

## The repentance of Israel

The following timeline is often suggested in certain Christian expositions and although it comes with the caveat that, “the order of these events cannot invariably be established with a confident degree of certainty” it is still presented with a degree of dogmatism that the evidence simply does not warrant:

1. Jesus gathers saints/resurrection
2. Jesus and saints defeat Israel's enemies (Arabs?) and shows himself to Israel
3. The nation repents (Zech 12.10-14)
4. Gog (Russia?) and nations to oppose Christ
5. Roman (Catholic) Europe opposes Christ (Beast, false prophet)
6. Establishes Middle East (Egypt and Assyria and Israel) as new Eden (= the millennium?)
7. Builds Ezekiel's temple
8. The Gentiles attack him as the antiChrist
9. Gog of the land of Magog (Russia again?)

There are so many things wrong with this “timeline” that it is difficult to know where to begin to offer a critique. Such “timelines” are established by stringing together various Old Testament passages with scant regard to their original context. The intention is well meant (to clarify the order of events) but such artificial constructs do more harm than good because they miss the “big picture” and fail to recognise “repeat patterns”. The key in all these end time prophecies is the “role of Israel”. Apparently Israel has no role except to fall on its knees and acknowledge the Messiah. This change of heart will apparently happen after the Messiah returns, apparently the change of heart will materialise when God rescues the disobedient nation from their enemies. So, no faith is necessary. All is forgiven. This completely disregards how God worked in the past. God always sent his prophets to the nation before enacting punishment. He does this in order to prepare a repentant remnant.

## The first advent a pattern for the future

We already have a “playbook” on how God acts towards his people. It is called the “first advent”, when Jesus revealed himself to the nation. The parable of the “vineyard” is instructive in this respect:

**Matthew 21:35-39** <sup>35</sup> And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. <sup>37</sup> But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. <sup>38</sup> But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. <sup>39</sup> And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*.

First, God sends his “servants” (the prophets) last of all he sends his son. The reason for this is that the “servants” (prophets) are meant to prepare the way – prepare a repentant

remnant ready to receive “the son”. God has always acted this way. The nation is given a chance to repent and obdurate refusal results in punishment. God is “righteous” and “fair” he does not punish without due warning. In fact, God is extremely patient and longsuffering.

Before Jesus appeared on the scene, John the Baptist prepared the way. The first disciples of Jesus were followers of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was meant to fulfil the role of Elijah but because the nation refused the Baptist (and therefore Christ) the Elijah role (as anticipated) was not fulfilled;

**Matthew 17:10-13** <sup>10</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? <sup>11</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. <sup>12</sup> But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

The Elijah mission of John the Baptist was rejected by the nation and therefore Christ would also be rejected. However, it resulted in a repentant remnant, the start of a New Israel (the 12 disciples) and a New Covenant. Nevertheless, the majority of the nation, especially the leaders (the Sadducees and Pharisees, high priest, rulers etc) rejected both John and Christ and therefore the vineyard was destroyed.

God does not leave prophecy unfulfilled. Elijah was promised “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (Mal 4.5) and if it was not John the Baptist, who then? The answer is given in Revelation 11 where a new witnessing mission is envisaged that results in a repentant remnant among the Jews, “the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven” (Rev 11.13). Note that the context of the chapter makes it apparent that these events immediately precede the kingdom and the return of Christ.

There is no doubt that part of the Elijah witnessing mission in Revelation 11 envisages “plaguing” the nation and humbling them.<sup>1</sup> Placing the return of Christ before repentance is akin to placing the horse behind the cart. So, repentance happens before Christ returns (not after). This is entirely logical and makes sense -- above all it is how God has always operated with his people. The sequence is (1); witnessing and punishment [simultaneously?] (2); repentance (3); the return of Christ.

**Matthew 23:39** <sup>39</sup> For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

The oft quoted passage in Zech 12 is employed to demonstrate that the nation does not repent until they physically see the messiah. However, this cannot be read as a “sequential” account otherwise it suggests that the nation is first victorious then repents when they see

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<sup>1</sup> The template for the witnesses is Moses and Elijah. Both men plagued their opponents while at the same time urging them to repent but they hardened their hearts. This mission may occur when Jerusalem is already subjected to her enemies.

the messiah. If the nation is victorious and self reliant it has no need to repent. This ignores the fact that all these events happen “in that day” which is “the Day of the Lord”. *It is not a sequential account*. The mourning and supplication is likened unto the mourning that occurred at Hadadrimmon when the righteous king Josiah was defeated and killed. It was a national disaster. So, it is initially a defeat that instigates the soul searching –imminent destruction tends to focus the mind. Not for nothing does the place Hadadrimmon or Megiddo carry connotations of Armageddon. It is therefore in a state of abject terror that the nation turns to God and he hears their supplications and weeping because they recognise the wrong they have done to his only son. The same supplications are made when Jacob confronted his brother Esau and ended up wrestling God.

