



THE BLAZING TRAIL
VOLUME 2
Sketch of Old Testament Times

THE BLAZING TRAIL

VOLUME 2

Exploring Old Testament Times

CONTENTS

page 1 of 4

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Welcome..... | 5 |
| THE FIRST BORN HUMANS..... | 5 |
| ABEL'S OFFERING OF TRUE WORSHIP..... | 5 |
| CAIN'S COUNTERFEIT OFFERING OF FALSE WORSHIP..... | 6 |
| THE FIRST HUMAN DEATH..... | 7 |
| SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL..... | 7 |
| ANSWERS TO HUMAN DEATH | 7 |
| CAIN'S EXILE | 9 |
| THE PROMISED SEED PRESERVED | 10 |
| EVIL ESCALATES | 10 |
| NOAH AND THE FLOOD | 11 |
| GOD'S UNUSUAL ACT..... | 12 |
| THE FLOOD RECEDES | 13 |
| NOAH'S ARK DISCOVERED..... | 14 |
| GOD'S COVENANT RAINBOW..... | 15 |
| THE TOWER OF BABEL | 15 |
| ABRAHAM'S CALL..... | 18 |
| TEST OF ALL TESTS..... | 19 |
| GOD WILL PROVIDE | 20 |
| ISAAC'S BIRTHRIGHT BLESSING..... | 22 |
| THE DECEIT | 22 |

CONTENTS

page 2 of 4

| | |
|--|-----------|
| JACOB AND ESAU REUNITED | 24 |
| THE NAME EL-ELOHE ISRAEL | 26 |
| JOSEPH'S DREAMS OF DESTINY | 26 |
| JOSEPH'S GRAIN PITS | 29 |
| THE TRIBE OF JUDAH..... | 30 |
| BONDAGE IN EGYPT | 31 |
| THE MIRACLE CHILD..... | 31 |
| GOD'S PLAGUES OF JUDGMENT | 33 |
| DISCOVERIES OF THE RED SEA CROSSING (1978)..... | 35 |
| GOD SPEAKS HIS UNIVERSAL LAW - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ... | 36 |
| GOD IS THE LIVING ORIGIN OF LAW..... | 37 |
| THE BEGINNINGS OF GOD'S LAW IN OUR WORLD..... | 38 |
| GOD'S LAW ENGRAVED UPON STONE | 40 |
| EXPLORING GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS | 41 |
| NAVIGATING THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH..... | 44 |
| SIX REMAINING COMMANDMENTS | 47 |
| DISCOVERIES AT MOUNT SINAI | 51 |
| THE BEGINNINGS OF GOD'S LAW IN OUR WORLD..... | 52 |
| ISRAELITES KEEP GOD'S SEVENTH DAY SABBATH..... | 53 |
| THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY | 54 |
| ONWARD TO CANAAN | 55 |

CONTENTS

page 3 of 4

| | |
|---|-----------|
| TURNED BACK INTO THE WILDERNESS | 57 |
| BACK TO THE BORDERS OF CANAAN | 58 |
| CONQUEST INTO CANAAN | 59 |
| A LINGERING QUESTION..... | 60 |
| ERA OF THE JUDGES..... | 60 |
| GIVE US A KING..... | 62 |
| SAUL THE FIRST KING OVER ISRAEL..... | 63 |
| KING DAVID | 64 |
| KING SOLOMON | 65 |
| THE ERA OF THE PROPHETS | 67 |
| ISRAEL'S KINGDOM COMES TO AN END | 67 |
| THE FALL AND END OF JUDAH'S KINGDOM | 68 |
| A REBELLIOUS STAIN | 70 |
| UNCONDITIONAL AND CONDITIONAL PROPHECY | 70 |
| RETURN TO JERUSALEM | 71 |
| FINAL ERA OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY..... | 72 |
| THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE | 73 |
| ECHOES OF THE COMING MESSIAH | 74 |
| ROME'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE | 75 |
| THE DARK FORCE MAKE STRATEGIC PLANS | 75 |

CONTENTS

page 4 of 4

| | |
|--|-----------|
| THE FULLNESS OF TIME | 76 |
| The Blazing Trail Volume 1-7..... | 78 |



WELCOME

Welcome to Volume 2 of *The Blazing Trail*. In this volume we explore Old Testament history arching over Middle Eastern lands to the dawn of New Testament time AD 1.

Journeying through changing landscapes of ancient history and circumstances of human lives, we explore the spiritual trail of God's promised seed, the coming Messiah, the Son of God conceived in human life.

THE FIRST BORN HUMANS

Exiled from their garden paradise, Adam and Eve now dwell in the land of Eden, Adam providing food by growing plants in the mineralized, rich soil. Blessed by God, sons and daughters are born into the first human family - "*Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*" Genesis 5:2 - And so the growing Adam family begins to populate the home lands of Eden.

"...Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground." Genesis 4:1-2

ABEL'S OFFERING OF TRUE WORSHIP

Cain and Abel come of age, and following Adam's righteous example they to begin to offer sacrifice before God.

Faithful to God's sacrificial protocol, Abel chooses a perfect lamb without blemish from his flock of sheep. This innocent, sinless lamb represents Jesus' innocent sinless life. Abel confesses his sin over the chosen lamb, and symbolically Abel's sin is laid upon the lamb's innocent life. With sorrowing repentance for his sin, Abel kills the sacrificial lamb bearing his sins. Then upon the altar of sacrifice, before God, Abel

offers the symbolic lamb in symbolic atonement for his sin. Making atonement means providing pardon and forgiveness in freedom from sin.

Imbued with symbolic meaning, Abel's sacrificial offering mirrors God the Father giving up His beloved Son, to bear our sins upon the altar of death - *"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."* Isaiah 53:6 -

"When You make His soul an offering for sin..." Isaiah 53:10 - Upon the altar of the cross, Jesus' atoning blood in pardon from sin, streams from His sacrificed pierced body. While bearing our sins, Jesus dies our eternal death sentence in place of our sinful lives - *"...He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."* Isaiah 53:12

And so this is the spiritual foundation of the Old Testament system of sacrifice, looking forward to when Jesus' sacrificial death pays the ransom price in freedom from sin. Thus standing before the altar of symbolic sacrifice, believing in God's promised seed of deliverance, Abel receives God's pardon and forgiveness.

CAIN'S COUNTERFEIT OFFERING OF FALSE WORSHIP

Now Cain presents his sacrificial offering before God also, but with deviating difference. Void of true symbolism for true sacrifice, Cain offers a counterfeit offering of the *"...fruit of the ground..."*. Clearly Cain's offering has no life blood to shed, no symbolic atonement for pardoning sin - *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."* Leviticus 17:11

And so Cain's bloodless offering of the *"...fruit of the ground..."* cannot be accepted by God. Yes, Cain's fruit may be perfect and without blemish. But the fruit resembles a supplanted offering of his own human works only. So is Cain attempting to reconcile his guilt of sin before God on his own rebellious terms? Is he trampling under foot God's spiritual deliverance in disobedience to God's righteous commands?

"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.'" Genesis 4: 3-7 - "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous..." Hebrews 11:4

THE FIRST HUMAN DEATH

“Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.” Genesis 4:8

And so worshipping at Satan’s altar of death, Cain murders his innocent brother and Abel becomes the first human death in our world and the first human martyr standing true to God – *“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that you should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.” 1 John 3:10-12*

SATAN’S COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL

Beginning with Cain’s counterfeit worship, Satan’s counterfeit gospel of lies takes root in the world. And thus over the many generations of human lives, multitudes are deceived into false worship, even in the churches of Christendom today.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...” 1 Timothy 4:1 - “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 - “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” 2 Timothy 3:1-7

ANSWERS TO HUMAN DEATH

Yes, the murderous seeds of Cain’s dark life drift into the far regions of our fallen world, germinating in violence, murders, genocide, wars, and destruction of our dying planet.

Meanwhile at Abel's altar of sacrifice, Adam and Eve behold their lifeless son. Overwhelmed with grief, they peer into the dark void of human death.

Down through the ages of countless deaths, many have sought the true meaning behind death. Many mysterious theories have been invented and speculated upon, Is there a form of ongoing life after a person dies? Some truly think so.

But this falsity begins at the deathly tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Eden's paradise garden when Satan in his serpent disguise said to Eve, *"You will not surely die."* Genesis 3:4. Satan's enticing words were calculated to tempt Eve to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And adding further deceit to his lying wonder, at times, even today in the 21st century, Satan impersonates the dead, giving a false impression that life continues after death. But struck by Satan's poisonous fangs of lying deceit that Eve will not surely die, eventually Eve does die and her body returns to the dust of the ground.

And so looking into the dark void of death, seeking true answers, we need not look any further than God's inspired word, where human death is laid out open and clear.

"Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah Shall Your loving kindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?" Psalm 88: 10-12 - "For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun." Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

"But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last And where is he? As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes parched and dries up, So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep." Job 14:10-12 - "As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up. He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore." Job 7:9-10 - "Man decays like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten." Job 13:28

And so in death there is no conscious life, only a dark void of emptiness. Our human spirit of life returns to God who gave it - *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Genesis 2:7 - "But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding." Job 32:8*

Thus, our lifeless bodies return to the dust of the ground from which we are created. -*"For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."* Genesis 3:19 - Or to ashes when cremated - *"For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all*

are from the dust and return to dust. Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?" Ecclesiastes 3:19-21

Yet the question is asked: *"If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands."* Job 14:14-15 – *"But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me. Selah."* Psalm 49:15

Yes, the comforting hope abounds, that upon the glorious return of Jesus Christ, His voice of resurrection power shall raise the dead saints to everlasting life. - *"For the LORD Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

CAIN'S EXILE

Reaping the consequences of his deathly rebellion, Cain is cast out from the family community and exiled into a solitary land – *"Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?' And He said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.'* And Cain said to the LORD, *'My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.'* And the LORD said to him, *'Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.'* And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him. Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch." Genesis 4:9-17

Cain chooses for his wife one of his sisters, who chooses to live apart from God's ways. In those days, fresh with the vigor of creation, there is no immediate degeneration and therefore no genetic mutations in a marriage between brother and sister. Unlike our vast population today this was the only way to people the world. And so, children are born to Cain and his wife and their descendants multiply in the dark side of human life.

THE PROMISED SEED PRESERVED

Meanwhile Adam's and Eve's grieving hearts are comforted when Eve gives birth to their third son - *"And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, 'For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.'" Genesis 4:25* - In Seth, the promised seed of God's deliverance is preserved and trails through the righteous lives of Seth's descendants.- *"And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD." Genesis 4:26* - *"...Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God." Luke 3:37-38*

EVIL ESCALATES

During Adam's lifetime of 930 years, and beyond his death, the human family multiplies into billions populating the unexplored regions of the world. Side by side, like two tracks of a railway line, good and evil run their distant course through the fallen landscape of earthly life.

There are those people born of Cain's rebellion who live in Satan's dark side of sinful life. While there are those born of Adam's ways of righteous living, worshipping the one true God.

Working through the inroads of evil, the supernatural dark force begins to dominate the seething masses. As the darkness of evil deepens down the generation of time, God's perfect creation is corrupted before Him and His heart is grieved, His spirit vexed within His saddened soul - *"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." Genesis 6:5*

Through his reign of evil, Satan's strategic plan is to utterly destroy God's promised rescue of sinful human life, to utterly annihilate the promised seed of God's deliverance.

And so the spiritual warfare between light and darkness intensifies. Sadly, reveling in Satan's rebellion, more and more of earth's population corrupt their lives. Slowly but surely even God's righteous people called the *"...sons of God..."* are drawn into Satan's net of deception and mingle with the wicked - *"Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose." Genesis 6:1-2*

And so *"...the sons of God..."* the righteous line of believers, slowly diminish to only eight Godly souls.

NOAH AND THE FLOOD

Shining as a last beacon of hope among the seething wickedness is a righteous man called Noah. Together with his wife and family, this small group of eight people are the only worthy souls remaining to preserve God's seed of promise wherein the Son of God shall join Himself to the fallen human race.

"Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. And he called his name Noah, saying, 'This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed.'" Genesis 5:28-29

"And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth." Genesis 5:32 - While from Noah's righteous life Shem, Noah's eldest son carries forward God's seed of promise - "...Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech..." Luke 3:36

And yet, to keep alive the hope of God's promised seed, the prevailing wickedness must be swept away from the earth, and life begin afresh.

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'" Genesis 6:11-13

"And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." Genesis 6:6-8

Yet God's merciful love for the wicked perseveres, and He grants earth's population "...one hundred and twenty years..." of probation, to turn from their evil ways and live in God's righteous ways of life. Meanwhile, should the wicked mass reject God's merciful call, God instructs Noah to build an ark of deliverance for Noah and his family, and to bring on board creature life of every kind.

And so before earth's seething population Noah begins to build a large cargo ship with lower, second and third decks - *"...made of gopher wood... covered inside and outside with pitch." Genesis 6:14*

Meanwhile Noah preaches God's message of mercy, imploring the wicked to turn from their evil ways and turn to God. But Noah warns the wicked, if they choose to reject God's merciful call, God shall have no choice but to send a great flood of water to destroy all life forms that shall remain upon the planet.

The idea that the world could be drowned in a great flood of water seems impossible to the wicked. Surely this "flood" is just a conspiracy theory trumpeted by a deluded man.

