

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Spiritual Awakening

The apostles sat quietly, their mouths hanging slightly open, amazed at the familiar words of The Master. Awed, and honored, to be in the presence of the very Jehovah of the Holy Scriptures, their eyes were affixed to the speaker. An insatiable hunger to know more stirred within them.

Yeshua nodded. "Yes, there were some from the tribes of Benjamin, and Levi who clung to the House of Judah. The other tribes, the House of Israel, chose to adopt the ways of the nations about them. They are among those nations where they were taken. Many are unaware of their heritage. Their identity is becoming lost to the world. Long ago I predicted through the prophets, my intentions, my plan to rescue them. I promised my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, great blessings. This was their reward for obeying my laws. I promised their families would become great, wealthy nations. I promised a savior would come and establish a righteous government, a kingdom from heaven.

I am that Savior," he stated plainly.

In spite of the children of Israel's rebellion they remain a vital part of the plan. I humbled myself...left my glory to become flesh that I may die in their stead. I gave myself into the hands of my enemies, men of my own tribe, the tribe of Judah.

Satan moved them against me, filled them with jealousy and hatred. This was part of the plan that I overcome the world. I had to resist the weaknesses of my own flesh, and the power of Satan. It was necessary that I learn obedience through suffering, that I may qualify to replace Satan, the ruler of this world. This I did, while in the flesh, by the power of the holy spirit. By my example I have led the way for all who trusts in me. Because of my death and resurrection it is possible for all of mankind to escape the power of the second death.

"Now I live that you may live. I must go back to The Father.

I will send you power of the Holy Spirit, to be a help and a comfort to your spirit. These things that have so recently taken place were painful and confusing to you. Your understanding was not fully awakened; it will develop and grow as my spirit unites with yours."

James asked, "Master, are you going to restore Israel's kingdom at this time?" At this question, all the men became unusually quiet, hoping to hear that this was Yeshua's plans.

"I shall surely establish my kingdom. Even now it begins, as a tiny seed, planted in the hearts of my followers. The Father alone knows exactly when it shall be brought to completeness.

There are many yet to be called, much work to be accomplished.

Satan will continue to rule this world until I cast him into outer darkness. When he realizes his time is short he will vent his wrath upon the inhabitants of the earth. Remember carefully everything that I tell you. I shall come to your rescue, establish my government, and you shall rule with me. When I return the nations shall be angry; it will be a time of world war, a time of great persecution. There will exist a time of distress such as has never been from the beginning of nations until then. To save my elect I will intervene, lest all flesh would be destroyed from the earth.

"When I return I will pour out my wrath on those who destroy the earth and martyr my saints. There will be few peoples of the once great nations left alive to start a new civilization. Flesh of great and mighty men, kings, generals, horses and their riders, will be food for fowls of the air. At the end of this age, the master destroyer, Satan, will be cast down to the abyss. During the next age, for a thousand years, he will be incapable of deceiving the nations. With my resurrected saints, the new age will start very small. The world will be changed, cleansed and revitalized. Within time, a new civilization, nations of Gentiles will emerge, who will have lived and learned the ways of righteousness, without Satan's influence.

During that time, with my saints, I will assume rule of the world. But after the thousand years end, Satan will be loosed for as long as he serves the preordained purpose. Another great event will take place, the resurrection of the whole house of Israel. The prophet Ezekiel tells of this age, of which I will leave to your studies.

Once again I will set my hand to rescue my people, those who survive the great attack against them by Gentile nations, Gog and allies. I will bring them again to their land where they shall be fruitful and multiply. Their numbers shall become as the sand of the sea."

These words were more than the disciples could digest at first. An uneasy curiosity arose among the captivated audience.

Peter nudged John, "Ask him to explain when all this is going to take place."

John had some questions of his own. "Master, you speak of a remnant returning to their land. Has this not already taken place, during the time of the Medes, king Darius, and the prophet Ezra? Or must we look for another exodus? If so, which of the cities will be taken captive, who shall escape? Which nations will be the enemy? When will all this occur?"

Yeshua sighed. He had explained all this before, in the scriptures, through the prophets, and some to them personally.

"How slow is the human mind to assimilate spiritual knowledge?

