



**END TIME
PLACE OF
FINAL
PROTECTION**

**A
Promise for
God's Church**



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Years ago and even today it is still taught in the Church of God that in the time of the end there will be a worldwide time of terrible trouble and tribulation for all mankind. Among those to suffer during this period of sorrow and grief will be God's chosen people, the ancestors of the ancient Israelites, identified today primarily as America and Great Britain. It is also taught that among these two nations, as well as others, God has a very small number of called, baptized and converted Christians who constitute His true end time church.

It is further stated that shortly before the great tribulation, God will take His church to a place of final protection. Here this small group will be sustained until the resurrection.

Today various corporate church organizations, groups and individuals, to varying degrees, still believe "the place of safety" is a valid promise as given by God.

Over the years several articles and numerous sermons have dealt with this subject. The only specific belief stated was that end time protection was a guarantee to God's faithful church. Some speculations as to a time frame were suggested by certain prophecies found in the book of Daniel, Chapters 9, 11, and 12. Some also suggested a rugged area called Petra would be the location. Petra was an ancient city, now in ruins, about 40 miles south of the Dead Sea. This idea was formed on a vague verse found in the Psalms.

This subject of protection from the great tribulation is, of course, of important personal concern and needs to be examined and understood. A common notion among God's people is that all that is necessary is to be a member in good standing in one's particular church group and everything will take care of itself. It is not that simple. Who will qualify for protection is a big and separate matter dealt with elsewhere.

The focus of our attention will be to understand the specifics of Jesus' words and certain prophecies found in the Books of Daniel and Revelation that detail and clarify a place of final protection, "The Place of Safety."

God requires His faithful church to have a base of knowledge and understanding so that it is able to discern the conditions of the end time and thus make correct and timely action decisions; decisions not based on emotions, opinions, ideas or speculation of a man or any group of men. Everything must have its foundation in the true statements of Jesus Christ, the prophets and apostles.

As stated several times in related writings, a Christian's personal relationship with Almighty God and Jesus Christ is the crucial overriding consideration. Truth, faith and trust are the roots which allow us to grow in God and Christ, as we are lead by God's Holy Spirit. It is in this manner we can expect protection and deliverance; either we believe and trust, or we will find ourselves going astray.

Jesus Explains the End Times to His Disciples

In Mark Chapter 13, verse 3-4, Jesus' disciples ask Him several questions concerning the end of the age, the end time—our time now and the immediate future. Jesus then proceeds to answer their concerns in a powerful and descriptive way. (Suggested reading: Mat 24, Mark 13, & Luke 21)

In Mark 13, verses 5-13, Jesus comments there will be deceptions, war, rumors of war, persecution, brother against brother, and for His name's sake true Christian's will be hated. In verses 15-20, He discusses the difficulties for those who flee, face tribulation and how God will shorten those days. Verses 21- 22 talk about false prophets and false christs, their signs and wonders. Verse 24-36 deal with Christ's second coming. He gives the analogy of the fig tree, concluding with the exhortation to watch and be prepared for His return.

In the midst of all these comments, Jesus gave several instructive directives concerning the attitude and action a believer must have and take if he is to preserve his life.

Mark 13:14 – “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.” Christians must be alert to identifying the man described as an abomination of desolation and his single great act of defiance. At this point, Christians who are in Judea are told to flee to the mountains.

In verse 23, Jesus states, “But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.” He has given a general outline of activities; we now know what constitutes the key and critical events that communicate to Christ's followers when and where to flee and escape. In verse 37 Jesus concludes with, “What I say to you, I say to all Watch.”

Jesus leaves end time Christians with four important reflective considerations.

- He outlines the devastating course of events leading up to His Second Coming.
- He notes the specific event which signals when Christians are to flee and avoid further persecution and possible death. He advises us from where to where.
- In Verse 23 of this chapter, He tells us in no uncertain terms that everything preceding this comment is the full sum of the matter and it is our responsibility to take these words seriously. We are warned to prepare for difficult times and be ready to make our escape. The burden upon us is, we must believe and trust the words of our Savior.
- We must watch and always be alert. We can trust Jesus, but it is up to us to be alert, watching and discerning the times so that correct decisions and actions are made in a timely manner.

Jesus gives all the basic information and instructions needed to avoid being caught in the most dangerous part of the tribulation and for deliverance.

The Truth and God's End Time People

Paul in II Thes 2:3-4 reveals to us who the abomination that causes desolation is and his activities. **2 Thes. 2:1-4** – “Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. ³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” This is an evil man, the anti-christ, who will have many people believing that he compares to God in power and greatness. As the times of the great falling away occur, this man gains his full powers, for he shares a primary responsibility for these times.