You see, from the beginning of earth's creation, the world climate was always temperate, with one continuous season, and no need for rain - *"For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth...but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground."* Genesis 2:5-6

And so revelling under a sunny and rainless sky, the unrepentant people who have rejected God's offer of love and mercy, continue to mock Noah's warning message of a coming flood. All the while, standing out as a silent witness against their mocking tones, the ark takes shape upon the landscape of the world. The 120 years expire, and sadly the masses still cling to Satan's evil ways.

Noah's final words of merciful warning echo throughout the seething lands. Remaining defiant, rejecting God's last message of saving grace, probation closes for the wicked. They have chosen their own fate. Noah and his wife and their family of six, together with numerous creatures enter the wooden ark of God's saving grace.

"And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth." Genesis 7:10-17

All the while volcanic eruptions rupture ocean beds, spewing forth torrents of molten lava upon the sinking land. Lightening streaks over the darkened landscape as raging skies pour down their raining deluge. Pagan altars of satanic worship are pulverised before the praying wicked, while their evil inventions are swept away in a quagmire of ruin. Desperate to escape the rising water, human life and creature life seek higher ground. But all perish in a watery grave of death. Only eight souls saved from a population of billions. This is a great catastrophe that breaks God's merciful heart. But the historic record stands against evil, that having rejected God's merciful love the wicked reap their chosen demise.

GOD'S UNUSUAL ACT

Yet rest assured, God takes no pleasure in the wicked being destroyed with death. To God it is a strange, unusual act, opposite to His character of love - *"For the LORD...may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act."* Isaiah 28:21-22 KJV - *"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the LORD GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the*

wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.” Ezekiel 33:11 - “The LORD is... longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

And so bringing a flood of death upon the earth is not a willful choice of God, metered out in angry revenge, but rather a dire necessity to safeguard the remaining hope for created life to survive upon the assaulted planet - “Yet He will show compassion According to the multitude of His mercies. For He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men.” Lamentations 3:31-33 - “...for love is of God...for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8 - Not a spun candy floss love -sweet to the taste but lacking real substance. God’s love is deep flowing, reliable, strong, and consistent - “The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.’” Jeremiah 31:3 - “...I will not leave you nor forsake you.” Joshua 1:5

Yet equal to God’s character of love abounds His justice and judgment upon evil. Otherwise without accountability, evil would run rampant, escalating out of control, destroying the innocent, and even destroying God if evil should have its deathly way. Can God innocently stand by and let the attributes of His divine love be destroyed by evil? No, this is where God’s all-encompassing love intervenes and His justice and judgments come into action to stem the tide of evil. And this may necessitate a judgment of death to preserve greater life on Planet Earth, and to protect the far-reaching populated regions of our universe, and universes beyond our comprehension.

“But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment.” Psalm 9:7 - “For I proclaim the name of the LORD: ASCRIBE GREATNESS TO OUR GOD. HE IS THE ROCK, HIS WORK IS PERFECT; FOR ALL HIS WAYS ARE justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” Deuteronomy 32:3-4

THE FLOOD RECEDES

The first ever rain to fall upon earth ceases, leaving the planet’s surface as one global ocean. Now God causes a global wind to blow over the billowing waves and the ocean water begins to recede from the earth. Emerging from the swirling spray, the jagged land mass appears. Noah’s ark with its precious cargo settles on “...the mountains of Ararat...” located in Turkey.

“Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.” Genesis 8:1-4

Meanwhile dry land increases around the ark and far beyond "... mountains of Ararat...". The great wooden door to the ark opens by an angel's mighty hand, and the Noah family, with creature life, enter earth's second era of inferior life.

A very different world greets the survivors. The land mass is broken and barren, and groans beneath a cloudy, sunless sky. Now daily life is a harsh reality for the Noah family, eking out a living in a climate of changing seasons - "*While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.*" Genesis 8:22

"And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard." Genesis 9:20 - *"So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.'"* Genesis 9:1

NOAH'S ARK DISCOVERED

And do you know the late Ron Wyatt, a biblical archaeologist, discovered Noah's ark in the mountainous region of Ararat in Turkey? Wyatt's archaeological findings piece together biblical times, places, events and past civilizations, leaving us his proven motto, "The Spade Confirms The Book."

Wyatt's discoveries of Noah's ark, begins in 1977 upon the mountains of Ararat, eastern Turkey. Wyatt realised most people were looking for a single mountain of Ararat, but the Bible states "*...mountains of Ararat...*". Wyatt needs great courage to explore a forbidden area, but God blesses Wyatt's bravery and a ground survey reveals a visible outline of a massive ship submerged in the ground. Further beyond the ship, great stone anchors are discovered. Wyatt and volunteers worked out that these great stone anchors kept the ark stabilized upon the billowing waters.

Amazingly, Wyatt and his team use sophisticated metal detection devices to map out measurements of the submerged ark and these measurements match the exact Biblical dimensions of Noah's ark - "*And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.*" Genesis 6:15-16

Still more discoveries come to light, with evidence of sophisticated alloy rivets, pitch (tar), laminated timbers, glue, and decks with stalls for housing animals. Even an ancient sample of animal hair and dung is discovered. While in the ark's vicinity there are stone drawings depicting the biblical account of the flood and the saving of eight people.

Many of us have been falsely educated to believe early humans were less evolved than 21st century people, and early civilizations used crude construction methods,

either of hewed timber or stone. But here, Ron Wyatt discovered and proved that metal alloys, mixtures of metals smelted together, were used in the construction of Noah's ark, during ancient biblical times.

If you would like to discover more, we recommend reading or watching Ron Wyatt's discoveries at these internet sites, correct as at August 2024, while they are still available, for we are living in the closing days of freedom to learn the truth about God:

Website: <https://wyattmuseum.com> or <https://ronwyatttruth.com> (Same site with 2 URL's.)

Website: ronwyatt.com (Site set up by Ron's family)

YouTube.com: ronwyatt.com (ronwyatt.com is the name of the YouTube channel)

Vimeo.com: [dennis schelles](http://dennis-schelles.com) ([dennis schelles](http://dennis-schelles.com) is the name of the Vimeo channel -

Dennis Schelles is Ron Wyatt's son-in-law)

Rumble.com: search for "Ron Wyatt Discoveries 2022 Documentary".

GOD'S COVENANT RAINBOW

Compared with the beauty and lushness of the pre-flood planet, this new era was undoubtedly grim and bleak: Soils greatly disturbed, sodden and less fertile; skies grey and featureless as the well-known after effect of volcanic eruptions. And yet, appearing in the clouds of time, God's seven-coloured rainbow arches over the skies, declaring to the world His covenant promise that Planet Earth shall never experience another global flood of complete destruction.

"And God said: 'This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' And God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.'" Genesis 9:12-17

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Descendants of Noah's family begin to multiply, repopulating the desolate world. Over time, people migrate from the rugged regions of Ararat, settling upon the fertile plain

of Shinar and growing the precious saved seeds and perhaps even plants carried with them in the ark, for food and beauty. Is this why so many of our favourite plants today trace their beginnings to the fertile crescent of the Middle East?

But all is not well spiritually. Sadly, seething in their rebellious lives, evil begins to escalate yet again in the world. A charismatic leader arrives on the plain of Shinar, a great grandson of Noah, called Nimrod.

Exalting in his reputation as a mighty hunter, Nimrod gains fame among the people, protecting them from wild predators that have ferociously multiplied upon the earth. Laying claim to a new world order of governance Nimrod begins to build a city, and he leads the people to construct a high tower called Babel, to make a name for themselves in the earth: A name reaching above God's name of divine authority, supplanting God's ruling governance over Planet Earth – *“Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’ Genesis 11:3–4*

But of course, concealed in the midst of this treasonous ploy is Satan. By empowering Nimrod's charismatic leadership over the people, once again Satan seeks to exalt himself as god over Planet Earth. All this time, the earth continues to reap the consequences of the Great Flood's volcanic eruptions, the stratosphere remains blanketed in a wreath of grey, the sky looks blighted, overcast, and dreary.

Slowly, over many decades, the sun begins to appear through the sullen sky and the people rejoice. Yet, do they praise God? Tragically, the majority of the people begin to look on the brightly shining cosmic sun as a benevolent god. Now deceived by Satan's cunning ploy, the majority begin to worship the sun in place of God the Creator.

All the while, slowly but surely coupled to sun worship, Satan begins to exalt Nimrod as a god among the people and the seeds of a trinitarian god begin to germinate in Nimrod's life: A trinity consists of three persons in one god, a triune god of Satan's fabrication. Documented detail on the trinity is written in the Vital Force book *“Who is God?”* You can use the link below to copy and paste into your internet browser and read *“Who is God?”*

https://vitalforce.org.nz/uploads/94021/files/291200/WHO_IS_GOD_FEB_12.pdf

Or simply search for www.vitalforce.org.nz and click on FREE BOOKS to see a variety of publications to download or read online.

And so upon the plains of Shinar, Satan's counterfeit gospel of deceptive lies continues. Over generations of time this counterfeit gospel of deceptive lies morphs into many false religions, the worshipping and exalting of counterfeit gods, even in our day, the 21st century.

Concealed in these false lifeless gods, Satan steals worship due to God only, the one true God, Creator of heaven and earth - *“Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods...’”* Ezekiel 28:2

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Isaiah 4:13-14

Meanwhile the tower of Babel continues to grow in height and corrupting power. Once again, Satan is dominating the masses with evil. But overruling Satan’s evil plan, God ingeniously interrupts the building. You see, at this time, Planet Earth’s population speaks one language only. And so at the building site, God very simply divides the people into groups by language, each group now speaking a different language to other groups.

Suddenly, when trying to communicate, confusion sets in among the people for there are now multiple languages being spoken. Imagine the confusion as the people hear strange babble coming out of the mouths of their fellow workers! The building of the tower comes to a screeching halt.

Little by little, people find others speaking the same language, and form companies. One company of people remains at the derelict tower of Babel and eventually they build the city of Babylon. Other disgruntled companies go their separate ways, and migrate from the plain of Shinar into the unknown world beyond. Over generations of time the scattering migration from Shinar evolves into many nations and cultures we see in the world today - *“So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth and they ceased building the city.”* Geneses 11: 8

Drifting from the plain of Shinar, the people still cling to their pagan practices of worship. Slowly but surely over generations of human life, their satanic rituals evolve into worshipping many strange gods - *“...the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines...”* Judges 10:6

And so in differing forms of paganism, Satan draws the masses into his net of deception. But thankfully, not all are beguiled and bewitched, for in the midst of Satan’s seething corruption there are those who live apart, choosing to remain true to God. And so the trail of God’s promised seed weaves onwards in the lives of God’s faithful believers.

And now inheriting the seed of God’s promise, a man called Abram arrives in our midst. Soon his name is extended to Abraham *“...a father of many nations”*. Genesis 17 5. - *“...Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor...”* Luke 3:34

ABRAHAM'S CALL

Satan may seem to triumph and boast of his heathen nations, but emerging from one man's righteous life, God plans to build a nation of His own people: A righteous nation that shall extend God's rescue plan of promise into the far reaches of our fallen world, to our very day in the 21st century.

God calls Abraham out of the land of *"...Ur of the Chaldeans..."* away from his extended family and their pagan influence. You see, Abraham worships the one true God, and from Abraham's life God will build a nation of holy people. - *"You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham; You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites- To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous"* Nehemiah 9:7-8

Upon God's command, Abraham with his wife, nephew and their small tribe of people, journey to the land of Canaan. God appears to Abraham and promises him that his descendants, numbering a multitude of stars, shall inherit Canaan's fertile land, abundant in produce - *"Then He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."* Genesis 15:5-6

But God's promise to Abraham shall only be realized after many generations of his descendants. Now a nomadic farmer of livestock, Abraham and his tribe of people journey through heathen lands as God's providence lead's the way. Now, *"Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold."* Genesis 13:2

Travelling through the heathen nations, Abraham is called to live a holy example of righteous living, revealing true worship of Jehovah God - *"The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen."* Psalm 98:2 KJV

But an irking question begins to weigh heavy upon Abraham's mind. For Sarah, Abraham's wife, is old and barren without child, raising a human impossibility to the promised seed and the multitude of descendents.

Well, human impossibilities may become God's possibilities - *"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."* Mark 10:27 - *"Then God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.' Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, 'Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?'"* Genesis 17:15-17

And so lacking faith in God's promise of Sarah bearing a son, Sarah gives her Egyptian maid to Abraham to bear a child in her place. And so Ishmael is born and his multiplying descendants give birth to the Islamic nations of our day. Yes, the Islamic religion of today has its founding roots in Ishmael's life, Abraham's substitute son. Yet God says to Abraham - *"But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."* Genesis 17:21

True to God's miraculous promise, in spite of Abraham's and Sarah's unbelief, Sarah gives birth to a son called Isaac. And so rejoicing in God's providential love, a close family bond grows between father, mother, and son. All the while, prosperous years pass by in Abraham's bustling encampment and Isaac grows in his father's nomadic life style. But little does Abraham realise, due to past failures to honour God before Pharaoh and King Abimelech, Abraham is about to undergo a severe test of faith.

The ordeal at hand is to test if Abraham has learned to trust God in all situations of life, and prove trustworthy in fathering God's holy nation. And this testing ordeal at hand, perhaps the severest test a person could ever undergo, involves Isaac, God's seed of promise.

TEST OF ALL TESTS

"Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

"Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.' So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

"But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' Then he said, 'Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.' So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.'