The word of truth must be repeated continually that they may retain understanding," he thought. He answered, "As your spiritual minds become aroused, there are many things you will wish to know. Answers will come from studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, meditation, and faith. When answers are given to you, remember and believe what I have told you. You will not now understand all things that I speak of regarding the future, but know that I will send my spirit to comfort you, to quicken your memory, and to guide you into all truth."

"Many prophecies are for a future end time. During this age you will understand in part, as seeing through a darkly tinted glass. You will be persecuted for spreading my gospel. But I will strengthen you, that you may share my joy during your tribulation.

Seeing their anxious faces, eyes wide with expectation, he continued. "In ancient times I spoke to my people through my servants, the prophets, and men of righteousness. They knew little, interpretation of their messages. However, many of their writings were preserved for you and your children. The prophets spoke of past ages, of their present age and its events, and of things yet to occur in future ages. Many wrote of events that are being fulfilled today, before your very eyes. All have written about me. Some of you sitting before me, will likewise leave writings to be read by those The Father will yet call into the plan. They speak concerning things that will happen to my people Judah, to the other tribes of Israel, and to great nations of the world. Many prophecies have more than one application in the time of future events.

"Yes, my friends, there is yet to be a time of great tribulation to my people." He stretched his hands toward the distant city of Jerusalem and his voice filled with pain; it was barely audible. "Before my eyes I behold your future. Very soon death and sorrow shall be your constant companion. Your majestic beauty of marble and gold will be turned to dust, overrun by your enemies. Oh...city of David, if only you would have executed judgment and delivered the oppressed out of the hand of the oppressor. If only you would have acknowledged your sins and turned to your Redeemer. Then would you escape sudden destruction, which will leave your site as thought it had never been inhabited."

He turned back to the silent faces; he wished they were more mature, so he could share with them everything that would take place in future years and ages. He thought, "I must still speak to them as to children. If they should understand too soon, they would become fearful, discouraged, and lose faith. They are still infants in spiritual strength. As they mature, gradually I will increase their knowledge. His mind raced through centuries of time reflecting many future events. "Many prophesies will extend far beyond their life time. Within seventy years Jerusalem will fall under the force of Roman powers. Cities of Judah will be ravaged, women brutally raped, children torn from the arms of their parents, unmercifully murdered. Famine will spread throughout the land; people will become like animals, eating their own children. Centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire, at the end of the age, the remnant of the House of Judah will again be scattered throughout enemy nations. Wherever they dwell, they will be despised and persecuted; the name 'Jew' will be repulsive to many nations.

"Many years will pass before they migrate back to their country. There will be little rest...war and jealousies will surround them, from without and within their land. The sons of Ishmael , descendants of Keturah and Philistians will be a constant grief and a thorn in their side. In spite of their foes their numbers will grow. As a woman in labor, giving birth, they will return and rebuild.

Yeshua's thoughts were interrupted. John meekly ventured a question. "Master, we know some of the history of our peoples, how Cyrus, the king of Persia, was moved to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Only the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, priests and Levites came up from the captivities of the exiles. This

was a small number compared to all that were taken into captivity. Can we know where all the tribes are and what is Israel's future?

Yeshua answered, "The scattered tribes of the House of Israel will migrate northwest across Europe, and become separate nations. The tribe of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, will settle south of his brothers. Because he defiled his father's bed, he disqualified his nation of receiving the first-born birthright. Joseph, the first-born to Israel's wife, Rachel, shall inherit the birthright.

"As their father, Israel, prophesied, the tribes of Simeon and Levi will continue to be scattered among other nations of Israel. Because of their wrath and cruel nature their national blessings will be withheld. They will share the identity of the nations they dwell in.

"The tribe of Jebulun will live by the seashore and become a haven for ships. A small nation of no greatness, he shall be of no great power.

"The tribe of Issachar will settle west of its oppressive neighbor. Because of the pleasantness of the land, the small nation will be content to bear the burden of a hostile nation.

"Dan will be in constant conflict among their own. He will travel through the isles, dividing. His offspring shall be full of strife. As foolish, enraged women, they will strive bitterly over vain customs, their teachers groping in darkness.

"Gad will become a small nation. In spite of its many enemies and numerous attackers it will hold onto its independence with fierce determination.

"Asher's food will be rich; his delicacies fit for a king.