II Thes. 2:5-12 – “Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹²and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.” This is a warning to the Church of God. It will be for mainly two reasons that those in God's Church will turn away. The stress and deceptions of the time will cause some to reconsider if they really understand the matter and is it worth the suffering. Their trust and faith in Christ will be shaken. Also the acts of deception and lies will be so real and believable many will be taken in and give themselves over to unrighteousness, casting aside truth.

II Thes. 2:13-17 – “But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. ¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

Daniel 12:9-10 – “He replied, ‘Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. ¹⁰Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.’” In the few years immediately preceding Christ's return to earth, there will be the righteous and wise, those who believe and obey. These will be purified and made clean. Others will be tested and purified by means of tribulation, to be proven in their love for God and truth. For these people who believe and

obey, God offers the first and better resurrection. The wicked means the world as a whole and its self determined ways apart from God's law and certain peoples of God's end time church that will not receive correction and accept truth.

Psalm 111:10 tells us that wisdom and understanding come from keeping the commandments and laws of God.

The resurrection in **Daniel 12:2-3** – “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel points out two outstanding character traits of the just who will obtain everlasting life. These individuals, men and women, are wise and help others to understand and turn to God. Dan 11:32-35 gives a brief review of what has been given. **Daniel 11:32-35** – “With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him. ³³ Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. ³⁴When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. ³⁵Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.”

Daniel 12:4 – “But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.” This is a direct statement for the end time, specifically the 100-year period that concludes with the return of the Messiah and His saints.

The Book of Daniel – The Daily Sacrifices and the Abomination of Desolation

Daniel 12:11-12 – “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹²Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.” In these two verses are two key numbers. In verse 11, we note three important markers – the daily sacrifice is taken away, abolished, and the abomination that causes desolation is established. The daily sacrifice is the morning and evening animal sacrifices, which for a very short time will be a continuous daily event. Then these sacrifices are taken away, are made to cease by a strong power. At some point soon after, the sacrifices are stopped, “the man of sin” will set up at the sanctuary where the offerings had taken place possibly some sort of image, and in time he himself will stand in this place and cause great offense to God. This is the abomination that causes desolation; the temple sanctuary is now defiled and ruined as far as any meaning to God.

The number of days given from which point the sacrifices cease is 1290 days. At some point soon after the sacrifices are abolished, the dedicated building is defiled. From this point of 1290 days, Jesus will return. Verse 12 tells us he who waits to 1335 days is blessed. Add 45 days to 1290 for 1335; 1335 days from the start of this count Jesus returns. The first count begins at 1335 days and the second count starts at 1290 days; both counts conclude the same day with the return of Christ.

The questions are: How are we to understand where to start the 1335-day count?

And what is the significance of this start time for God's church, His bride – those who are promised a place of protection during the tribulation.

One of the major events to be looked for and anticipated leading up to the revealing of “the man of sin” is a “falling away.” This term most often refers to converted Christians with God's Spirit who have in several major areas departed from truth and thus have become compromised in their relationship with God and Christ. The wise will continue to maintain their stand in truth and will be watching in order not to be trapped in this gross compromise with God's word.

Luke 21:20-21 – “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.” In these verses Jesus explains that an army surrounding Jerusalem is a sign that its desolation is near. An abomination, in the person of a man, “the man of sin,” will place himself in the “Holy Place” and cause the army he controls to bring ruin to parts of Jerusalem. In a sense this army is also an abomination to God because of its sin and destruction that defiles the “Holy City.” Is it at this point that those who understand and believe are advised to “Flee?” That is, with purpose quickly leave and hurry to the mountains.

Matthew 24:10-13 – “At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹²Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” Here Jesus talks about enduring, being patient and watching as various events lead up to the tribulation. Verse 12, I believe, is descriptive of the condition to be found in various congregations of God's Church, Christians who have let the truth slip from their grasp. In Dan 12:12, “Blessed is he who waits.” Again an admonition to wait, be patient and wise. Many things are in a state of confusion and uncertainty. People, especially those of God's Church, may be anxious and upset and confused, confused by the directions of their leaders who have denied certain crucial words of truth and understanding readily available from scripture. Through all this, those who maintain themselves in the truth and love of and for God and keep themselves separate from the confusion and unbelieving, waiting patiently – these men and women will preserve themselves and avoid the tribulation. **Rev. 3:10** – “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”

Those who keep the commandments and persevere will be kept from the Hour of Trial. In Dan 12:12, the emphasis is to reach the beginning of the 1335-day count. What is the blessing these believers will receive for being faithful, steadfast and patiently enduring and waiting for the 1335 days? This is the beginning of their deliverance that leads to a place of protection. Mat 24:13 and Luke 21:19, “He who endures to the end shall be saved” is directly connected to the blessing of Dan 12:12.

The specific blessing of the 1335 days comes first and before the 1290 days. Remember – both the 1290 and 1335 day Periods end at the same time. Knowledge and understanding are blessings. In this case, it is knowing when and what steps of action are necessary to receive God's protection.