"And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.' Then

Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'

"Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: 'By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.'" Genesis 22:1-18

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense." Hebrews 11:17-19

GOD WILL PROVIDE

And so victorious in faith and perfect trust in God, Abraham passes the test of tests.

Like never before, Abraham realizes the heart breaking experience of God the Father in giving up His only begotten Son to die in the place of sinful humanity, even though the Son's death on the earthly cross is far in the future. - For pictured in the midst of Abraham's and Isaac's testing ordeal, is the ultimate sacrifice of God the Father and His only begotten Son. - *"The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'" Genesis 22:14*

Together, Father and Son journey through the sinful landscape of our lost world, and for our deliverance the Father does what He must do, and lays our deathly sins upon his dear Son's sinless innocent life - *"All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6 - "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. - When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand." Isaiah 53:10*

"Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:4-5

In place of our disobedient lives, the Son submits His obedient life to His Father's will - *"...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." Hebrews 5:8 - "Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' And He took Peter, James, and John with Him,*

and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. "Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.' He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.' Mark 14:32-36 - Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:43-44

Crushed in mind, body and soul, staggering under the weight of our sins, just as Abraham carried the wood for sacrifice, the Son of God bears the wooden cross for human deliverance raised up in the earth as an altar of sacrificial death.

"And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the place of a Skull, which is in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him..." John 19:17-18 - But sinful man does not merely bind the Son's hands, but nails His hands and feet fiercely to the wooden cross. - "For dogs have surrounded Me: the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet..." Psalm 22:16

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken." Isaiah 53:7-8 - At this decisive hour, for our deliverance, there is no substitute lamb to take the Son's place of sacrificial death. For He is the one true Lamb of God, mankind's one and only hope.

"...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Yes, from His heavenly mountain, God the Father provides a lamb for sacrifice in the perfect life of His beloved only begotten Son. Together Father and Son walk the death trail to "...Golgotha..." and pay the ultimate price to ransom fallen humanity from sin and everlasting death.

"...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18-19 - "For you were bought at a price..." 1 Corinthians 6:20 - "The-LORD-WILL-PROVIDE; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided.'" Genesis 22:14

And so we behold the greatest gift ever given to human life: God the Father giving His beloved only begotten Son; His own Son of promise, the one and only Lamb of the divine flock - "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him

should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16–17 – “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32

ISAAC’S BIRTHRIGHT BLESSING

And so returning from “...*the land of Moriah...*” not only has father Abraham passed the test of tests, but his son Isaac also, through obediently submitting his life to his father’s will.

Time passes and blessed by God’s guiding providence, Isaac marries Rebekah and from their sacred relationship of husband and wife, God’s seed of promise continues in the inherited line of the birthright blessing.

Nearing the end of his life, Abraham bestows upon Isaac the birthright blessing of patriarch - spiritual leader of God’s tribal people. God appears to Isaac and promises him that from his life there shall grow a great nation. - *“There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. Then the LORD appeared to him and said: ‘Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.’ So Isaac dwelt in Gerar. Genesis 26:1–6*

Now God’s seed of promise trails on from Isaac’s and Rebekah’s nomadic lives.

THE DECEIT

Eventually, twin sons are born to Isaac and Rebekah and named Esau and Jacob. Born first, Esau inherits the birthright of patriarch, but as he grows into manhood he casts off the spiritual significance of the birthright and becomes infatuated with the heathen Canaanite women - *“And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.” Genesis 26:35*

Meanwhile Jacob covets Esau’s spiritual birthright and he seeks a way to gratify his all-consuming desire to obtain the spiritual blessing. One day, exhausted from hunting game, Esau returns to camp - *“Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.’ Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright as of this day.’ And Esau said, ‘Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?’*

Then Jacob said, 'Swear to me as of this day.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright." Genesis 25:29-34

But the birthright transaction between the twin brothers is made on a casual hand shake only. More is needed. To complete the transaction and make it spiritually binding, Jacob must receive the birthright blessing from father Isaac. And so a deceitful saga unfolds.

Jacob is Rebekah's favorite son, and so mother Rebekah lays a deceptive plan to steal the birthright blessing from her older son Esau and bestow it upon Jacob. When the time comes for father Isaac to bless Esau with the birthright blessing, he instructs his first born son to go out into the field and hunt game and on return, prepare a savory stew. Then Jacob shall bestow upon Esau the birthright blessing - *"Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it. So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, 'Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, "Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death." Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.'" Genesis 27:5-9*

Oozing from Rebekah's wily plot, more cover ups follow. And so impersonating his brother Esau and a little apprehensive, Jacob enters Isaac's tent with the counterfeit dish.

Of old age, Isaac is blind and now tricked into believing Jacob is Esau, Isaac bestows the birthright blessing upon his second son. When Esau comes in from hunting game the counterfeit saga is revealed, but once bestowed the birthright blessing is irreversible. All tribal wealth and spiritual blessing has now passed to Jacob - *"So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, 'The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.'" Genesis 27:41*

Hearing of Esau's murderous plan, mother Rebekah informs Jacob. And so Jacob escapes with his life to his Uncle Laban, Rebekah's brother living in the land of Haran. Reaping the whirlwind of their deceit, mother and son are parted for the rest of their earthly lives.

Welcomed into Uncle Laban's family tribe, Jacob shepherds Laban's flocks, and for seven years of wages Jacob asks for Laban's younger daughter Rachel, for his wife. But this time, Jacob is the target of the subtle art of trickery. Laban deceives Jacob by giving him Leah, Laban's older daughter in marriage in place of Rachel - *"So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?'*

And Laban said, 'It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years.' Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also." Genesis 29:25-28

But soon a contest begins between the two wives to who can bear the most sons to Jacob. Rivalry escalates when Leah and Rachel give their maidservants to Jacob to bear children for them. Meanwhile in Laban's encampment rivalry brews between Jacob and his brother-in-laws. Jacob's growing prosperity, by acquiring livestock and wealth, becomes a bone of contention between the brother-in-laws – *"Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, 'Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth.' And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before. Then the LORD said to Jacob, 'Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.'" Genesis 31:1-3*

JACOB AND ESAU REUNITED

But remember, Jacob and Esau have their own feud to settle. Yet obeying God's command, Jacob arises with his family, and with his servants driving the tribal livestock, they begin the long journey towards Jacob's homeland – *"So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, 'This is God's camp.' And he called the name of that place Mahanaim." Genesis 32:1-2*

"Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, 'Speak thus to my lord Esau, "Thus your servant Jacob says: 'I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'" Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, 'We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.'" Genesis 32:3-6

Upon hearing this threatening news, Jacob divides his people and livestock into two companies. Should Esau attack, at least one company might escape with their lives. Now seeking protection, Jacob prays earnestly to God:

"O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, "Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you." I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

"For You said, "I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'" Genesis 32:9-12

And with this prayer, Jacob sends Esau gifts. Servants set out towards Esau driving herds and flocks of livestock – goats, sheep, camels and donkeys – *“For he said, ‘I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.’ So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.”* Genesis 32:20-21

“And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.” Genesis 32:22-25

As those powerful hands grip Jacob’s trembling body, he wrestles for his very life. Racing through Jacob’s mind is the dreaded thought that Esau has found him, to kill him. The battle intensifies and it seems as if his opponent is stirring up the murky depths of Jacob’s troubled soul. Again Jacob’s sinful past looms before him and like never before he craves complete deliverance from sin. Suddenly his spiritual eyes are opened and Jacob realises his assailant is the Son of God.

Now Jacob senses an opportunity for victory, not over his opponent but over his own sinful self. And so tightening his grip upon the Son with tears of repentance, Jacob empties his sinful life before the Saviour and like never before an incoming peace floods Jacob’s soul with God’s acceptance and forgiveness. The Son of God says to Jacob:

“‘Let Me go, for the day breaks.’ But he said, ‘I will not let You go unless You bless me!’ So He said to him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Jacob.’ And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’ Then Jacob asked, saying, ‘Tell me Your name, I pray.’ And He said, ‘Why is it that you ask about My name?’ And He blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: ‘For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.’ Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.” Genesis 32:26-31

And so gathering his wives and children - *“Jacob divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last. Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.”* Genesis 33: 1-3

Bowing in humility, Jacob comes before his twin brother, the warlike Esau stands before Jacob, flanked by 400 men, weapons gleaming in the morning sun. Now life and death hangs in the balance of Esau’s command. But in a beautiful act of forgiveness, Esau runs toward his brother Jacob - *“Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.”* Genesis 33: 4

Receiving God’s reconciling grace, the rivalry between the twin brothers is

miraculously healed forever - "...for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28 - Praise God! - "But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number." Job 5: 8-9 - "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole, He shall deliver you in six troubles, yes, in seven no evil shall touch you." Job 5:17-19

After a bonding reunion, Jacob and Esau depart and go their separate ways. Jacob, his wives, children, servants and livestock journeyed to Succoth, he built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth - "Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city. And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money. Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel." Genesis 33: 17-20

THE NAME EL-ELOHE ISRAEL

"El Elohe Israel", means the God of Israel. You see, Jacob's name change to Israel becomes the future name of God's nation Israel, consisting of 12 tribes bearing the names of Jacob's sons.

And so following the inherited line of their forefathers, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob's twelve sons are destined to become the twelve patriarchs of Israel - "Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs." Acts 7:8 - "Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin; the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali; and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Padan Aram." Genesis 35:22 -26

JOSEPH'S DREAMS OF DESTINY

Joseph is Rachel's firstborn son, but Rachel dies giving birth to Joseph's youngest brother Benjamin. "And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

"So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day." Genesis 35:18-20

And so Rachel's death brings a sorrowful end to Rachel's and Leah's contest of bearing sons to Jacob. Yet Rachel's memory means she remains Jacob's favourite wife, and so Jacob favours Rachel's son Joseph above all his other sons. Yet little does Jacob realise his favouritism toward Joseph shall send his beloved son on a rocky trail of

destiny separating father and son for many heart breaking years.

Joseph's destiny begins by father Jacob making Joseph a coat of many colours signifying favouritism and nobility – *“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.”* Genesis 37:3-4

Rivalry escalates when God gives Joseph a dream of destiny. The dream depicts Joseph's brothers bowing before him in an act of humility - *“Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, ‘Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.’”* Genesis 37:5-7

Outraged, the brothers decide to rid Joseph from their lives forever. So when Joseph visits his brothers who are grazing the family flock in a place called Dothan, the brothers seize Jacob and for twenty shekels of silver they sell Joseph to a band of Midianite traders journeying to Egypt. Now the brothers scheme to hide their guilt from their father.

“So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, ‘We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?’ And he recognized it and said, ‘It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces.’ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, ‘For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning.’ Thus his father wept for him.” Genesis 37:31-35

Meanwhile grief-stricken Joseph is taken down to Egypt and sold to Potiphar as a slave – *“Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.”* Genesis 37:36

At the tender age of “...seventeen...”, separated from His beloved father and cultural comforts of his homeland, Joseph's dreams of destiny seem sabotaged, never to become a reality in his destitute life.

But enduring the unjust affliction, Joseph stays true and faithful to God, God blesses Joseph and everything in Potiphar's household prospers. And so Potiphar sets Joseph over all financial affairs of his household. But soon Potiphar's wife attempts to have intimate relations with Joseph.

Remaining faithful to God and honouring Potiphar, Joseph refuses her advances. Scorned by Joseph's refusals, Potiphar's wife seeks revenge upon Joseph, framing him with lies. And so Joseph is cast unjustly into the king's prison. Yet again, it appears Joseph's dreams of destiny are never to be realized in his life.

But as events and time pass in the king's prison, Pharaoh the Egyptian king, also has a dream and by God's design at age "...thirty, Joseph..." is brought out of prison to interpret the meaning of Pharaoh's dream.

There will be seven years of plenty in the grain fields, then seven years of drought. Joseph's wise advice is to save one fifth of the grain during the seven years of plenty and store this excess grain in store houses. Then during the seven years of drought the stored grain can be bought by the people for food, providing for the afflicted population of man and beast.

Hearing Joseph's wise advice Pharaoh decides to make Joseph governor over all Egypt to oversee the extensive plan. And so by God's overruling providence, in one miraculous step, Joseph goes from the dungeon to exalted governor over Egypt, the superpower empire of the day - *"So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?' Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.' And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.' Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, 'Bow the knee!' So he set him over all the land of Egypt."* Genesis 41:37-43

Well the seven years of plenty come and go, and the seven years of drought begin to spread far and wide. People hear of Egypt's storehouses of plenty, and travel from every land to buy grain in Egypt. Yes, even Joseph's brothers. Coming before Joseph and not recognizing their estranged brother, in humility they bow before him. Yet little do the brothers realize, in that condescending bow of humility, Joseph's dreams of destiny become a living reality in their lives.

Joseph tests his brothers in various ways, to see if they have truly changed for the better, then one day he reveals to them his hidden identity - *"Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Make everyone go out from me!' So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph; does my father still live?' But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, 'Please come near to me.'*

"So they came near. Then he said: 'I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and

to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph: 'God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry.'"” Genesis 45:1–9

And so we can see that every injustice inflicted upon Joseph, God turns for an outcome of good - “*He sent a man before them- Joseph-who was sold as a slave.*” Psalm 105:17 - “*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*” Romans 8: 28

Yes, Joseph is a man who God can truly trust in every circumstance of life, in humble slavery and exalted governor over Egypt. All the while Joseph’s colourful coat of nobility reflects his noble heart forgiving his wayward brothers for their cruelly inflicted act.