His tiny nation will settle amidst the waters. Their land will be known for the beauty of its gardens.

"Naphtali will be a nation of freedom. Situated between it's two sister nations. It will be known for its beautiful, fair skinned, golden haired offspring.

"Joseph, blessed by Israel, will become a fruitful vine, whose branches will spread throughout the waters. He will have many enemies; but his strength will be sustained through my power, the Mighty One of Israel. Because of the promise I gave to their father, Abraham, I will be their Rock. I will bless Joseph with the blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and womb. Because of your father's blessings your blessings will surpass the great ancient nations. All these blessings will rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.

"Joseph will grow to spread across the waters, claiming the islands and controlling many nations. During the end of the age the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, will increase.

Manasseh will pull away from Europe, pioneering a new land. In short time he shall increase in wealth and power. He also, shall become a great nation, known for its unity of many states.

"Benjamin will be known for ruthlessness, settling in the uppermost northwest. It's coasts stretching along its breadth, peaked by glacial mountains and fringed by many small islands.

Their people will be fierce as a ravenous wolf.

"I will remember my promise to my servant Abraham and his wife Sarah. I will prosper the sons of Israel above all nations.

As the man Israel pronounced a blessing upon the two sons of Joseph, so will I bless them. For a time they shall be the greatest of nations. Because of their pride and willful sins against me, turning to paganism, embracing the sins of Sodom, and refusing to acknowledge me as their creator, they shall reap their own folly. Gradually their sins will weaken them from within; other nations will surpass their strength and power. As they glory in their possessions, refusing to acknowledge their sins, wallowing in spiritual darkness, they will fall into the hands of their enemies. There shall be a time of great tribulation, such as never has been nor never shall be again."

Yeshua resumed teaching, "I tell you now, at the end of days, traitorous times shall befall my people, Israel. As I revealed to my servant Daniel, there shall arise a terrible, powerful beast. The dragon shall give him authority to rule the whole world.

Astonished and blinded by his power, the whole world will follow the beast. In awe they will worship both dragon and beast. They shall reverence the beast, proclaiming, 'He is the greatest warrior of history...no nation can defeat him!'"

Eager to hear what their future held, the men continued asking questions. "Who is the dragon and the beast of which you speak, Master? We know you have spoken in symbols to the masses because you said it was not their time to understand the deeper things of the plan. Now that we are alone, can you tell us more distinctly?"

Yeshua nodded. "The dragon is he who has rule of the earth, both now and then. He who was created in perfection, but because of pride, greed, and vanity, he now devotes himself to destroying mankind and our plan. In bitterness he swept a third of the angels down from their positions to rule with him upon the earth. He stood ready to destroy my chosen people at any opportune occasion. When I came in the flesh, to bring peace to the world, he stood waiting to devour me. While I was but an infant, he sent his army against me. Throughout my human life he ceased not to set a snare against me. But I am alive, never to die again. I have much work to do; soon I shall ascend upon the throne as King of Kings. The dragon will rule the world until I return to the earth and replace him. You, my little flock, must remain here until I return. You shall be diligently pursued by the dragon. But he will be unable to destroy you..."

Again Yeshua's thoughts flashed ahead, "Just as the world rejects me, it will also reject my witnesses. The dragon, that ancient serpent, Satan, knowing he has but a short time left to destroy and deceive wars against the heavenly host. He, and his army, shall be defeated by Michael. Satan and his angels will lose their place in heaven, no longer able to constantly accuse the brethren of wrongdoing.

Cast down to earth, his frenzied determination to destroy mankind will fiercely increase. In desperate vengeance he will lead all nations of the world astray.

Woe to the earth and its inhabitants for he is filled with fury, knowing he has but a short time. In a last effort, he will lead the resurrected power of nations to attack the House of Judah, and the House of Israel in full power.

"A small remnant of Judah will escape Satan's wrath. He will send his army after them, but an earthquake will swallow them up.

Enraged, for three and one half years, Satan will search out, and make war against any who obey my commandments. Many shall fall by the sword for the testimony which they hold. The earth will tremble beneath the devastation of a great earthquake, followed by total darkness, redness of the moon, and convulsions of stars crashing through the atmosphere. Every mountain, every island will move and sway under their stress. Then men of all nations, class, and creed will scream in terror, hiding themselves, seeking death, for they fear the wrath that is to come.