The Timing and Events That Signal When to Flee Jerusalem

Luke 21:20 reads – “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, know that its desolation is near.” Meaning the evil one of II Thes 2:3-4 will soon stand in the Holy Place and Jerusalem will be shortly invaded. This verse compares to **Daniel 12:11** – “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1290 days.”

Next, in Luke comes Jesus’ specific instructions. **Luke 21:21-22** – “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²²For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.” These words by the Messiah are quite clear. Dan 9:27 gives some additional detailed information about this specific period of time. **Daniel 9:27** – “He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” The prophecy of the willful king found in Dan 11:36-37 confirms the evil behavior of this man who presumes to displace God. **Daniel 11:36-37** – “The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. ³⁷He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.”

Luke 21:24 – “They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” **Rev. 11:2** – “But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the Holy City for 42 months.” These two verses tie in and focus on a central point, the times of the Gentiles. “Trodden down” also means 3 1/2 years or 1260 days.

Matthew 24:21-22 – “For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now –and never to be equaled again. ²²If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.” **Daniel 12:1** – “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people – everyone whose name is found written in the book – will be delivered.” Much of the information contained in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 has foundation in Daniel chapters 9 and 12. By taking the time to examine and wisely consider the words of Jesus and the prophet Daniel, this matter will soon sort out into a logical and sensible conclusion. We must believe what Jesus said.

Dan 12:11-12 introduce the number 1290 and 1335. Revelation 11:2-3 and 12:14 introduce the number 1260. We know from our study the only place from which anyone is commanded to flee is Jerusalem and the surrounding area. This is a specific area of the earth. **Rev. 12:14** – “The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.” Place is singular. Also, again,

we see the time of protection is for 1260 days. Satan fails in his attempt to destroy God's protected elect; however many of God's people miss this opportunity of protection because they did not believe and allowed themselves to become fearful, confused and lose discernment and wisdom. **Rev. 12:15-17** – "Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring – those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus."

The wise understand that within a given period of time they must leave wherever they may be and travel to Israel and the city of Jerusalem. How will God's elect know when it is time to flee to Judea? It is true that God could use a vision or dream. As well, Jesus or an angel could provide verbal communications. For the matter at hand it seems Jesus expects His chosen and elect to put their trust in His written word. Remember the admonition in Mark 13:23, Jesus said, "But take heed: see I have told you all things beforehand." "Heed" meaning be careful and listen closely, pay attention to what is happening. Think carefully and wisely. This blessing (Dan 12:12) is specifically for the wise who have been trusting, alert, patient and persevering in love to Jesus and God as commanded. These will receive protection. **Rev. 3:10** – "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth."

As a short review and to give context, we see in Dan 12:11 the abomination of desolation is set up. This refers to the Gentile armies surrounding Jerusalem and also appears to be a time of preparation for the beast power, the evil one, to set himself in the Holy Place and compare his power and authority as a "god" to the one and only true God. This 1290 days ends with Christ's return. Dan 12:12 records the blessing of the 1335 days, which also conclude with the return of Christ. Rev 12:14 describes God's protection for His church, which will be for 1260 days. Rev 11:2-3 also references 1260 days. For 1260 days the Holy City and a part of the temple mount area will be controlled by the Gentiles. The work of the two witnesses will be 1260 days. Jesus returns on the 1260th day.

Determining When the Daily Sacrifices Will Begin

It has been suggested that a dramatic event of some sort will trigger the start of the sacrifices. Most likely, in one sense, it will be an uneventful beginning. The key is found in **Daniel 9:27** – "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." Certain assumptions have been made concerning this verse and Dan 11:31, along with Dan 12:11; the principal one being in order to bring an end to the sacrifices in the middle of the week, they must have been instituted at the beginning of the week. (The 70th week of Daniel's 70-week prophesy.) "In the middle of the week" is valid. The count was from the beginning – meaning 3 1/2 years earlier, the first half of the Seven Years. As the second 3 1/2-year period approaches, preparations are made to formally start the morning/evening sacrifices. Dan 12:12 tells us that blessed is he who waits, who is ready for the beginning countdown signified by the 1335 days. The

evidence and progression of events strongly suggests that the sacrifices begin at the 1335-day count and continue for only 45 days, at which point begins the 1290 day period and the cessation of the sacrifices. Thirty days from 1290 comes to 1260 days when “the wicked one” formally announces from the sanctuary that he is as a god.

It appears that at some point around the beginning of man’s final seven years of self-determination, a man of great persuasive powers, full of subtitles and flatteries, will come on the world scene. For about the first 3 1/2 years he will fool many people. The truth is he is the beast power, “the man of sin,” and it is he who causes and is the abomination of desolation.

Part of the deal that may be struck with the Jews and to various degrees acceptable to the Muslims and nations is that the sacrifices not be started until some sort of temple is built. The rabbis have expressed a willingness to start the daily sacrifices with just a simple stone building and altar. Perhaps the promise of an impressive and large structure will cause them to wait. Beyond the construction of a building suitable for sacrifices, it is not likely the Muslim world will abide for any length of time with animal sacrifices so close to their “holy site.”