Reunited with his brothers, the family reunion continues when Joseph’s father, Joseph’s brothers with, their wives, and children and the extended tribe come down to live and farm in the land of Goshen, a fertile province of Egypt - “*All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob’s sons’ wives, were sixty-six persons in all. And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy. Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen. So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. And Israel said to Joseph, ‘Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive.’”* Genesis 46:26–30

JOSEPH’S GRAIN PITS

Now, following the trial of Ron Wyatt’s discoveries, we arrive in the province of Saqqara, Egypt. Here we learn of 11 great storage pits, constructed deep within the earth and joined together by cleverly engineered chutes. Each chute is designed to funnel grain to a central distribution area. With Wyatt, we stroll down the narrow corridor and view the alcoves used for payment booths, as the grain from Joseph’s pits was sold to people of all nations. Then we hear the recorded evidence of how Joseph was the architect of the first Egyptian pyramid. And amazingly, we see a replica of an ancient lifting apparatus, a mechanical device probably used to construct the pyramids. Read or watch Ron Wyatt’s discoveries at these internet sites, correct as at August 2024:

Website: <https://wyattmuseum.com> or <https://ronwyatttruth.com> (Same site with 2 URL’s.)

Website: ronwyatt.com (Site set up by Ron’s family)

YouTube.com: ronwyatt.com (ronwyatt.com is the name of the YouTube channel)

Vimeo.com: dennis schelles (dennis schelles is the name of the Vimeo channel - Dennis is Ron Wyatt's son-in-law.)

Rumble.com: search for "Ron Wyatt Discoveries 2022 Documentary".

THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Reunited with Joseph, Jacob happily lives unto the day of his death. In his final days of life Jacob (Israel) blesses his sons. In Jacob's blessing upon his son Judah, again we behold the spiritual trial of God's promised seed of deliverance that weaves through the tribe of Judah - *"Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Genesis 49:8-10*

These prophetic words of blessing point to the Son of God as the coming deliverer to rescue sinful human life - *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people."* Genesis 49:10 - In the book of Revelation we behold the Son of God as the prevailing lion of the tribe of Judah - *"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.'" Revelation 5:1-5*

Meanwhile safe, prosperous times go by in the land of Goshen, and the descendants of Jacob's 12 sons multiply into the nation called Israel. Remember the name Israel comes from Jacob's changed name from Jacob to Israel.

"And He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.'" Genesis 32:28

Eventually Joseph and his brothers pass away in death, and now the Israelites, called "Hebrews" by the Egyptians, are about to face a harrowing change in their adopted land.

BONDAGE IN EGYPT

The Israelite nation continues to multiply into a vast population. Meanwhile a new Pharaoh ascends Egypt's throne and feels threatened by the amassed Hebrew nation. A disturbing question presses upon Pharaoh's mind: "What if the growing mass of Hebrews should join forces with neighbouring enemies and invade the entire lands of Egypt?" And so taking decisive action, Pharaoh forces the Hebrews into hard bondage, into controlled slavery.

"Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, 'Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.'

"Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor." Exodus 1:8–14

Yes, concealed in Pharaoh's enforced slavery is Satan's evil spirit empowering the king's cruelty. If Satan can bind the Hebrews with chains of slavery, then perhaps God's plan shall be sabotaged? Well, no one can stop God's plan of providential love, his promised rescue plan of deliverance. For a time, some may fight against and delay the rescue plan, but God has the overruling power to turn everything for good.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8: 28

THE MIRACLE CHILD

Although worked hard as slaves, the Hebrew population still continues to grow. So to quell the ever increasing births, Pharaoh devises another cruel plan. He commands that all male Hebrew babes should be cast into a river of death. But foiling Pharaoh's plan, God saves a babe of destiny through this river of death.

No longer able to conceal her male babe in her home, a Hebrew mother weaves a basket called an ark and safely tucks her babe within the ark of refuge. Now by God's guiding providence, the babe's mother and sister place the ark with its precious load among the river reeds. And this is where God's miraculous intervention unfolds.

Pharaoh's daughter comes down to the river bank to bathe and soon she discovers the ark floating among the reeds. Wondering what this could mean, the princess sends her maid to fetch the floating object. The babe begins to cry and the princess is overwhelmed with compassion.

Defying her father's death decree, the princess plans to keep the weeping babe for her own son and again God's providence opens the way. As this scene unfolds, the babe's sister Miriam is watching over her vulnerable baby brother – *“And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, ‘This is one of the Hebrews’ children.’ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?’ And Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Go.’ So the maiden went and called the child’s mother.*

“Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.’ So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, ‘Because I drew him out of the water.’ Exodus 2:4-10

Well, praise God, now safely back in his mother's arms, Moses grows in the family home learning of the Hebrew culture and the one true God. But all too soon the princess takes her adopted son into the king's palace. Now Moses is immersed in Egyptian culture and in manhood becomes a princely ruler over the affairs of the Egyptian nation. Yet deep in his heart and soul Moses remains a true Hebrew, and envisions how he might one day free his people from Egyptian bondage. But often man's ways are not God's ways.

One eventful day at age 40, Moses beholds an Egyptian task master beating a Hebrew slave. Hastily taking revenge, Moses kills the task master and attempts to conceal the deathly deed by burying the dead body in the sand.

“Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, “Men you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?”

‘But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, “Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?” Then at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.’” Acts 7:23-29

But watching eyes have also seen Moses' murderous deed. Pharaoh learns of the task master's death, and a question rises in his mind about Moses' loyalty to Egypt. And so the king commands that Moses should be executed. With haste Moses escapes with his life to Arabia. There he meets and marries a daughter of Jethro and for 40 years Moses shepherds his father-in-law's flock in the Arabian wilderness. No doubt in his wilderness wanderings, Moses often thinks upon his enslaved people and chastises

himself for failing his mission to free his beloved people. Forty solitary years go by in the Arabian wilderness, and by now the Hebrew people have been in slavery for a long and hard 400 years. Yet unbeknown to Moses, deliverance for the enslaved Hebrews is at hand.

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

“Then Moses said, ‘I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.’ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’ Moreover He said, ‘I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

“And the LORD said: ‘I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.’” Exodus 3:1-10

GOD’S PLAGUES OF JUDGMENT

And so Moses is called to become God’s human liberator, freeing the enslaved Hebrew nation. Moses leaves behind his shepherding life and meets up with his older brother Aaron, who was born prior to Pharaoh’s death decree. For the liberating task ahead of them, Aaron shall be Moses’ support person. The brothers enter Pharaoh’s ruling throne of government and Moses delivers God’s command to free His enslaved people, but Pharaoh refuses – *“And Pharaoh said, ‘Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.’” Exodus 5:2*

Nine times Moses goes before Pharaoh; nine times Pharaoh refuses to let the Hebrews go free. And so, nine times God sends plagues of judgment upon the Egyptian nation to break Pharaoh’s satanic hold over the enslaved Hebrews. Yet Pharaoh still Refuse’s God’s command to freedom.

*“When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan;
Turned their rivers into blood, and their streams, that they could not drink.*

He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them,

And frogs, which destroyed them.

He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust.

He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost.

He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning.

He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble,

By sending angels of destruction among them.

He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death,

But gave their life over to the plague, And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt,

The first of their strength in the tents of Ham.” Psalm 78:43-51

And so God sends a tenth plague of judgment upon Pharaoh and all Egypt’s families reap their king’s arrogant pride: Upon the firstborn of Egypt there falls a plague of death and a wailing for their dead ascends throughout the land.

Meanwhile the Hebrews are protected from the tenth plague of death. Obeying God’s instruction, the Hebrew families have sacrificed a lamb and brushed the lamb’s shed blood upon the door post and lintels of their dwellings.

“...It is the LORD’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.” Exodus 12:11-14

The lamb’s shed blood of the Lord’s Passover, foreshadows the future shed blood of Jesus Christ. Even today we may apply the merits of Jesus’ delivering blood to the entrances of our hearts and minds that the plagues of everlasting death may pass over our blood-protected lives.

Meanwhile in the royal palace, Pharaoh beholds the lifeless body of his first born. Overcome with grief he sets the Hebrews free.

Rejoicing in freedom, the Hebrew people quickly prepare to leave Egypt, the land of bondage for 400 hard years. But soon Pharaoh’s grief turns to regret, and with his army he pursues the escaping Hebrews to enslave them again. Ah yes, much like Satan who pursues liberated believers to enslave them again with the bondage of sin.

Meanwhile the two to three million Hebrews, led by Moses and Aaron and moving in orderly ranks, arrive on an open plain bordering the Red Sea. But now with the sea before them, and hemmed in by surrounding mountains, the Israelites have no way to move forward. The thunder of Pharaoh's approaching army of chariots and horses closes in upon the Hebrews.

By God's miraculous deliverance, the pursuing army is suddenly engulfed in a cloud of impregnable darkness. While before the terrified Hebrews, with a splicing wind, God cuts a dry path through the waters of the red sea – *“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Exodus 14:21-22* – *“And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart of the sea.” Exodus 15:8*

And so the fleeing Israelites cross through the dry sea bed, until the very last person arrives safely on the opposite shore. Now God lifts the cloud over Pharaoh's army, and again in hot pursuit the Egyptians rush into the open sea bed. But again, at God's command, Moses stretches out His rod and the frozen sea walls collapse upon Pharaoh's racing chariots and the Israelites behold their enemies' dead bodies wash upon the shore line – *“And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters.” Nehemiah 9:11*

DISCOVERIES OF THE RED SEA CROSSING (1978)

Now we join Wyatt and his two sons at the Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea. There standing upright on the shore we see a Phoenician-style column inscribed with a memorial, honouring Yahweh (God) for His miraculous deliverance of the Israelites through the dry bed of the Red Sea. On the opposite shore, we see an identical column. Both columns are believed to be the work of King Solomon, a descendant king of ancient Israel.

Diving in the crystal clear waters of Aqaba, we discover an assortment of spoked chariot wheels encrusted with coral. We see the remains of horse and human skeletons, also preserved in coral. Now astoundingly, Wyatt reveals a raised underwater pathway, running through the Red Sea, connecting shore to shore. Those involved with this discovery believe the underwater pathway was an act of God, built up as the waters receded from the earth at the time of the Great Flood. In other words, God prepared this pathway for His people, many centuries before it was needed. Just think how He has good things stored up for your life also.

You can read about or watch Ron Wyatt's discoveries at these internet sites, correct as at August 2024:

Website: <https://wyattmuseum.com> or <https://ronwyatttruth.com> (Same site with 2 URL's.)

Website: ronwyatt.com (Site set up by Ron's family)

YouTube.com: ronwyatt.com (ronwyatt.com is the name of the YouTube channel)

Vimeo.com: [dennis schelles](http://dennis-schelles.com) ([dennis schelles](http://dennis-schelles.com) is the name of the Vimeo channel -

Dennis is Ron Wyatt's son-in-law.)

Rumble.com: search for "Ron Wyatt Discoveries 2022 Documentary".

GOD SPEAKS HIS UNIVERSAL LAW - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Sheltered under God's pillar of fire by night and shaded by His guiding pillar of cloud by day, the Israelites journey into the Arabian wilderness and eventually camp upon a wide open plain stretching before Mount Sinai – *"Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel."* Nehemiah 9:12

Mount Sinai is the very place where the Son of God appeared before Moses in flames of a burning bush, with the promise that Moses shall return with the liberated Israelites, and shall worship God before the sacred Mountain. How Moses must savour this moment of prophetic fulfillment. And now another miraculous event is about to occur: God is to descend upon the mountain summit to meet with His people.

For three days, the Israelite encampment bustles with activity. You see, meeting before God's holy presence requires holy preparation: Sin is confessed; hearts made pure; bodies washed; clothing made clean.

Now all is ready, and on the third day the mass of people assemble before Mount Sinai. A reverent hush wafts upon the desert air. While upon the mountain summit, God's holy presence is enshrouded in fire and billowing smoke.

"Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly." Exodus 19:18 – "Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain." Exodus 19:16-17

Now in an awesome display of commanding power, God's voice stills the thunder and from the quaking mountain God speaks His Ten Commandments of law.

"And God spoke all these words, saying: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.'" Exodus 20:1-2

1 *"You shall have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:3*

2 *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." Exodus 20:4-6*

3 *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." Exodus 20:7*

4 *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11*

5 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12*

6 *"You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13*

7 *"You shall not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14*

8 *"You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15*

9 *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16*

10 *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:1-17*

GOD IS THE LIVING ORIGIN OF LAW

Can you see how the first four commandments of God's universal law give sacred guidance for living in a spiritual relationship with Him? And how the remaining six commandments give guidance for moral and ethical conduct between fellow humans?

From universal beginnings to our earthly times, God has flowed His law throughout the universe. He is the origin of all law, giving preservation, order and stability to all created life, from the smallest insect to the loftiest planet.

“Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name):” Jeremiah 31:35

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,” Psalm 8:3 - “Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.” Isaiah 40:26

“I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.” Psalm 119:96 - “Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me...” Isaiah 51:4 - “There is one Lawgiver...” James 4:12 - “The LORD is our Lawgiver...” Isaiah 33:22 - “...the law is spiritual...” Romans 7:14 - “...Your law is truth.” Psalm 119:142 - “...love is the fulfillment of the law.” Romans 13:10

Yes, love codes of law flow from God’s righteous character into streams of holy living throughout the cosmic universe, that all universal beings of other worlds who were created like us, might believe, receive, and simulate God’s law in mind, body and soul, and thus flourish in everlasting life gifted from God.