"One hundred and forty-four thousand servants of God, from the House of Israel, shall be sealed against the horrors of the end of the age wars, and the day of my wrath. Twelve thousand from each of the all twelve tribes will be sealed with my spirit. A great multitude from Gentile nations will emerge from the great tribulation accepting my sacrifice and obeying my commandments. They, too, will enter into my kingdom, and I shall dwell among them."

Yeshua strained against overwhelming emotion. He felt the pain the world would bring upon itself through following Satan's influence. He felt the indescribable sufferings of the saints, by the hands of cruel and treacherous nations, yielded to the power of Satan. He could see hail, and fire mingled with blood, a third part of earth's trees and grass burning. He saw a flaming ball of gas, the size of a mountain falling into the sea, turning it into blood. He saw a third of creatures of the sea dying, its ships destroyed. He saw the fountains of waters polluted, poisoning the streams, turning to bitterness and death.

He saw the lights of the heavens darkened, disrupting the natural order of day and night. Before him flashed the plummeting power of his determined enemy, descending upon the earth to stir up greed and hatred among the nations. They will battle against each other and against the remaining, unsealed Israelites. He saw, a god of war leading a well-trained army, with sophisticated weaponry designed not to kill, but to torture for five months.

The vicious army unleashed torturous power against its helpless, suffering victims, denying them the peace of death.

He sees another army of two hundred million, issuing fire, brimstone, and smoke. They destroy one third of all humans on earth. Yeshua saw that in spite of all the inflicted suffering on the world, it did not affect any change on the wicked. They reacted in rage against The Almighty, and continued wallowing in their perversions; none repented of their abominations. He saw nations yielded to the Beast and its mark, reveled in carnal pleasures and luxurious living. He saw the ultimate of earthquakes,

the greatest in the history of mankind. The great idolatrous city, responsible for deceiving the nations by her satanic magic, who murdered the prophets and the saints, was hurled asunder, divided into three parts. Uncontrollable fires spread rampant until only blackness and smoke is left of the wealthiest, merchandise trafficking city on earth. All about her, every island will sink into the raging seas; the mountains rumble and disintegrate to nothingness. He heard weeping and wailing, distant merchants grieving over such a great loss. A fierce storm roared out of the blackened sky; sixty-five-pound hailstones crushed everything in its path. In many nations great cities crumble to the ground.

Then he heard a great multitude of voices, as the voice of many waters and thundering, singing praises to The Great One, who wrought vengeance upon the great whore that corrupted the earth with her religious fornication. They echoed, "Let us be glad and rejoice, for the marriage of the Lamb is near; his bride is ready and waiting.

He saw himself, The Word of Yahweh, riding a white steed, splitting apart the clouds of heaven, his vesture red with blood, readied for war. He carried the name, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." His army, clothed in pure, white linen, followed close behind.

The voice of an angel cried out to the fowls of heaven, "Come, partake of the great feast of human flesh." He saw the beast and the armies of all the nations on earth, gathered to make war against him. The war was swift; the beast and false prophet were cast alive into a burning lake of brimstone. The armies were defeated and slain with the sword, their flesh consumed by hordes of flesh-eating birds. For a moment, absorbed in the future, he was unaware of those about him. John's voice brought him back to the present.

"Now we understand, the dragon is Satan," John said, "but who is the beast? Is this a demon or a man?"

"The beast is neither demon or man, John," answered Yeshua.

"He is a resurrected power, a satanic system of nations. The beast will receive power from Satan to conquer every nation it goes against, and the saints. For forty-two months it will blaspheme the name of the Mighty One and his dwelling place, and all the holy angels.

"What will happen after this beast begins to wield this power. Which of the nations are involved? Who will be spared?

How many of Israel will survive? How long does the beast rule?"

James voiced a few of the many questions all the group wondered about.