The lying and deceitful one will bring all concern to an agreement of sorts, and work will begin on a “temple.” The Jews according to ancient purifying laws will cleanse and dedicate this structure to make it acceptable to God. Whatever emerges as a dedicated building will not by any means compare to the first and second temples. This structure and a second to follow before the return of Christ is not the third temple of Ezekiel.

There is also this consideration. When construction begins on the temple, the Jews may decide to begin sacrifices with only an altar, which they have said is a possibility. Upon the completion of the dedicated building, the morning and evening sacrifices would move to the new facility. The sacrifices are now instituted in the new structure, and thus it would be considered complete and whole.

One thing seems clear, the politics and hatred surrounding the whole issue of Jerusalem and the temple mount area will not permit an extensive time for the priests and Levites to perform daily sacrificial offerings. We are commanded to watch, be alert and believe what Jesus said of the end times. As things unfold and approach these critical times, God’s people will understand and as lead by the Holy Spirit they will know what must be done.

The End Time Days of 1335, 1290 and 1260 and the Place of Final Protection

The 1335-Day Period. This day is all-important because, in one sense, for God’s elect and trusting the official countdown begins. I propose there is only one of two possibilities. At the 1335-day time, the animal sacrifices formally begin. The other possibility is the Jews start the animal sacrifices with some type of altars without a formal “temple building.” When this structure is completed, then the sacrifices move to this location. Whatever the case, when the time of the 1335 days approaches, God will make matters clear to His saints, those who truly believe and trust Him.

There are 45 days from the 1335th day to the 1290th day. What is the significant

purpose for these 45 days? It simply means God's Church has 45 days to get to Jerusalem and the immediate surrounding area. The blessing is the knowledge and willingness to act and avoid being left behind. Because there will be so much "spiritually confusing" activity, unless one is truly grounded in the truth of Jesus' words, it will be very difficult if not impossible to sort out the political and religious activities and their true meaning and how related to the time at hand; the beginning of the sacrifices. At this time the false teachers and liars will be highly active and very visible.

If one does not have a solid foundation of love and trust (faith) in God and His Son, the chances of correctly understanding and making a right decision are very slight indeed.

The 1290 days. God's small church is now in Jerusalem patiently awaiting the 1290th day. Dan 12:11 states that on the 1290th day, the sacrifices will be taken away: stopped, cease to be. Also Dan 11:31.

Luke 21:20-21 – "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city." Note Luke says, "When Jerusalem is surrounded." **Matthew 24:15-17** – "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand – ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house." **Mark 13:14** – "When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong – let the reader understand – then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." Matthew and Mark state the abomination of desolation is "standing" in the Holy Place. When this abomination is "seen" or known to be in the Holy Place then God's people are instructed to flee. How are we to understand this? For Luke, the armies surrounding the Holy City of Jerusalem are a type of abomination. Matthew and Mark identify something as standing or placed in the Holy Place as an abomination. Does this mean a man? I believe more than likely this may mean a major pagan symbol placed in the sanctuary. At this time the false religious system will be an active power and partner with the man of sin. At this point of 1290 days, the city is surrounded, and the Holy Place defiled. God's people have 30 days to flee to the mountains.

The 1260 days. The specific time of protection for God's people and the work of the two witnesses – the power of the holy people. At the 1260th day, two major things will in all likelihood take place. First, "the man of sin" is revealed and exalts himself as a god and stands as a god in the Holy Place, the house of God as it is at that time.

II Thes. 2:3-4 – "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God." Second, the Gentile armies enter Jerusalem and will control the city and a part of the temple for 42 months. **Rev. 11:1-2** – "I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, 'Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. ²But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the Holy City for 42 months.' " Thus at this point

mankind enters into his final 3 1/2 years of self-determination. If it were not for the fact that Jesus returns to the earth with His angels and saints at precisely the promised time, mankind with his wars and diseases would have totally destroyed himself off the face of the earth. At His second appearance the Messiah will fight the final battle which ends man's great rebellion and grand experiment in self-rule. Only 10 percent of the original population of earth will be left. And so begins the wonderful New World tomorrow of peace and prosperity and happiness for all humanity – bound in the Holy Righteous Law of God and the just and merciful rule of Jesus Christ.

Preparing for A New Sanctuary and the Sacrifices

Today in Jerusalem plans and activities are in the process of being laid and developed for a future sanctuary and the start-up of daily animal sacrifices. The rabbis, religious Jewish authorities and learned men have identified the descendants of Aaron. They have qualified men to carry out the priestly duties and, most important, they have selected who should function as the high priest. Also known are those who are qualified to serve as officiating Levites. The training and preparation of these men is said to be underway or soon to begin.