Thankfully, at least to some degree in our fallen 21st century life, the righteous principles of God’s Ten Commandments continue to weave through earthly laws maintaining order and stability in nations and societies. But we also know, from high places of government and society to low places of common crime, law is often twisted and trodden underfoot in lawlessness. *“Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You?” Psalm 94:20 - “...we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully...” 1 Timothy 1:8*

THE BEGINNINGS OF GOD’S LAW IN OUR WORLD

Perhaps surprising to some today, when God speaks His law of Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai this is not the beginning of His law given to Planet Earth, neither is this the first time His law was given to the Jewish nation of the time. Oh no.

We have learned that when the Son of God created Adam and Eve, He imparted to their souls God’s law of guiding love. You see, we always need to remember that the righteous precepts of God’s law are the living attributes of His divine character. *“... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:33*

And so in the natural process of holy life, living in the love boundaries of God's law entitled Adam and Eve to partake of the tree of life growing in the midst of their garden paradise and so retain everlasting life gifted from God. *"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life..." Revelation 22:14* - *"The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."* Genesis 2:9.

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" Genesis 2:15-17

Yes sadly, choosing to partake of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve sinned against God, transgressing His sacred law of protecting, everlasting life. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* 1 John 3:4 KJV - *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."* 1 John 3:4

Thus in earth's fallen era of sin, God's law takes on extra meaning in a balancing act between good and evil. Now God's law exudes judgment, justice and merciful love, showing our need to confront sin in our lives. *"I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'" Romans 7:7* - *"...for by the law is the knowledge of sin."* Romans 3:20 - *"Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith."* Galatians 3:24

Yes, having chosen God's deliverance, and confessed and repented of our sin, we receive God's forgiveness, and are restored to a spiritual relationship with God the Father and His beloved Son. Liberated from sin, we now live in the guiding precepts of the Ten Commandments in righteous living before God.

And so from Eden's fallen paradise, God's law streams down generations of human lives to Noah's lifetime, during the times of the Great Flood. We learned earlier that except for eight souls, the world's population of billions rejected God's law and took great pleasure in the evils of lawlessness. *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."* 1 John 3:4 - *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."* Genesis 6:8 - for Noah lived in God's Commandments of righteousness. - *"My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness."* Psalm 119:172

And entering the ark of God's saving grace, Noah and his family are saved alive from the desolation of the flood. - *"Then the LORD said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.'" Genesis 7:*

Cascading down the generations from the aftermath of the Great Flood, we arrive in the lifetime of Abraham, who becomes the genetic father of the Israelite nation.

Faithful to God in daily life, Abraham observes and keeps God's law, qualifying him for the exalted calling looming before him. *"...because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."* Genesis 26:5

By word and living example issuing forth from Abraham's commandment keeping life, God's law continues down through the lives of Abraham's descendants, reaching the time when the Israelite nation is forced into Egyptian bondage.

Now the Israelite nation is not only physically enslaved but also spiritually enslaved, oppressed by Egypt's laws of pagan governance. Oppressed for more than 400 years, God's law slowly erodes in the lives of the Israelites and eventually their true spirituality almost flickers out in darkness.

Therefore, when God speaks His law directly from Sinai's fiery mount, He is rekindling His law in the Israelite's liberated lives, and beaming light again onto His law for all generations of human life down to our day and beyond into eternity. - *"Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever."* Psalm 119:152

GOD'S LAW ENGRAVED UPON STONE

Upon Mount Sinai's quaking summit, not only does God proclaim His law audibly for all to hear, but He also plans to give a hard copy of His Ten Commandments to human life, engraving the Ten Commandments upon stone by His divine finger of sovereignty.

Thus, God calls Moses up to the mountain summit to receive His gift of guiding law from His own divine hands. *"Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly."* Deuteronomy 9:10 - *"The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them. Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; everyone receives Your words."* Deuteronomy 33:2-3

Now for a miraculous surprise still hidden in our world today! Unbeknown to most, hidden in an underground cavern at Jerusalem, God's law of Ten Commandments engraved upon stone tablets have been rediscovered, yet they still remain hidden underground to be brought out and presented before the world in God's providential timing. - *"Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven."* Psalm 85:11

In volume 3 we meet again with Ron Wyatt, where he unveils before us the discovery of all discoveries, the Ark of the Covenant containing God's Ten Commandments of sacred law.

EXPLORING GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

And so with the importance of law echoing in the midst of our lawless world we begin to explore God's Ten Commandments one by one and see how they relate to our lives today.

Commandment 1. *“And God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.’” Exodus 20:1-3*

When enslaved in Egypt the Hebrew people lived in the midst of pagan worship, the spiritual throne of Satan's occult religion, where the reigning Pharaoh was deemed to be a god above gods. And so generations upon generations of Egypt's pagan beliefs and heathen culture wash over the Hebrew nation, drowning out true worship to God.

And now appearing before His people on Mount Sinai, in divine supernatural power, the one true God commands His people to have no other gods before Him. Now every person is faced with a challenge, shall he or she choose to have a true spiritual relationship with God the Father and His only begotten Son, or not?

The same conditions apply to us today, if you or I desire to have a true spiritual relationship with the one true God. In our day, just like the Israelites of old, we are confronted by a flourishing array of pagan religions, exalting worship of false gods above the one true God.

Could this be true of the Christian teaching of the trinity god, three coequal, coeternal persons? Perhaps this is new to you and so something to ponder. We explore the pagan origin of the unbiblical term “trinity” and see where the trinity has come from in Volume 6 of *The Blazing Trail*, and you can investigate more fully in the published Vital Force NZ book, *“Who Is God?”*

Malevolent and devious, Satan the enemy of souls, exalts himself as the god of this world and masquerades as the spirit god of spiritualism, where he and demon spirits participate in supernatural séances and at times impersonate the dead, as if the dead have a living entity. But the Bible declares.:

“For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.” Ecclesiastes 9:5

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.” Ecclesiastes 9:10 -“As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up.” Job 7:9

All along, Satan deceitfully masquerades as the god of evolution, staking his atheistic claim upon the world, counterfeiting God's creation of Planet Earth.

And now in more recent times, concealed in the god of artificial intelligence (AI), Satan seeks to clone human biology, in trans-human forms of integrated life, still to be fully unmasked.

Yet there are those people who claim to have no spiritual connection to religion, but worship at the shrine of their worldly success and precious possessions, as if there is no true God to worship.

And even closer still, what do we behold in our own lives and homes? Where is my attention centered? Where is your attention centred? What comes first? Or more importantly, who comes first, worship of self or worship of the one true God, Creator of our very being?

Oh yes, the world is alive with an assortment of false gods, and concealed in these false gods lurks Satan the god of utmost malevolent evil, stealing human worship unto himself, for his own selfish exaltation. Worship belonging solely to God, *"...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live."* 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

And now in the same vein of true worship, the first commandment enfolds and unfolds the second.

Commandment 2: *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."* Exodus 20:4-6

When enslaved in Egypt, the Hebrews were confronted daily with pagan symbols and carved images of idol gods, erected in the midst of their bondage.

Yet not much has changed in our enslaved world today.

For resembling pagan religions of old, images of idols and symbols of the occult are often on show before the public, hidden in plain sight.

In the entertainment world, celebrities are often revered with image status as though there is no true God to revere and worship.

Yes, along the highways and byways of common daily life we are often confronted

by worldly images of degrading ways of life, ways which are not right before God. Could our true spirituality be in danger of flickering out. Could we be facing the same danger as the Israelite nation in Egypt?

And alas, the world may point her accusing finger at the spiritual realm of Christendom, for some church systems promote worship of relics, worship of images and saints, as if the church system's human ecclesiastical authority is deemed above God's divine authority.

And so observing the first and second commandments, we shall have no counterfeit gods or corrupting images in our lives, but heed the words of the Son of God, "*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."*" Matthew 4:10

Now commandment 3 echoes from Mount Sinai to us today: "*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*" Exodus 20:7

Oh yes, taking God's Holy name in vain and disrespecting his sovereignty over their lives is an evil the Hebrews must avoid. And yet in many 21st century societies, disrespecting God and taking His name in vain by cussing and jesting is very common and even quite fashionable.

So let us not be deceived by willful ignorance, unbelief, or lack of faith and trust in God, for these cast dark shadows over God's redeeming name of love.

"Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2

And so respecting God by honouring his Holy name, believing in Him, trusting in Him and praising His holy name in humble gratitude is the soul music that thrills the heart of God the Father and his beloved Son. In return, we receive the soul music that thrills our hearts as God blesses our lives in very many ways. Thus a respectful, loving attitude toward God fulfills His third commandment in our human lives.

Now commandment 4 completes God's righteous code of worship, unfolding a spiritual relationship of Sabbath rest with God the Father and His only begotten Son.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11

Finally free of Egypt's suppression of God's sacred law, the Israelites begin to keep

holy God's Seventh day Sabbath of physical and spiritual rest, centered in the fourth commandment.

“Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:16-17 - “You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant.” Nehemiah 9:13

And what of our times we live in today? Some people believe God's Seventh day Sabbath belongs to the Jewish nation alone and therefore the Seventh day Sabbath is not relevant for Christians to keep holy in our New Testament times. But is this correct?

NAVIGATING THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

To discover true answers to the Seventh day Sabbath question, we shall traverse the Seventh day Sabbath trail from its first beginnings to our New Testament times.

Our starting point for navigating the Seventh day Sabbath is the very first pages of the Bible. Yes, right at the beginning, we see the spiritual roots of the Seventh day Sabbath are grounded in earth's creation week, and not in Jewish tradition as some might believe.

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,” Genesis 2:1-4

Flowing forth from creation week, the joy of keeping the Seventh day Sabbath holy as a sign of allegiance to God, flows on down through the faithful generations of Adam's and Eve's times before the Great Flood.

Then after the Great Flood, Seventh day Sabbath keeping cascades through Noah's times. On and on through the decimated world, Seventh day Sabbath keeping passes through Abraham's times and streams onward through the generations of the Israelite nation, yet nearly peters out during the Egyptian enslavement of the Hebrew nation. So, upon Mount Sinai the Seventh day Sabbath is exalted again in God's law of Ten Commandments.

Springing forth from the wilderness of Mount Sinai, Seventh day Sabbath keeping streams onward into New Testament times and pools in Jesus' life as the Son of Man, and Lord of the Sabbath. - *"The Son of Man is also lord of the Sabbath."* Luke 6: 5

Observing the Seventh day Sabbath, Jesus enters the Jewish synagogue church, to teach the people about God's saving grace. *"...And as his custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read."* Luke 4: 16 - *"Then He went down to Capernaum, a city; of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His words were with authority."* Luke 4:31-32

By blending the Seventh day Sabbath of rest with the righteousness of the Ten Commandments, Jesus uplifts and amends God's broken law before the people, healing the law broken by sinful human lives, by giving His life unto death. *"The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable."* Isaiah 42: 21

Jesus says to all, even to our day, *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law and the Prophets, I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 5: 17-19

"... if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." Matthew 19: 17 - *"If you love Me, keep my commandments."* John 14: 15

Taken down from the crucifixion cross and placed in His tomb of death, Jesus rests on the Seventh day Sabbath, placing His Sabbath seal of deliverance upon humanity's ransom price from sin. *"And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment."* Luke 23:55-56

After Jesus rose from death and returned to heaven, His disciples continue to keep the fourth commandment Sabbath. *"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight...Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey."* Acts 1:9,12

Journeying further into New Testament times we meet the apostle Paul, a new convert to Christianity. Following in God's Ten Commandments, Paul and his friend Timothy keep the Seventh day Sabbath, teaching and preaching to the people on God's holy day of rest. *"And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the river side, where prayer was customarily made; and sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken*

by Paul. “Acts 16:13-14 - “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures...” Acts 17:2

Paul reminds his listeners how God rested on the seventh day from His creation works, confirming God’s Seventh day Sabbath as a spiritual rest for their souls and ours today. “For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: ‘And God rested on the seventh day from all His works’...There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.” Hebrews 4:4,9-10

Roaming through the same era of New Testament time, first century AD, we meet the apostle John outcast from society, living on the rocky Island of Patmos. On one glorious Seventh day Sabbath, John receives The Revelation of Jesus Christ, recorded in the very last book of the Bible. And so on the Lord’s day John receives prophetic visions from none other than Jesus, the origin and Lord of the Sabbath.

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the Last’...Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man...” Revelation 1: 10-13

Remember, during His ministry among the people, Jesus declared, “The Son of Man is also lord of the Sabbath.” Luke 6: 5

Thus the Lord’s Day mentioned in Revelation 1:10 refers to Saturday the Seventh day Sabbath; the true Sabbath the Lord rested upon and set apart when He created Planet Earth.

“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:1-3

From John’s visions on the isle of Patmos, the Seventh day Sabbath arches over generations of New Testament times to our 21st century lives today. You see, in every age there have always been people who have faithfully kept the Seventh day Sabbath holy, and if you search hard enough you will find Seventh day Sabbath keepers recorded on the secular pages of earth’s unfolding history - even to our very day!

Very soon Jesus, the Son of God, and our Lord and Saviour, shall come again with great power and glory to take the saved saints home to heaven.

Keeping God’s Commandments and His Seventh day Sabbath centered in the law is the righteous passport to enter the heavenly New Jerusalem.