"Another two-horned beast, a powerful religious leader, shall arise, presenting himself to be a lamb, but he speaks on behalf of the dragon. He will perform great miracles and signs, even calling fire down out of heaven. He will make it appear he has given life to the image so that it speaks. Those who refuse to worship the image will be executed. Because of the miracles he performs, most of mankind will believe he is of Elohim. He will devise a system whereby everyone will be issued a number, proof that they are cooperative in all that the beast stands for. By his religious powers, he forces everyone from

every nation to be in agreement with the terms of the number. Without this number no one is allowed access to the tightly controlled trade market, making it impossible for one to buy and sell.

"As for the nations of the beast, they will lie across the seas, northwest of Jerusalem. Their names are not for you to know at this time. When these things begin to happen, the wise will see and marvel; their understanding will grow with each occurrence. The kingdoms of the beast will be in disunity, just as iron and clay do not cleave tightly, its unity will be weak; it will endure for a very short time. During its reign Israel will once again be defeated, its citizens taken into captivity.

One third will die of famine. Another third will die in the war.

The other third will be taken as prisoners of war. They will be used for slaves, for barter, and for whatever purpose pleases their captors. Many will be sold to Gentile nations throughout the world."

Peter shook his head in disbelief. "Master, why will such an awful curse fall upon our peoples, and not the other nations?"

Are we Israelites so much more wicked, deserving harsher punishment?" Peter asked.

"Peter, have you not heard it read from the prophets, "Hear this word that The Lord hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, 'You only have I known of all the families of the earth'. Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities'?

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because they have rejected knowledge, I will reject them. Israel shall not be a priest to me. Seeing you have forgotten my law, I will also forget your children. Those whom I love I will chastise. I will not utterly desert you, but will rescue a remnant for my name sake. The House of Israel has enjoyed the richness of the earth, not because of their own endeavor, or superior righteousness.

They received these things at my hands, because of the faithfulness of their father, Israel. I have prospered them, protected them, and waited upon them to acknowledge me as their father.

"Hosea wrote of the end time condition of Israel, 'Hear the word of The Lord, you Israelites. He has a charge to bring against you. There is no faithfulness, no love, nor acknowledgment of Yahweh in the land. There is only lying, stealing, cursing, murder, and adultery. You have spoiled your land and all that inhabit it. Your spiritual leaders have lost their way, leading you into darkness. They glory in your sins, delighting in your wickedness. Your deeds prevent you from returning to me. A spirit of prostitution is in your heart.'

Your arrogance testifies against you.'

"Israel refuses to profit from loving discipline, or learn the lessons of past mistakes. The greater their prosperity, the farther they turn from me. Everyone chooses to go their own way, to make their own decisions, rejecting me as their authority.

Their blessings they turn to curses. They wrongly accuse me for their miseries which they exact upon themselves and their children. I gave them my laws, a surety for joy and peace, but they rejected them as worthless. I will remember their wickedness, and punish them for their sins."

Yeshua looked across the land; painful, passionate feelings motivated his thoughts. "O Israel...Israel, your sins have berthed you curses. You will bear your guilt, because you have turned against me. Your storehouses will be plundered. Your people will fall by the sword. Your little ones will be dashed to the ground. Your young women will be raped, and your pregnant ripped open. Call a fast, call an assembly of mourning. Call the elders, leaders, and the citizens of the land into the house of The Lord your Elohim, and cry unto him. Calamity upon calamity will come, for the day of wrath will soon be at hand.

Awesome destruction from the Almighty shall come upon you. Your food shall be cut off before your eyes. Your joy shall flee.

When you plant the seed it will rot under their clods. Your storage barns will be broken down; the corn will wither. Even the beasts shall groan! The herds of cattle and sheep will weaken and die because they have no pasture. The animals of the field will die for lack of water as the rivers dry up, and the fire devours the plains.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy nation. Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble for the day of The Lord will come without warning. The day will be clouded by thick darkness and gloominess. A great and mighty army will overpower you. There will be no equal event for many generations. Fire will belch before them, destroying gardens of perfection, leaving raging fires behind, turning the land into a desolate wilderness; nothing shall escape them. They shall enter any and all buildings, their goals clear, moving to each assigned location, never faltering from their battalions of war. Should they fall upon the sword, they will suffer no wound. They will overrun the cities like an army of giant ants, casting dead bodies down in silent sweeps. Earth and heaven shall tremble before them. The lights of heaven shall refuse to shine when The Lord utters his voice before his great army. I will cause the sun to go down at noon, the earth will be in darkness during the day. Your feasts and merry-making shall turn into mourning, and baldness shall be common upon every head. It will be a day of bitter agony."