The temple utensils needed have been identified and recreated. These implements are now in Jerusalem awaiting that fateful day. According to news stories and magazine articles, a red heifer of necessary quality is available. The ashes of a pure colored red heifer are required for certain sanctuary purification rites.

A most interesting and significant event is the decision to once again establish the ancient Jewish Sanhedrin. In 70 AD with the destruction of the temple the Sanhedrin dissolved and was replaced with a much lesser and structurally different organization. Discussions and meetings of leading Jewish rabbis and others from around the world have been and are taking place on a regular basis. It is possible that within a year or two, perhaps sooner, an authentic legally recognized and fully invested Jewish Sanhedrin will be functional.

Without an authentic Jewish religious authority, it would be difficult if not impossible to begin sanctuary construction and daily sacrifices. It will be a major issue and a hard thing for the political/civil powers to shrug off the request. The Sanhedrin will most likely have the support of many Jews worldwide. It is also reasonable to assume that at least for a time, this tribunal will be endorsed by most if not all established Christian churches, religious associations and special interest groups.

The request and claim will be viewed as legitimate, and it will be hard to deny. The pressure will be on the Arab/Muslims nations to stand down and let the Jews do as they intend. The very real possibility for a major escalation involving weapons of war will give cause for all concerned to co-operate, at least for the time being. The final arrangements will most likely be very complex. There will always be much underlying stress and distrust. A recognized world political leader and an important religious leader will help make it work, but not for any extended period of time.

In the end, the Jews, as much as they desire to have a functional temple of sorts and on going daily sacrifices, sooner than later will do nothing until the time is right and agreeable to the powers concerned. The Jewish religious leaders and political bosses will

not risk their dreams, plans and possibly their very existence as a nation and people. Outside powers will have influences and say in the matter. Still the bottom line is, all will come about in the way and time ordained by God.

The 2300-Day Prophecy of Dan 8:13-14

Many Biblical prophecies are dual. There is the former fulfillment, which is a type of a latter fulfillment, meaning the actual focus of a prophecy finds its completion in the last days, those few last years leading to the Return of Jesus Christ. The 2300-day prophecy of Dan 8:13-14 is of this type.

Daniel 8:11-14 – “It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. ¹²Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.” ¹³Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, ‘How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled – the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?’ ¹⁴He said to me, ‘It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.’ ” **Daniel 8:17** – “As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. ‘Son of man,’ he said to me, ‘understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.’ ” **Daniel 8:19** – “He said: ‘I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.’ ” **Daniel 8:26** – “The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future.”

Actually there were two partial representative fulfillments of this prophecy picturing the end time reality. In 168 BC Antiochus Epiphanes plundered and desecrated the temple in Jerusalem. He spoiled the temple and put a stop to the daily sacrifices. This defilement lasted three years. In 165 BC the cleansing and restoration of the temple and sacrifice was accomplished by Judas Maccabees and his brothers.

In 65 AD the Jews started to stir against their Roman rulers and finally went into rebellion and war. The Romans in their fury of having to once again deal with the Jews killed over a million and deported several hundred thousand. The temple was desecrated and literally destroyed in 70 AD.

Is it 2300 days or 1150 days? The precise period of time for Dan 8:14 has been understood in two different ways. Either as 2300 24-hour days, that is from sunset to sunset, or as 1150 days composed of 1150 morning and 1150 evening sacrifices. The preponderance of evidence favors the latter understanding: “the continual burnt offerings,” that is, the daily sacrifices offered regularly each morning and evening. Upon examination the determination of 1150 days fits neatly into the end time scheme of events. The 2300-day reasoning can not be made to fit the latter day prophecy time frame.

Verses 17, 19, and 26 makes it clear the period of time and events being discussed are for the end time, a specific length of time the world will soon enter. Several comments will be helpful. In Verse 11 of Daniel 8, the “he” is “the man of sin” who now has a firm grip on his worldwide influence and authority. He is accepted by all to one

degree or another as supreme. He takes away the daily sacrifices, and the sanctuary, as originally set up, he defiles. Notice that at some point it is “cast down” that is it is destroyed. Verse 12, because of sin, the sin of God’s people, the anti-christ opposes and stops the daily sacrifices and also speaks great lies.

Verse 13. The question – how long for the vision concerning the daily sacrifices and the desolation of the sanctuary by the power and presence of the man of sin? Verse 14, the answer is 1150 days, that is 2300 sacrifices, two a day, morning and evening. Verse 26 states, “the vision of the evenings and mornings” refers to the daily sacrifices of verses 13-14, 1150 days. Also stated in verse 14, “the sanctuary shall be cleansed’ or better, reconsecrated, made new.