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:12-14 KJV

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12

When 1000 years of Sabbath rest comes to a close in heaven, the Son of God returns to desolate Planet Earth along with the saved saints. With wondrous power, the Son of God creates Planet Earth anew to its former paradise beauty.

And so back home again in the newly created world, the returned saints continue to keep God’s Seventh day Sabbath holy throughout ages of eternity. *“For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD.” Isaiah 66: 23*

“Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 29:1-2 - “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.” Psalm 95:6

Yes, exalted above all earthly institutions and earthly authority, the Seventh day Sabbath stands forever as a memorial to God’s creation power, His Sabbath signature of divine authority and royal seal of ownership over Planet Earth, over our lives and over all universal creation. *“I have raised my hand to the Lord most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth.” Genesis 14:22 - “...and worship Him who made heaven and the earth, the sea and springs of water.” Revelation 14:7*

And yet, have you noticed? A glaring question still lingers on the biblical landscape of the fourth commandment. Why do the majority of Christians keep Sunday, the first day of the week for worship in place of God’s true Seventh day Sabbath? Well, in Volume 6, we shall align Bible prophecies with recorded history that reveal startling answers.

SIX REMAINING COMMANDMENTS

Now stepping from the fourth commandment, we arrive in the midst of the remaining six, and here we discover God’s instructions for moral behavior and ethical conduct between fellow humans.

Imagine for a moment, the Israelite nation living in a mixed society of a tent city. A mixed multitude of non-Israelite decent also joined the mass exodus out of Egypt, swelling the nomadic nation to millions.

Thus there arose a vital need for governing law, setting a high standard for moral and ethical conduct, providing safety and order among the multitude.

Now consider the world's population of today, numbering billions, and the escalating need for moral and ethical conduct among families, communities and nations.

Without a standard of law for moral and ethical conduct, a breakdown in society is inevitable, resulting in an accelerating fall away from all that is good, where evil prevails over all.

Sadly this is the slippery slope our fallen world is on today. Murder, theft, violence, dishonesty, sexual immorality, envy and jealousy wanting what others possess (coveting), have entwined their tentacles of evil around the living fabric of humanity, in a stranglehold of death.

Yet we need not be disheartened, for individually we have God-given choice to determine our own personal destiny, and live in God's holy commandments of doing right. This is why the remaining six commandments are laid out as a foundational standard for moral and ethical conduct for all people to live by, beginning with the family relationship between father, mother and child.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12

A good caring and loving relationship between father, mother and child forms a sound beginning for all future relationships. Like a stream coursing through life, love and respect for our parents will hopefully return to us in reciprocal love and mutual respect. And yet, not always, for parents have their own battles between good and evil to overcome. Nevertheless fulfilling the fifth commandment, we will be kind and respectful to our parents who have conceived and birthed us into this world. - *“Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.” Proverbs 23:22 - “The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.” Proverbs 23:24-25*

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:1-4

Commandment 6 : *“You shall not murder.” Exodus 20: 13*

Being obedient to this commandment, we will not take another person's life in death nor do harm to another. But much more than this, with a loving attitude we will nurture life in our fellow human beings. For a hateful, angry spirit harbors the brooding elements of murder. - *“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life.” 1 John 3: 15*

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.” But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, “Raca!” shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire.” Matthew 5:21-22

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord...” Romans 12:9-11

And so we see each commandment on our blazing trail takes in a wide sweeping view of life. Something to aim for and attain to in our daily lives. - *“I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.” Psalm 119:96*

Commandment 7: *“You shall not commit adultery.” Exodus 20:14*

When God created Adam and Eve, He gifted to humanity the sacred union of marriage, between male and female, husband and wife. *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. “ Genesis 2:24 - “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Matthew 19:6 KJV*

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Hebrews 13:4

Yes in God’s judgment, adultery is the predator and perversion of marriage, pulling to pieces that which God has ordained as honorable and good.

And yet adultery can take another corrupting form in a person’s life.

Jesus warned His listeners saying, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:27-28 - “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7*

And so keeping the seventh commandment, adulterous thoughts and lustful desires shall be shunned from entering a person’s mind, including the unmarried. For the theme of adultery encompasses all thoughts of and actions of sexual relations outside of marriage.

“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” Ephesians 5:3-5

Commandment 8: *“You shall not steal.” Exodus 20:15*

Following in the true path of this eighth commandment, we will respect other people’s property, not taking or keeping anything which is not lawfully ours. Borrowed items will be returned to their owners. All our dealings will be fair and just, not overcharging for any services rendered, putting in an honest day of work for our employer, and employers acting fairly towards those they employ. The list may well continue in various ways.

“Honest weights and scales are the LORD’s; All the weights in the bag are His work.” Proverbs 16:11 - “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.” Ephesians 4:28 - “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:7-8

Commandment 9: *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” Exodus 20:16*

Keeping this commandment, we will respect people’s privacy, not gossiping or speaking falsely of others. We choose to not insult or assault a person’s character but rather uphold them in all that is true and honest. - *“And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” 1 John 4:21*

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:31-32

Commandment 10: *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.” Exodus 20:17*

Honoring this commandment, we will not covet another person’s life, their property or talents. Also, we will not envy another or become jealous of a person’s prosperity. But we choose to be thankful and content with who we are and what we have in life, knowing that God is our all in all, our protector and provider.

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear.’” Hebrews 13: 5

“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” Romans 13:11-14

And so God's commandments are a flowing spring of true life, guiding rivulets through our daily lives, bringing order and direction. Living in God's righteousness, thinking of others, doing good to others with a loving attitude is the fulfillment of God's law in deed and action.

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Galatians 5:14

Yes love for God first and foremost, and love for our fellow humans is the fulfillment of the law in our very lives.

"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

And so with the Ten Commandments echoing in the Israelites' lives, they return to their tribal allotments. There is plenty for the tribes to meditate upon for their future lives, and for each of us to meditate upon also in these end times of our world.

DISCOVERIES AT MOUNT SINAI

Mount Sinai (1985) From the shores of the Red Sea, Wyatt leads us into the wilderness of Sinai, on the same route which God led His people towards the Promised Land.

We stop at the Rock of Horeb, where centuries before God worked a miracle, causing fresh water to flow for a time from the rock's stony face. Cascading from the rock are channels worn by streams of water which ran down to the Hebrew encampment - *"And the Lord said to Moses, 'Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.' And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel." Exodus 17:5-6*

Now awestruck, we behold Sinai's blackened peak, scorched by fire. Truly, this is the Biblical Mount Sinai found in Saudi Arabia - *"...for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia..." Galatians 4:25*

We gather more evidence corresponding to the Bible. For at the foot of the mountain stand the remains of boundary fence markers, erected by Moses at God's command, to stop the people venturing onto the holy ground of the mountain - *"You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.'" Exodus 19:12*

Wyatt also shows us the pagan altar which Aaron defiantly built for the people to worship the golden calf. You will read about this a little further along the blazing trail of truth – *“So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.’” Exodus 32:3-5*

Then we behold the holy altar which Moses built from unhewn stone. For God had commanded Moses: *“And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.” Exodus 20:25*

You can read about or watch Ron Wyatt’s discoveries at these internet sites, correct as at August 2024:

Website: <https://wyattmuseum.com> or <https://ronwyatttruth.com> (Same site with 2 URL’s.)

Website: ronwyatt.com (Site set up by Ron’s family)

YouTube.com: ronwyatt.com (ronwyatt.com is the name of the YouTube channel)

Vimeo.com: dennis schelles (dennis schelles is the name of the Vimeo channel - Dennis is Ron Wyatt’s son-in-law.)

Rumble.com: search for “Ron Wyatt Discoveries 2022 Documentary”.

THE BEGINNINGS OF GOD’S LAW IN OUR WORLD

Perhaps surprising to some, when God speaks His law of Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai, this is not the beginning of His law given to Planet Earth.

Earlier along our trail of exploration, we discovered God’s law of guiding love is imprinted upon the heart and soul of Adam and Eve, the first created humans, from earth’s very beginnings.

And living within the love boundaries of God’s law entitled Adam and Eve to partake of the tree of life growing in the midst of their garden paradise, and so retain everlasting life, gifted from God - *“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life...” Revelation 22:14* - *“The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:9*

Trailing down the generations of time, when God calls Abraham to become the genetic father of the Israelite nation, Abraham chooses to observe and keep God’s law.

“...because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” Genesis 26:5

Trailing from Abraham’s obedient life, God’s law continues down through the lives of Abraham’s descendents, reaching the time when the Israelite nation is forced into Egyptian bondage. Yes, the Israelite nation was not only physically enslaved but also spiritually enslaved, oppressed by Egypt’s law of pagan governance. Oppressed for more than 400 years, God’s law had slowly eroded in the lives of the Israelites.

Therefore, when God speaks His law directly from Mount Sinai to the Israelite nation, it is to renew His law in their newly liberated lives and uplift His law before all generations of human life down to our day and beyond into eternity. – *“Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.” Psalm 119:152*

Can you see the contrast between God’s loving guiding ways and Satan’s throne of lawlessness reigning over our world today? You see, Satan hates God’s spiritual law, and hates God’s ethical and moral governance. At every turn Satan and his demonic dark force are ever attempting to trample God’s law into their satanic mire of falsehood, and in so doing malign God’s lawful character of righteous goodness – *“Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You?” Psalm 94:20*

Upon Mount Sinai, not only does God speak His law audibly but He also gives human life a hard copy of His Ten Commandments, engraved upon stone by God’s divine finger of authority.

And so God calls Moses up to the mountain summit – *“Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.” Deuteronomy 9:10* - *“The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them. Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; everyone receives Your words.” Deuteronomy 33:2-3*

Now remember, the two to three million people are adjusting to being free from Egypt’s pagan worship and rituals after 400 years of hard bondage. So while Moses is up the mountain, the multitude lean back on their familiar ways, and begin to call for pagan god worship. Aaron, Moses’ brother goes along with the crowd’s pagan demands and fashions a golden calf for the people to worship. But eventually, God leads His people back to His true ways of Godly living, written in His law of liberty.

ISRAELITES KEEP GOD’S SEVENTH DAY SABBATH

And so freed from Egyptian oppression, the Israelites begin to keep the seventh day Sabbath holy, highlighted in the fourth commandment - *“Remember the Sabbath day,*

to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” Exodus 20: 8-11

“Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:16-17 -- “You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments. You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant.” Nehemiah 9:13-14

THE EARTHLY SANCTUARY

Yet still, this is not an end to the Mount Sinai experience. Again, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and God communes with Moses for 40 days and nights.

The clouded Mount shrouds God’s awesome presence, and it is upon the Mount that God gives Moses the plans to build a spiritual sanctuary: A special holy place for God’s presence to dwell among His chosen people – *“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8*

Plans for building the sanctuary, sometimes called the tabernacle, are patterned after God’s glorious temple in heaven – *“...who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’” Hebrews 8:5*

But there is a vast difference, for the earthly sanctuary is made in the style of a humble tent, able to be dismantled and erected on the Israelites’ wilderness journey. Yet like the heavenly temple, there are two rooms. The outer room is called the Holy Place, and the inner room is called the Most Holy Place.

The Ten Commandments inscribed upon the two stone tablets are God’s special covenant between Himself and His people. God instructs that these two stone tablets are to be placed inside a special wooden chest overlaid with gold, called an Ark. Now connected together, God’s covenant law of Ten Commandments and the Ark are now called the Ark of the Covenant.

Now the Ark of the Covenant is placed inside the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary, and God’s spiritual presence abides above the Ark. Following God’s pattern, other

spiritual furnishings are now placed in the first room, the Holy Place. Each item has a special meaning and symbolises God's plan to deliver sinful human life from sin and everlasting death.

Aaron is ordained as the earthly temple's high priest, mediating between the people and God, and this too is a heavenly pattern, foreshadowing the Son of God's high priestly ministry in the glorious heavenly temple in the future.

At appointed times, prophetically foreshadowing the Son of God's sacrificial death upon the cross in the future, a perfect lamb without blemish is slain and offered upon an altar inside the sanctuary court raised up before the encampment. Remember the lamb's shed blood foreshadows Jesus' shed blood in cleansing power from sin – *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”* Leviticus 17:11

All the while the Israelites understand the living reality that the Son of God shall become the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* John 1:29 – *“... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* 1 Peter 1:19

And so believing and receiving the ministry of the sanctuary, in delivering them from sin, the Israelites are brought into a spiritual connection with God. *“So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.”* Psalm 63:2 - *“Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?”* Psalm 77:13

When arriving in Volume 5 of The Blazing Trail, we tour the Old Testament earthly sanctuary and learn much more of the priestly ministry and meaning of the symbolic furnishings within the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Then we connect the earthly sanctuary to the heavenly temple sanctuary, and behold Jesus ministering as our High Priest.

ONWARD TO CANAAN

With the sanctuary ministry established in the midst of God's nation, the blazing trail of God's promised seed trails on from Mount Sinai to the borders of Canaan.

God promised Abraham that his descendants shall possess an abundant land, *“... flowing with milk and honey.”* Exodus 3:17 - When the Israelites arrive on the borders of the Promised Land, a man from each tribe is sent into Canaan to spy out the fortified land. After 40 days the spies return with their report and 10 of the spies give a negative report saying there are giants in the land and their cities are too fortified, not able to be overthrown.

The two remaining spies, Joshua and Caleb, give an encouraging report, stating that with God's delivering power Israel must go up at once and make conquest over the heathen lands.