Another question was asked. "Will these terrible things happen in our lifetime, Master?

"Some such prophecies will occur in your life time. Many prophecies will live on to be repeated, a witness to a future time, even to the end of the ages. A time of famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing my words will come. Many shall wander from sea to sea, from north to east, running to and fro seeking the truth. They will not find it. I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the terrible day of wrath come. I shall plead with my people, 'O house of Jacob, come, walk in the light of The Mighty One.'"

Yeshua knew the apostles would not understand the time sequence that many prophecies related to; he would not tell them everything now. "They adopt, and practice pagan religions, and call on

soothsayers. They take their wealth for granted, and live in luxury, their land full of mechanical chariots, their homes and markets full of idols. They worship things, the work of their own hands. They change my judgments and statutes into wickedness more than the nations that are round about them.

Because they reject me in the sight of other nations, I will make an example of them to the nations. The fathers shall eat their sons, and the sons shall eat their fathers. I will scatter the whole remnant into many nations. Surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things, with all your abominations, I will also diminish you without pity.

“A third part of you shall die with the pestilence, with famine in the midst of you. A third part shall fall by the sword round about you; I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and draw out a sword after you. Thus shall mine anger be accomplished. I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be consoled. Then they shall know that I The Eternal have spoken in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.

“I will no longer protect you from the enemy, as I have in the past. Nor will I send you riches from the land. I will do nothing to prevent you from becoming a waste, and a reproach among the nations. It shall be your disgrace and insult, an instruction and an astonishment witnessed by all nations, when I execute judgments in anger, and in furious rebukes. I shall send upon you evil arrows of famine, which shall be for your destruction, a little at a time. Savage beasts shall tear you, pestilence and blood shall pass through you. And I will bring the sword upon you. You shall reap what you so lavishly sow.

“Oh, nations of Israel, if you would only hear my words, heed my warning. Your altars shall be desolate, your images broken.

I will cast down your slain men, your children before their idols. I will scatter your bones round about your altars. In all your dwelling places your cities shall be laid waste, your buildings demolished, your places of worship razed and made desolate. Yet I will leave a remnant that you may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when you shall be scattered through the countries.

“They that escape shall remember me among the nations where they shall be carried captives. I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, whoring after their idols.

When they come to their senses, they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

They shall know that I am The Eternal, that I have not said in vain that I would allow this evil to fall upon them. Smite with your hand, and stamp with your foot, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine and pestilence. He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; he that remains and is besieged shall die by famine. This will accomplish my fury upon them.

“I will send my anger upon them, judge according to their ways, recompense upon them all their abominations. I will not spare them, nor show pity. They shall reap the result of their ways, their abominations shall be in their midst until they repent. When troubles fall upon their land, violence will rise up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain. No one shall grieve for them. The time is

come, the day approaches near. Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for their sins are upon all the multitude. They that sell shall not return to that which is sold, for the whole multitude shall not return.

They will call their army to arms, to make ready for war; but none will respond. My wrath will be upon them. The sword, the pestilence, and the famine surround them. Those who escape will flee to the mountains like doves of the valleys. All of them mourning, every one for his iniquity. All hands shall be feeble, all knees shall be weak as water. They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, horror shall cover them. Shame shall be upon all faces, baldness upon all their heads. They shall cast their silver in the streets, their gold shall be removed.

Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of my wrath.

"I gave you land, as the beauty of ornaments, set in majesty.

You fill it with images of your abominations and detestable things. Therefore I will take it from you, and give it into the hands of strangers for a prey; they will spoil and pollute it.

The wicked shall pollute my secret place. Robbers shall enter into it, and defile it. Make a chain, for the land is full of bloody crimes, the city is full of violence. Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, they shall possess their houses.

I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease. Their holy places shall be defiled. Destruction comes; they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, rumor added to rumor. Then they shall seek a vision of the prophet. The law shall perish from the priest, counsel from the ancients. The king shall mourn, the prince shall be clothed with desolation, the people of the land troubled. I will do unto them after their way, according to their deserts will I judge them. Then they shall know that I am The Lord."

The disciples sensed their Master's thoughts were troubled.