As previously discussed in Dan 12:11, an abomination of desolation is set up. This is most likely when the city of Jerusalem and the Sanctuary are taken under control by foreign armies. The sacrifices are stopped; Jerusalem is now an occupied city. From 1290 the count down goes to 1260 days. At 1260 days a great and powerful evil world leader, the beast power – the anti-christ – will stand in the sanctuary dedicated to God and make great pronouncements. He will compare himself to God and claim the power of God, and he will go forth and cause great wars to come upon the earth.

The Second Sanctuary. Dan 8:13, “Giving of the sanctuary and host trampled underfoot.” Verse 14, 2300 that is, 1150 days, to its cleansing and renewal; 1150 days from 1260 days leaves 110 days. Jesus returns at the end of 1260 days. Shortly we will look at several scriptures that tell about the destruction of this “first” temple of Daniel. At 110 days before the return of Christ, this “first” temple has been destroyed. The Jews have 110 days to cleanse, which is to produce a new sanctuary, reconsecrated, and now clean and free of all defilement and purified according to the ancient rites. This is the sanctuary Christ will come to upon His second coming.

It is important to understand neither of these two sanctuaries/tabernacles is the third Temple of Ezekiel. After the return of Christ and world conditions settle down, a third temple will be constructed that will compare in magnificence to Solomon’s temple and the second temple of Jesus’ time. The tabernacle Jesus will return to will be suitable as a temporary dwelling and for daily sacrifices until the third and permanent temple is constructed.

Malachi 3:1 – “ ‘See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,’ says the LORD Almighty.” The temple Jesus Christ will come to is the “second” temple of Daniel. It has been especially prepared and made ready for the conquering and ruling Messiah the Jews have long looked for and desire. The Jews and Israel will know the return of Yeshua the Messiah is very near. The warring “gentile” nations will be expecting an alien power, who they will not recognize and will seek to destroy.

Why 110 days? The Great Creator and Sustainer God, to whom Jesus Christ is accountable is a Sovereign God. He does as He wills in His great plan of redemption and salvation for all men. God can have any number of reasons for the timing and length of days concerning this matter of Daniel’s second sanctuary. Among the possibilities and perhaps a prime reason that God has set this matter at 110 days is it symbolizes man’s

last remaining days of self rule, typifying 6000 years of his struggle to rule apart from the laws of God.

The number 110 has no particular significance; however, two important prime numbers are found within the number 110. These numbers are 40 and 70!

Forty is an important number occurring many times in the scriptures. This number has association with a period of probation, trial and chastisement, not necessarily judgment. It is the product of five and eight and points to the action (favor) of grace (5), leading to and ending in revival and renewal (8). This number also connects the chastisement of sons and of a covenant people.

Seventy is another combination of two perfect numbers, seven and 10. Seventy signifies perfect spiritual order and completeness carried out with all spiritual power and significance. God is Spirit, and everything He plans and accomplishes is exact and orderly. His 7000-year plan for mankind is an outstanding example.

Seventy is also the number of Jerusalem. (Jer 35:11). Seventy is 10 sevens and is the number of determination – the completion of transgression and the bring in of everlasting righteousness. (Dan 9:24) Reference: *Numbers in Scripture*, By E.W. Bullinger.

The cornerstone of Christ's throne is righteousness and justice and mercy founded in the truth of God's holy commandments, statutes and judgments.

Daniel's First Sanctuary and Its Destruction

As mentioned, earlier scriptures would be brought forth concerning the demise of Daniel's first sanctuary. This building as constructed and dedicated by the Jews in time is polluted and defiled by the anti-christ. No manner of cleaning will make it acceptable to God. Thus a second sanctuary is setup in the few weeks before the Messiah's return.

Daniel 8:11 – “It set itself up to be as great as the prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low.” At some point the daily sacrifices are taken away. Later the sanctuary is cast down. The word “His” has caused some confusion. In many translations the “h” is capitalized, but in context of the verse it seems correct that “his” should be with a small “h.” The referral is to the sanctuary which he, the man of sin, claims and defiles. It is unacceptable to God. “Cast down” has the idea of making broken and destroyed.

Daniel 9:26 – “After the 62 ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: war will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.” This sanctuary is destroyed by God's people, in this case by the Jews, who realize the Messiah will soon appear on earth. In any conflict, destruction is the result of two hostile groups fighting over the same object. The Jews and the armies of the anti-christ are both responsible for the sanctuary's destruction. I believe that by this time the vast majority of the Jews will understand and accept Jesus' first coming 2000 years ago as the suffering Messiah. They will acknowledge and humble themselves before Him not only as the deliverer and ruling Lord but also as Savior and Redeemer.

Daniel 11:32 – “With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.” “The people who know their God:” this refers to Christians who have repented in the midst of trials and tribulations. These people have now recognized and accepted the truth of God. They now have a commitment secured by faith and truth. With these Jesus will do mighty works. It also refers to protected Christians who specifically support the commission of the two witnesses. The third group is composed of converted Jews who are zealous for God and His Son, Jesus the Christ.

