire or the Turks.
- Question: When will the **'times of the Gentiles end?'**
- 604 BC + 2520 years (allowing one year for the change over from BC to AD) and we arrive at 1917.
- I am saying that the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled.
- Did it end in 1917? And if it did, how?

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