They sat silently, waiting for Yeshua to speak again. He reined in his thoughts and smiled at them. He spoke in a controlled tone. "Blessed are they who are ready for the marriage of the Lamb. Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection; the second death has no power over them. They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

"Tell us more about the resurrection," someone suggested.

"What will those who are dead be like after they are raised up?"

"You see that I am alive. I was dead, just as many are now asleep in their graves. If you had no other hope, than the life you live in the flesh, life would be of little value. For many have known nothing but suffering. I have become the first fruits of them that sleep; eternal life is now possible. Death came to man by the sins of man. The resurrection of the dead came through the sacrifice paid for those sins.

"After sin entered, all physical descendants of Adam were destined to decay and death. Those who hear my words, repent, and obey shall be given eternal life. It is the order of the plan. The son is the first born of many. Afterward, my sheep, at my coming, will arise, meeting me in the air. Then I must

reign, till all enemies have been defeated. My last enemy, death, shall be destroyed. The Father has given me all power to accomplish this. When the plan has been fulfilled, all things shall be subject unto me, then shall the son also be subject unto The Father, that all will be harmoniously agreeable. When I have destroyed all enemies, at the end, the kingdom will be presented to The Mighty Eloha."

"What kind of body will the dead have at the resurrection, Master?" Phillip asked.

"Unless a seed is sown and dies, it will never sprout a new plant. You have no control over what the seed produces; God determines that. He gives it a body from the seed of its own kind. All flesh is not the same flesh. There is the flesh of men, the flesh of beasts, the flesh of fishes, and another of birds." Yeshua explained.

"There are also celestial and terrestrial bodies; the two are different. The sun has one glory, the moon a different glory.

And the stars have another glory, even one star differs from another. So also, is the fleshly body different from the resurrected body. When the first body of flesh succumbs to corruption and dies, it will be raised in glory, and power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. The natural body becomes a spiritual body.

"The first man Adam was made a living soul; I am a quickened spirit. The physical was first, then the spiritual. If you are of the earth, you have a physical body. After the resurrection, you will have a heavenly body. Remember, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of The Eternal; there first must be a change from flesh to spirit. Those who are alive, at my coming, will not have to die, but will be changed. Their change will take place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet sound. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead shall be raised incorruptible, changed to spirit."

"Who then is exempt from death? Even the prophets—in times of weakness—have broken the law. Why keep the law, if we are destined to die, anyway?" Matthew asked.

"Sin is responsible for death. The law was given to show what sin is. Without the law, death would still have power over you. Those who depend on their own power to keep the law are doomed to die. I have broken the curse of the law. No longer is the transgressor condemned to death. If the sinner will turn to me and repent, keeping my words, he will be freed from his penalty. My death and resurrection has made life possible for all of mankind."

"Master, what happens to all those who have died, never having the benefit of hearing your words. Will they also be in the resurrection? Will the wicked dead inherit the kingdom, along with the righteous?" Thomas asked.

Yeshua shook his head. "After this age ends, the final fulfillment of the Gentiles will begin. Many of you sitting here will help me teach them. Yeshua smiled, watching the faces of his apostles' glow with interest and surprise. He continued, "During the thousand year period the people will rejoice at their new knowledge". Satan will be released to test the Gentiles and the newly resurrected House of Israel.

Then begins an age of judgment of all Gentile nations and the newly resurrected House of Israel. They will fail their tests. A new age, one of great sorrow, will descend upon the wealthy, resurrected families of Israel.. Satan will, once again, try to destroy my people. Because of their gross sins against me I will allow Gentile nations to attack Israel and take them into captivity and occupy their land. After many years they will repent of defiling my name. I will have mercy on them and rescue them, destroying their enemies, return them back to their promised land. A new age of happiness and joy will cover the whole world. Then begins judgments of many resurrected great nations of the world, of the many who never heard my name. There will be no end of my kingdom, no lack of believers to fill it. You will read of Judges, sitting upon thrones. Before the judges is the book of life. The resurrected dead will be judged out of those things which are written in the books, according to their works. The sea, death, and hell will deliver up their dead. And every man is judged according to his works. Death and graves are cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whoever is not found written in the book of life (when they die their bones) will be cast into the lake of fire."

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