Zechariah chapter 12. This whole book is most fascinating reading, for it contains much information about the soon coming end time years. Please read chapters 12, 13, 14. For our discussion, the focus is verses 5-6 of chapter 12.

Zech. 12:5-6 – “Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.’ ⁶On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.” Here it is stated that at some point immediate to Christ’s return, the Jews will organize, rise up and fight the armies who occupy Jerusalem. The temple sanctuary will be made a rubbish heap because of the conflict.

Lamentations 4:1 – “How the gold has lost its luster, the fine gold become dull! The sacred gems are scattered at the head of every street.” Lamentations is a short but important book dealing with God’s people, Israel, and their sufferings; also it focuses on the sufferings of Jerusalem in the last days. It makes clear God’s anger against all concerned because of their great and continuous sins. Jeremiah greatly laments Jerusalem. “The stones of the sanctuary are scattered.” The sanctuary, because of its defilement, has been broken down. Its stones are scattered in the immediate surrounding area and streets.

Psalm 74:1-7 – “Why have you rejected us forever, O God? Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture? ²Remember the people you purchased of old, the tribe of your inheritance, whom you redeemed –Mount Zion, where you dwelt. ³Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins, all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary. ⁴Your foes roared in the place where you met with us; they set up their standards as signs. ⁵They behaved like men wielding axes to cut through a thicket of trees. ⁶They smashed all the carved paneling with their axes and hatchets. ⁷They burned your sanctuary to the ground; they defiled the dwelling place of your Name.” Verse 1 is a prophecy for the end time sons (nation) of Israel. The fighting damages the sanctuary, and in short time it is broken down.

Psalm 79:1-7 – “O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple, they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble. ²They have given the dead bodies of your servants as food to the birds of the air, the flesh of your saints to the beasts of the earth. ³They have poured out blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there is no one to bury the dead. ⁴We are objects of reproach to our neighbors, of scorn and derision to those around us. ⁵How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? How long will your jealousy burn like fire? ⁶Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the kingdoms that do not call on your name; ⁷for they have

devoured Jacob and destroyed his homeland.” This is an end time prophecy for Jerusalem and Israel. Verse 7, “For they devoured Jacob.” This is a reference to modern day America, Great Britain and certain of the democracies of the west and northwestern Europe. Verse 1, “Your temple is defiled,” made unclean and unfit for use by God’s Holy Anointed One.

I have taken extra time and effort examining and explaining in detail Daniel’s 2300-day prophecy. It has not been correctly understood. Its correct understanding brings an added dimension and continuity to end time prophecy

Some Additional Thoughts on Daniel’s Second Sanctuary/Tabernacle

Although many refer to Daniel’s dedicated building as a temple, a more accurate word would be sanctuary or tabernacle. A sanctuary, in the sense of a place or building; suitable, and set apart for service to God, and as a habitation for Him. The Mosaic tabernacle of David, which was used up to the time of Solomon’s temple, also served to these ends.

Solomon’s temple was magnificent – the inside covered with beaten gold and silver, with solid gold offering utensils and the finest wood construction by highly skilled craftsmen, which will only find its match in Ezekiel’s final and third temple.

Daniel’s first sanctuary will be made of stone. It will be a stately building constructed of high quality materials and most likely including generous amounts of gold and silver. Most likely it will be of modest size, perhaps quite small when compared to Solomon’s temple. It will be adequate for the purpose.

The Mosaic tabernacle is described in great detail by Moses, and several models have been made.

Daniel’s first temple of stone and wood, as we know, is destroyed some weeks proceeding Christ’s return. A new sanctuary is constructed – or is there another possibility? The tabernacle of David which housed the Ark is believed to still exist. It is rumored that down deep under the temple mount area and the old city of Jerusalem, David’s city, some place in the miles of tunnels and rooms is David’s tomb. In this tomb is the Ark of the Covenant and the Mosaic/Davidic tabernacle. Some years ago certain Jewish political leaders and rabbis are reported to have viewed these ancient treasures. I believe it is a good possibility the tabernacle Jesus returns to might well be the original Mosaic tabernacle built and used during the 40-year journey. This structure would be the Messiah’s domicile until the third and final temple of Ezekiel is constructed.

Sixteen weeks is not much time to construct a worthy house for God. This ancient tabernacle would do very nicely. The possibility makes sense and would be very much in keeping with its original use – a temporary abode. We will have to wait and see.

The Final Place of Protection—Where

Rev. 3:10 – “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”

God does promise protection for his end time church from the tribulation. A specific location is not given. Jesus' words in the well known Mat. 24:15-16 prophecy indicate a location in the mountains somewhere east of Jerusalem and Judea. Interestingly it says "mountains," possibly implying mountains other than those of Judea. There are mountains in Judea, west of the Jordan, but the political situation may not be what God intends for His people to deal with. There are no mountains as such west of Jerusalem to the sea.