"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.' But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.' And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, 'The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.

'There we saw giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.'" Numbers 13:30-33

"So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, 'If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness" Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?'

"So they said to one another, 'Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.' Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

"But Joshua the son of Num and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: 'The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.'

"And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

"Then the LORD said to Moses: 'How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?'" Numbers 14:1-11

"How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy, When He worked His signs in Egypt, and His wonders in the field of Zoan..." Psalm 78:40-43

Most of the multitude of people bitterly mourns, and refusing to believe in God's delivering power they plan to return to Egypt – *"They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are*

God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.” Nehemiah 9:17

TURNED BACK INTO THE WILDERNESS

And so limiting and rejecting God as their sovereign leader, the two to three million people reap the consequences of their unbelief, leaving God no alternative but to turn His rebellious people back into the wilderness where they wander for 40 long years.

Yet God pours out His merciful love upon His people, providing food in the barren wilderness. Bread sent from heaven called manna - *“Men ate angels’ food; He sent them food to the full.” Psalm 78:25*

All the while the heavenly bread represents the spiritual life of the Son of God. Yes, the Son of God is the bread of life sustaining our own spiritual lives on our journey towards the heavenly land of promise - *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” John 6:47-51*

Journeying on through the wilderness, on two occasions the multitude arrive in a waterless landscape. There is no water anywhere, no water for the thirsty people or the herds and flocks of livestock trailing along with the multitude. God guides Moses to a flinty rock and instructs him to strike the rock with his staff. Miraculously, heavenly water flows in rivulets down to the camping people and livestock, quenching thirsty mouths in the desert heat - *“Who turned the rock into a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters.” Psalm 114:8*

Most striking, a spiritual lesson flows forth from the two rocks. For they represent the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is the spiritual rock and flowing fountain of everlasting life - *“...whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:14* *“...all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” 1 Corinthians 10:3-4*

“You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst...” Nehemiah 9:15 - *“Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.” Nehemiah 9:21* - *“And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.” Exodus 16:35*

During their 40 years of wandering, many startling events take place, some toward good and some toward evil.

And so to learn more, we invite you to journey through the book of Exodus in the Bible, and explore the life and times of the trailing Israelites. At times you may be pleasantly surprised and sometimes maybe aghast at transpiring events.

And so the 40 years expire and the men of war who refused to believe in God's all conquering power, have grown old and passed away in the wilderness – *“For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD—to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’”* Joshua 5:6

BACK TO THE BORDERS OF CANAAN

With many lessons learned, once again God leads His people to the lands bordering Canaan. And now Moses himself dies, upon the very doorstep of the Promised Land.

Upon Moses' death, God appoints Joshua as leader over His people. Joshua has fought many battles and now under his military command the Israelite tribes are to make conquest over the heathen lands. Conquest begins over the lands that are before the river Jordan.

Possessing the lands and arriving on the banks of the Jordan, the Israelites' conquests come to a halt. Spring has arrived, and melting snow flowing from the mountains has flooded the usual crossing place at the Jordan River, making a crossing impossible.

And so for a time, the mass of people set up camp. Once again man's impossibilities become God's possibilities. Simply, God stops the Jordan's upstream water flow, providing a dry path to the opposite bank and so the tribes cross over – *“And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”* Joshua 3:5 - *“So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.”* Joshua 3:14-17

CONQUEST INTO CANAAN

Marching from the banks of the Jordan River, the Israelite army begins conquest into Canaan. By God's miraculous power the mighty fortified walls of Jericho fall flat to the ground, and the marching Israelite army enter into the city of terrified inhabitants - *"So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country."* Joshua 6:27

Now marching from Jericho conquest over the Canaanite nations continues throughout the heathen lands - *"Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan. You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess. So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished. And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness."* Nehemiah 9:22-25

But alas, disobeying God's express command, the Israelite tribes fail to make utter conquest over the heathen nations and fail to destroy their pagan gods. Compromise lulls the Israelites into complacency, undermining their spiritual mission given by God.

Tragically, yet again the Israelites reap the consequences for unfaithful actions. For you see, the Canaanites with their pagan practices become deadly snares to God's people, enticing them into pagan worship of satanic gods, even sacrificing their own children upon satanic alters of death.

In chilling ways, the Israelite nation as a whole becomes more and more entangled in Satan's net of paganism, separating them from God's holy ways of living - *"Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths."* Judges 2:11-13 - *"But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; They served their idols, Which became a snare to them. They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons, And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood. Thus they were defiled by their own works, And played the harlot by their own deeds."* Psalm 106:35-39

A LINGERING QUESTION

In stark contrast to the heathen nations of the times, God's plan was that His people should be a separate nation in the world: A shining beacon of light, shedding God's delivering salvation into every corner of Satan's ruling domain.

Yes, rising above all spiritual corruption, the Israelites were to be a special people of God's grace, a faithful witness upon Planet Earth and before the convening universe - *"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth"*. Deuteronomy 7:6

And so lingering questions hang in the spiritual balance between good and evil: Will the Israelite nation fulfill the sacred mission? Or will God's chosen nation continue on a downward spiral of spiritual apostasy?

ERA OF THE JUDGES

Although deeply grieved in spirit, God does not forsake his chosen nation.

In merciful love, God attempts to arouse His slumbering people by allowing surrounding enemies to afflict them, so His people might call to Him for deliverance and return to Him in true worship - *"Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies."* Nehemiah 9:27

And so extending - *"...about four hundred and fifty years..."* Acts 13:20 - God raises up deliverers, called Judges, to deliver His people from oppression, and hopefully turn them back to His Godly ways of living. Yet the merry-go-round between serving God and Satan only continues. Satan's spiritual warfare against God and His people never ceases.

"And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way." Judges 2:18-19

And so we meet Israel's first Judge, a man called Othniel.

"When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to

war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. So the land had rest for forty years.” Judges 3:5-11

If you visit the book of Judges in your Bible you will meet up with other interesting Judges. There is “...*Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man.*” Judges 3: 15

Then there is Deborah – “*And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.*” Judges 4: 5

A Judge called Gideon arrives on the scene – “*Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor.’ Gideon said to Him, ‘O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, “Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?” But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.’ Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’” Judges 6:11-14*

Now a miracle child is born, called Samson, and he too begins to judge in Israel – “*Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, ‘Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.’” Judges 13: 1-5*

Discover more about Samson’s life recorded in the Bible, and you will be astounded by his great feats of strength and his hidden secret.

And so during the turbulent times of the Judges, like a magnet, Satan draws the Israelites into pagan worship. To shake his people back to their senses, God brings chastising enemies upon them. Yet God only shakes His people to awaken them to their lost condition. Without God’s intervening mercy the Israelite nation would be utterly absorbed by evil. With tough love God chastises His people lest they should be consumed in everlasting death – “*If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*” Hebrews 12:7

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

God’s Judges continue to come and go, while the Israelites continue to swing from worshiping God to worshiping pagan gods. Back to God, and then back to Satan - *“They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons...” Psalm 106:37*

Now the era of the Judges is about to cease - *“...He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.” Acts 13:20*

Samuel, another miracle child, is called by God at a young age, and as an adult he serves as a Judge and a prophet. Toward the end of his spiritual calling, Samuel bestows the office of the Judges upon his sons, but their betrayal of the sacred office brings a dismal end to the era of the Judges.

GIVE US A KING

“Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’

“So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.’” 1 Samuel 8:1-8

God instructs Samuel to forewarn the Israelite elders to how their lives will change with an earthly king over them. Nevertheless the Israelites pursue their treasonous quest. *“So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, ‘This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.*

“He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”

“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, ‘No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles. ‘And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. So the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed their voice, and make them a king.’ And Samuel said to the men of Israel, ‘Every man go to his city.’” 1 Samuel 8:10–22

SAUL THE FIRST KING OVER ISRAEL

And so as the era of the Judges comes to a dismal end, the era of the Kings ushers in new turbulent times - *“And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.” Acts 13:21*

Saul’s reign over Israel begins well, but all too soon he too is ensnared by evil, and the people reap the consequences of his behaviour just as God forewarned.

And so unknown to Saul, God anoints a youthful shepherd called David, destined to become King in Saul’s corrupted place. Many trying years shall pass before David ascends the throne of Israel. Meanwhile, Saul’s and David’s lives come together but soon clash in disharmony. This begins on a battle field when armed with a mere sling and a handful of pebbled stones, the youthful David slays Goliath, a Philistine giant. Gaining victory over the fleeing Philistines, the Israelite army returns home and the people hail David as their conquering hero.

Rewarding David for his heroic bravery, King Saul gives his daughter Michal to David for his wedded wife. But the in-law relationship between Saul and David turns for the worse when David becomes even more famous before the admiring people. *“So the women sang as they danced, and said: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.’” 1 Samuel 18:7*

King Saul seethes with jealousy and attempts to kill his son-in-law. David flees into the wilderness where his father-in-law hunts him as if he were a wild animal. But sheltered under God’s protective wings of guiding providence, David makes the best of his exile and awaits his time of destiny.

Bitter and twisted, eventually Saul completely rejects God, and so God completely rejects Saul as King over Israel. Saul’s reign over Israel ends, when defeated in battle against the Philistines, he takes his own life.

KING DAVID

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’” Acts 13:22

King David belongs to the tribe of Judah, and his life is another link in the genealogy chain from which the Son of God shall be born into the family of humanity. And so the blazing trail of God’s promised seed weaves through David’s kingly life. *“From this man’s seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—...” Acts 13:23*

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.” Matthew 1:1–6 - “So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations...” Matthew 1:17 - “Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, (The Son of God) And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” - Jeremiah 23:5–6

Unlike Saul’s selfish behaviour, King David has a very large heart for his people, and above all for his God. And so King David brings the Ark of the Covenant from Kirjathjearim to Jerusalem, his capital city.

In place of the sanctuary tent, David desires to build a holy temple for God’s indwelling presence among His people – *“Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, ‘See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.’ Then Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” 2 Samuel 7:1–3*

God is pleased with David’s spiritual devotion, but David has been a man of many bloody battles and so God does not permit David to build the sacred temple. Yet flowing from his unswerving devotion to his God, David amasses the costly materials for the temple construction.

During his reign King David faces many fierce battles, but none as fierce as the raging battles that seek to destroy David’s soul. On two occasions David is confronted by two powerful giants, much larger than Goliath, the Philistine giant whom he slew. You see, King David commits two giant sins that seek to slay his spiritual life with God.

Mercifully, God exposes these inward giants to David and bowing in humility, David seeks God's forgiveness and deliverance. David draws his spiritual sling, this time the sling is loaded with confession, repentance, and earnest prayer to God.

"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit." Psalm 51:1-12

Yet there comes consequential fallouts from David's sins that weaken his reign over the Israelite nation. But above all, receiving God's forgiveness, the two giants lay slain in David's pardoned life. And so victorious over all opposing giants that threaten his life, David's prosperous reign comes to an end – *"So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years. Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established."* 1 Kings 2:10-12

KING SOLOMON

And so Solomon, David's favored son, ascends Israel's throne. God gifts to Solomon extraordinary wisdom – *"And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt."* 1 Kings 4:29-30

Solomon's reign begins in blessed prosperity. According to his father's architectural plans given by God, Solomon builds a glorious temple for God's indwelling presence. – *"And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do, that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. And the LORD said to him: 'I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'"* 1 Kings 9:1-5

What a glorious promise God made to King Solomon. But sad to say, as time goes by, Solomon begins to corrupt his spiritual reign over Israel.

Solomon takes for himself many, many wives, and this becomes his spiritual downfall. Beguiled by his idolatrous wives, Solomon is lead astray into worshipping pagan gods. Slowly but surely, Solomon's exceeding wisdom is degraded by his own foolishness.

“But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

“So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, ‘Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.’” 1 Kings 11:1–12

And so King Solomon's reign comes to an end, and now the fallout from his idolatrous relationships tears the Israelite kingdom in two. Ten northern tribes remain the kingdom of Israel, while two southern tribes, Benjamin and Judah, become the kingdom of Judah.

Yet again a roller coaster between good and evil prevails, where some kings are good, leading the people in God's righteous ways, while other kings are evil, leading the people into worshipping pagan gods.

THE ERA OF THE PROPHETS

Throughout the tumultuous times of the era of the Kings, God has His appointed prophets.

With merciful love for his people, God sends His prophets to deliver rousing messages, to His people, to hopefully turn His people away from evil and back into His spiritual fold of safety.

Fearless prophets, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Elijah, and still others, call the wayward back to true worship of their creator God. But often God's faithful prophets are persecuted, tortured and murdered – *“Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.” 2 Chronicles 24:19* - *“... they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations.” Nehemiah 9: 26* - And so throughout the era of God's prophets, the kingdoms of Judah and Israel continue to turn their defiant backs to God.

ISRAEL'S KINGDOM COMES TO AN END

Trailing over decades of time, a long procession of Kings continue to come and go until the last reigning Kings over Israel and Judah are torn from their thrones.

The first kingdom to fall is Israel. By now the Israelite kingdom has utterly rejected God's call to repentance, and while making his own corrupt history King Hoshea, becomes the last reigning king.

“Also the children of Israel secretly did against the LORD their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger, for they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, ‘You shall not do this thing.’

“Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, ‘Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.’ Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

“And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them. So they left all the

commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.” 2 Kings 17: 9- 18

And so the death knell of Israel’s adulterous kingdom echoes throughout the seething land.