Hosea 12:3-5 3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: 4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us; 5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

This passage seems to also suggest that Jacob was victorious *over the angel*. However, that is a complete misreading of the situation (not helped by a corrupted translation)<sup>2</sup> and a **misunderstanding of the name Israel**. The name Israel means **God rules** (God is prince or commander) *not ruler with God*. Jacob had to learn the lesson that God **ruled supreme** in his life because his whole life Jacob the deceiver had wrestled God and man in order to obtain the blessing in his own right (by his own power). He wept and made supplications **and was victorious over his old nature** (not over the angel). Moreover, Jeremiah 30 and 31 play on the confrontation between Jacob and Esau and mention weeping and making supplication. To sum up then, as suggested by the Jeremiah passages it is the final confrontation with his brother, his final wrestling with God and his imminent demise that cause the nation to recognise the messiah and weep and mourn for him. It is not messiah’s physical presence *after the fact* but Jacob’s dire straits that force him to confront God and repent –in order to “overcome” his old self.

## Who is Gog and why two attacks?

On the question of Gog I suggest reading the articles already hosted on the website.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For the correct interpretation of this passage see: Paul Wynn, Wrestling with God; Jacob as a paradigm for the nation of Israel <http://www.biblaridion.info/resources/jacob.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See: Ezekiel 38-39, Inter-textual analysis (Part-1) <http://www.biblaridion.info/resources/Ezk1.pdf> Ezekiel 38-39, Russia (Part-2) <http://www.biblaridion.info/resources/Russia.pdf> Ezekiel 38-39, Stylometric Analysis (Part 3) [http://www.biblaridion.info/Anthology/Ezek38\\_stylo.pdf](http://www.biblaridion.info/Anthology/Ezek38_stylo.pdf)

## Building the Third Temple

There will be no physical third temple in the kingdom. Ezekiel's temple will not be built. There will be no animal sacrifice. To sacrifice animals on the "holy mount" would be an abomination to God. I ask Christians who assert otherwise to show me one quote (I only ask for one) in the **New Testament** that says otherwise. You cannot as it does not exist. However, manifold passages speak of a "once and for all sacrifice" and assert that there is **no temple** because the Lord and his messiah are the temple of the New Jerusalem. Without referring the Old Covenant such Christians do not have a leg to stand on. But the Old Covenant is no longer as it has been fulfilled in Christ. Moreover, they miss the "big picture" as both Christ and Stephen were put to death for **speaking against the temple**. They fail to understand that the "saints" are the New Temple. They have become Judaizers reverting back to sacrifice and temple when Peter warns that it is like a dog returning to lick its own vomit. Do we need reminding that God told David that **he never asked for a temple?** Instead God built a house for David – **that house is the promised son who is Christ**.

Ezekiel's temple was meant to be built when they returned from captivity. He was to show them the vision in order to "make them ashamed". They were not ashamed -- they did not even get on with the building the second temple until the prophets remonstrated with them. And when it was completed the "old men" wept because it fell so far short of former glory. And what of the righteous Levite family of Zadok/Sadoc who Ezekiel envisaged taking on the tasks of Aaron's family? They were already corrupt by the time of Ezra/Nehemiah and by the time of Christ they had become Sadducees (from Sadoc), completely degenerate priests who put Christ to death. The temple had become a central bank rebuilt by a psychopathic Edomite. So, Ezekiel's vision did not materialise it was replaced by a travesty because the nation was still disobedient. I suggest you read the articles on Ezekiel's temple by Harry Whittaker.<sup>4</sup> Why do people love outward displays of religiosity so much (churches, temples etc) when God clearly states that he does not? God wants a humble and contrite heart – that is his temple. He is worshipped in Spirit and Truth –neither on this hill or that hill. Know ye not that ye are the temple of the living God?????

## The antichrist

The antichrist is not the Pope and never was. The Pope is a **false apostle** who derives his authority from Peter – the Pope is not **a false Jewish messiah**. In the past the nation of Israel was deceived by the false messiah Bar Kochba who was declared the "star out of

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<sup>4</sup> Harry Whittaker, A Fresh Look at Ezekiel's Temple: Critique of a literal reading <http://www.biblaridion.info/resources/EzekTemp.pdf>

Jacob” by the chief Rabbi. He attempted to rebuild the temple, rebelled against Rome for 3.5 years and murdered Jewish Christians. He was defeated on 9 Ab the same date that the first and second temples fell. Jerusalem was cast off and was officially declared a “gentile city”. **These are repeat patterns that conform to the Apocalypse.**

Einstein said that the definition of insanity was repeating the same behaviour and expecting a different outcome. The Jews are doing exactly this.<sup>5</sup> They are pushing for rebuilding the third temple and behind the scenes they are extremely influential with the world powers (both in the USA and Russia).

Nothing has changed, they have learnt NOTHING. They still reject the messiah. They went to Babylon and never left because it is there that they wrote the Babylonian Talmud (established a base in Shinar). They have added new books – the Zohar –cabbalistic sorcery and black magic. The Zionist State is becoming the beast of the Apocalypse and its “image” is the third temple that they wish to build.

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<sup>5</sup> **Matthew 12:45** Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.