Many years ago there was speculation concerning an area 50 miles south of the Dead Sea called Petra or occasionally Sela. Petra means rock. This city was the capital of the Nabateans. Situated in a valley in the midst of small mountains or hills, it was reached by passing through a mile long narrow gorge call the Sig, which opens in a small plain, surrounded by massive cliffs of red and variegated sandstone. A number of impressive structures are hewed out of this rock. The basis for this speculation is a vague verse supposedly found in the Psalms. Today, Petra is a tourist area with some small towns close by. Being a good distance south, rather than east, where the mountains are, this desolate out-of-the-way area is unlikely the place of final protection.

Dan 11:40-41 are interesting verses that contain a prophecy for the end time. **Daniel 11:40-41** – "At the time of the end the king of the south will engage him in battle, and the king of the north will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. ⁴¹He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand." The ancient kingdoms of Edom, Moab and Ammon shall escape. Today the Kingdom of Jordan occupies these territories. Modern Jordan extends from the Lake (Sea) of Galilee to the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba. The primary boundaries separating Jordan from modern day Israel are the River Jordan, the Dead (Salt) Sea and the Wadi Al' Arabah, altogether, 150 miles in length. Petra is on the west side of Arabah in Jordan.

There are two other locations in Jordan that have possibilities. This is just out loud thinking. About 60 miles north by northeast of Jerusalem, less than five miles from the Jordan River, lies the small town of Tabagat Fahil, population 300. The original name of the area and city as given by founder Alexander the Great was Pella. He gave this name because it reminded him of his homeland.

It was a prosperous city and earned a name in church history. In 66 AD Pella became a refuge for Christians who fled Jerusalem in advance of the arrival of the Roman army to quiet a Jewish rebellion. History records that a voice from the temple was heard warning Christians to "remove hence and flee." Over the years a large Christian community resided in Pella, until 135 AD. Even after this date it remained an important center for the church.

The other possible location is some place in the immediate area of the Jordanian capital, Amman – perhaps even in the city itself. Amman is located about 55 miles northeast of Jerusalem, 22 miles east of the Jordan River.

Amman's ancient name, in the time of King David, was Rabbah, an important trade center situated at the junction of the main trade routes leading north, south, east and west. Recognizing its commercial and strategic importance, the city was rebuilt by

Ptolemy Philadelphus around 250 BC and renamed Philadelphia – city of brotherly love. Today Amman is a city of nearly one million population located in a hilly, semi-mountain range varying in height of 2500 to 3800 feet elevation.

For several reasons I believe this area may be what God provides as a Place of Final Protection. This is my speculation, and so more public comment is better suited for some other time.

This protection is a promise from God. When the time is at hand, we will then know where.

Conclusion

These three prophetic study papers have perhaps taken many into areas of the Bible already visited many times in the past; the reader may now have acquired an expanded appreciation and understanding of the words of Jesus Christ, the apostles and prophets. Hopefully the books of Daniel and Revelation have become real, alive, exciting and revealing. The prophecies as presented in these presentation papers are for our time now, the immediate years ahead.

There are several ways prophecy can be looked at and supposedly understood; however the true evidence and facts of scripture will support only one correct explanation.

I realize Daniel's 2300-days prophecy and the explanation given may be difficult, but it is a critical and important latter day prophecy. It will be of great significance for future Jewish religious and political leaders for whom it is intended.

For Christians, the Place of Protection is a firm promise from the lips of Jesus Christ. I have done my best to make this matter and everything else that is a part of these study papers as clear and understandable as possible.

As presented in these three prophetic study papers, I stand by these things to be the truth of the matter. If I did not, I would be a hypocrite and liar, and this would displease the one true God I recognize.

The reader will have to examine carefully all these things and decide – is this just one man's over active imagination, or is there possibly more to it?

Please carefully note and clearly understand – if you see this to be the truth of scripture, then know that the man is just a teacher, of very little importance in the grand design and purpose of these matters. Everything is from the Bible, the only thing I do is expound and explain, with the view of giving clarity.

It is through God's Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ living in us that truth is established, individually in men and women, not by mortal flawed men.

No man establishes Godly truth in anyone's heart and mind. This is only for God, the Great Creator of all things and His Son Yeshua Ha Moshinch, that is Jesus the Messiah, our Savior, High Priest and King.

This truth and understanding is a conditional gift.

Psalm 25:9 – “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”

Psalm 34:15 – “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry...”

Psalm 34:18 – “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 51:17 – “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

Psalm 145:18-20 – “The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.”

Psalm 149:4 – “For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.”

Isaiah 66:2 – “Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being, declares the LORD. ‘This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.’ ”

So it will be that our Lord Jesus Christ will conclude man’s 6000 years of self-rule. Jesus will be King, ruling in righteousness, truth and mercy. All men and women will come to know and understand the way to true peace, happiness and prosperity.