Lest evil should overrun the faithful few, in righteous justice God delivers his disciplinary judgment upon the kingdom of Israel. An Assyrian army invades the Israeli lands and surrounds Samaria, Israel’s capital city.

The occupants living within the city walls are besieged for three long years and many perish with starvation. Finally in the year 722 BC, Assyrian troops break down the city gates and invade the city of death.

Waging carnage, they loot and slaughter the enfeebled people. Those they do not kill are taken captive and led away. And so as smoke billows from the burning ruins of Samaria, the Israelite captives reap 200 years of pagan history and lose all.

“In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him.” 2 Kings 17:1-2 - “Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.” 2 Kings 17:5-6

If only the Israelites had accepted God’s prophets and His messages of reproof.

If only they had turned to God and become His holy people once again.

But tragically, Israel chose to reject God and serve Baal, a clone god of Satan – *“Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.” Psalm 78: 41 – “Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.” 2 Kings 17:18*

And so the kingdom of Israel comes to a dismal end.

THE FALL AND END OF JUDAH’S KINGDOM

With a last flicker of hope, the kingdom of Judah remains, but like her kin sister Israel, Judah is also choosing the downward path of idolatry. Jerusalem is Judah’s capital city. And like Israel, Judah also inherits a royal succession of Kings. But not all are loyal to

God, for the kingdom of Judah also rides a roller coaster, from serving God to serving Satan, to serving God again then back to Satan. During these turbulent roller coaster years, God continues to send his prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah and still other heroic prophets to deliver messages of hope and reproof.

“And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. They said, ‘Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever.’” Jeremiah 25:4-5

Speaking by His prophet Jeremiah, God makes a heart rending call to rescue His people from Satan’s evil grasp - *“Return, you backsliding children, And I will heal your backslidings.” Jeremiah 3:6+22* - *“Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved.” Jeremiah 4:1*

But time and time again, the inhabitants of Judah reject God’s call to repentance. For our instruction today in the 21st century, their guilt and God’s disciplinary action is recorded in the book of Nehemiah and other Old Testament writings.

“Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

“Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

“And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.” Chronicles 36:11-16

And so leaving no remedy, the stage of rebellion is fully set, that brings an end to the kingdom of Judah.

“Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around. So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.” 2 Kings 25:1-3

Finally, ending the brutal siege, King Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army breaks into Jerusalem, leaving the city's walls broken down "...all around...". The sacred temple King Solomon built, is pillaged, burned, and reduced to ruin. The temple furnishings and sacred articles of spiritual symbolism are seized and carried away to pagan Babylon. Surviving captives are led to a strange foreign land.

"By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How shall we sing the LORD's song In a foreign land?" Psalm 137:1-4

A REBELLIOUS STAIN

Now sadly, all that remains of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah is their rebellious stain, blotting the pages of Israel's spiritual history.

"Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight." 2 kings 17:20

And so the legacy of the Kings ends in shame and futility.

If only the Israelite nation as a whole had not rejected God as their sovereign king long ago, things could have been vastly different; not only for them but for the whole world. Earth's history could have taken a different course; suffering and death could have ended much, much sooner, bringing an end to this sin sick world.

And so many Old Testament prophecies, forecasting a victorious future for the Israelite nation, are left unfulfilled. Yes, those prophecies are made void by Israel's constant rejection of God.

UNCONDITIONAL AND CONDITIONAL PROPHECY

Prophecy is God foretelling future events to come.

To avoid confusion over Old Testament prophecies, God gives to Israel conditional prophecy. This means He graciously lays before the Israelites the path of prophecy, IF, as His chosen nation they choose to fulfil God's unfolding plan upon Planet Earth.

But if the Israelites rebel and reject God, then they fail their prophetic mission and limit God. The result is conditional prophecies remain unfulfilled, made void upon the pages of Old Testament writings – *"Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel". Psalm 78:41*

But dispersed among conditional prophecies of Old Testament writings, we see unconditional prophecies. God shall fulfil these unconditional prophecies to the end of our world and beyond into eternity.

The two outstanding books of prophecy are the Old Testament book of Daniel, and the fulfilling counterpart in the New Testament book of Revelation - *"...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* 2 Peter 1:20-21

RETURN TO JERUSALEM

Failing to fulfill their prophetic mission and reaping the whirlwind of their disobedience, the Israelites are scattered among the nations, and as a people they are now known as Jews.

Yet true to God's word, another example of His loving mercy and deliverance, after 70 years of captivity the Israelites are free to return to their homeland. By now the Babylonian kingdom has passed down to the Medio-Persian empire (538 BC-331 BC).

By God's merciful hand, two decrees are issued over time by King Darius and King Cyrus. So the Jews are permitted to return to Palestine if they choose, to rebuild Jerusalem's broken walls and restore the ruined temple.

In the first year of his reign, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: *"Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits, with three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber. Let the expenses be paid from the king's treasury. Also let the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple which is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and taken back to the temple which is in Jerusalem, each to its place; and deposit them in the house of God."* Ezra 6:3-5

King Cyrus appoints Zerubbabel as governor over Judah and he leads the first expedition of 50,000 people to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel is a descendant of the royal line of Israel, and another human link in the genealogy trail which leads to the birth of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ the promised deliverer.

Meanwhile another man called Joshua, a direct descendant of Aaron, is appointed to the office of high priest. And so with songs of rejoicing and praises to God, the first wave of captives make the long journey homeward to Zion, Jerusalem city.

"When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad." Psalm 126:1-3

Yes, God gives His people another opportunity to serve Him in the land of their inheritance, because they still remain His chosen people. Yet many Jews choose not to return to their homeland, and so the scattering of the Jewish nation began with the Babylonian captivity, with multitudes scattered throughout the known world even to this day.

But those Jews who return home, set their minds to rebuilding Jerusalem. Although assailed by adversaries to stop the work, Jerusalem's city walls are rebuilt in a mere 52 days. The gates are put in place and the city made secure.

“So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.” Nehemiah 4:6

“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.” Nehemiah 6:15–16

“Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.” Ezra 6:15–16

FINAL ERA OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

Now with the rebuilding of Jerusalem, complete, we enter the final era of Old Testament history, from 450 B C – AD 1.

Apparently for now, God has no more messages for His people or the world at large. And so the book of Malachi is the last biblical book of Old Testament times. For about 400 years to New Testament times AD 1, no more prophets are sent by God with messages for the Jewish nation. And so 400 years of God's silence simply drift on the surging tides of passing time. But what happens to the Jewish nation during this passing time?

Well, their captivity to Babylon has effectively cured the Jews of pagan idolatry. But as we will soon learn, in other ways the Jewish nation at large lose their spiritual direction yet again.

As the Media-Persian empire (538 BC – 331 BC) passes down to the Grecian empire (331 BC–161 BC) and then to the Roman empire (161 BC - AD 483), slowly but surely the prevailing cultures and customs of changing times shapes the Jewish religion into a new startling form.

Still professing to be God's chosen people, the Jewish mode of worship grows inward, rather than outwards to the people of the world. In place of building spiritual bridges to bring lost souls to God, they build spiritual partition walls isolating themselves

from their mission to convert the world. Quite the opposite of God's intention for His chosen nation to be a beacon of spiritual light beaming forth God's gospel message across our fallen world.

THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

And so over some 400 years the Jew's spiritual experience takes on a new look and meaning. Beguiled by Satan's deceptive spirit, the Jewish system of worship is modified to exalt cultural tradition and human teachings above God's divine word of truth.

These misleading teachings begin to flourish in the Jewish Synagogue, schools where boys learn to read and write and to understand the teachings of the Torah. Only boys are permitted to go to school, and their teachers, called rabbis, are highly educated scribes. Many of the scribes belong to the religious sect called the Pharisees. Now the Pharisees are very pious leaders, lording themselves over the Jewish people and on the Sabbath day they instruct the people in teachings of Judaism, the Jewish religion.

But they misapply God's law, multiplying God's Ten Commandments into numerous rules and traditions. In the near future, they will be confronted by the Son of God:

“Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.’ He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.” Mark 7:6-9

“They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.” Matthew 15:14

And so church members of Judaism receive a spiritless religion, rituals void of God's spiritual power to bring delivering peace to their souls.

More and more temple priests become corrupted, exalting themselves in displays of pomp and ceremony. Sadly, the temple ceremonies become degraded formalism where sacredness of animal sacrifice, representing the sacrificial death of God's beloved Son is corrupted and trodden underfoot.

Adding to this blasphemy, the sacred temple becomes a rowdy marketplace where noisy profiteers haggle for the highest price, as they sell livestock and birds to those who come to make sacrifice for sin. Soon, the people will be shown the error of their ways -

“And He (Jesus) found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money

and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, 'Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!' Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.'" John 2:14-17

And so increasingly, sacredness of the sacrificial sin offering is degraded. And this defilement is sanctioned by the temple hierarchy called the council of the Sanhedrin.

The Sanhedrins are mainly priests belonging to the sect of the Sadducees, a political party loyal to the Roman government. At this time the Roman Empire is awash with pagan gods and the Jews are under the emperor's ruling yoke.

Although the Jews are given certain freedom to worship according to their beliefs, Rome appoints the high priest to the temple hierarchy. And this system opens the door to bribery, as each contending priest makes bids to Rome for the exalted position of high priest. This is the religious landscape the Son of God is about to enter into.

ECHOES OF THE COMING MESSIAH

Yet for the faithful, who remain true to God, and for those who genuinely search for His truth, the Old Testament prophecies echo the good news of the coming deliverer, the Messiah, the Son of God: The Son of God's promise resounds from the garden of Eden – *"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."* Genesis 3:15

Moses' words of hope echo from the desolate wilderness - *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear..."* Deuteronomy 18:15;

Isaiah's inspired writings trumpet the prophecies that foretell of the coming deliverer and how the Son of God shall join Himself to the human race - *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good."* Isaiah 7:14-15 – *"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Isaiah 9:6 – *"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."* Isaiah 11:1-2

While like a shining star, stationed above the sleepy town of Bethlehem, Micah's prophesy pinpoints the exact place where the Son of God shall be born into the world - *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,*

Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” Micah 5:2

ROME’S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Meanwhile on the political front, the Roman Empire is the world’s superpower, the throne of Satan’s pagan rule over the world. Blaspheming the one true God, images of pagan gods dominate Rome’s sprawling empire, exalting Satan as the “...*god of this world.*”

In the land of Palestine under the ruling authority of the Roman emperor, Herod the Great is the king of the Jews. Although he professes to be a Jew, Herod gives credence to the iron rule of Rome, extracting exorbitant taxes from the Jewish people - “*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.*” Mark 12:17 - “*We ought to obey God rather than men.*” Acts 5:29

Insurrections are common occurrences, as Jews rise up against Rome’s oppressive rule. But many rebelling Jews pay the price with their lives, crucified upon wooden crosses erected over the Palestinian landscape.

Yet still, many Jewish citizens look for a leader to arise like the heroes of old and deliver Israel into a free nation, liberated from Rome’s oppressive rule - “*I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel..*” Numbers 24:17

This is the Jews’ buoyant hope. But is this the real mission of the expected deliverer? For He shall declare: “*My kingdom is not of this world.*” John 18:36 - “*The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.*” Luke 17:20–21

And this is the volatile, political landscape the Son of God is about to enter upon.

THE DARK FORCE MAKE STRATEGIC PLANS

Meanwhile high in the heavenly realm, a sense of urgency prevails. Angels returning from Planet Earth tell of the troubles and sufferings in the world. Satan’s spiritual warfare against God is escalating with avenging power, where demon spirits control people’s lives, possessing minds, bodies, and souls.

For a long 4000 years, the ruling powers of darkness have held Planet Earth’s dominion to ransom. Now concealed in their realm of darkness, Satan and his demon cohorts cast their eyes over God’s holy word that foretells of the coming deliverer.

And so Satan muses, the destined time is at hand. With seething malice, the dark force makes strategic plans to destroy the Holy One, the Son of God, who shall soon

appear upon the earth – *“And the dragon (Satan) stood before the woman (the church) who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child (Son of God) as soon as it was born.”* Revelation 12:4

With the impending battle before them, Satan instructs his dark force to harass the Son of God:

“Every step of His earthly life, plunge him into sorrow and suffering, force him into the abyss of sin, lest He overcome us plunging us into oblivion. Exerting all our supernatural power, we must destroy the sinless life of the Son of God severing Him from His Father forever. The winner shall receive all in everlasting life, the loser forfeit all in everlasting death. Therefore our future survival hangs on our success.”

And so the stage is set for the dramatic showdown between the forces of light and the forces of darkness. God’s rescue plan, scripted in eternal ages past, is about to be acted out upon the spiritual stage of global events.

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

And so we arrive at the dawn of New Testament times, and God’s “...fullness of time...” is about to strike in heaven and on earth, giving birth to Jesus Christ the Messiah the “...Son of God...” and the “...Son of man...” – *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law...”* Galatians 4:4

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

“David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

“And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

“And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.” Matthew 1:1–17

Please join us again in Volume Three of *The Blazing Trail* where we explore Jesus' amazing birth and his maturing years as the "...Son of God..." and the "...Son of Man..."

With Jesus, we blaze the trail of His rescue mission where He ministers among the multitudes with healing power, restoring destitute souls to new born spiritual life. All the while Jesus' wonderful works lead Him towards the crucifixion cross to pay the ransom price of death, to free us from our imprisonment of sin.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace."* Numbers 6:24-26





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