

# Chapter 5

## *"The Bridge"*

History again supplies some information in that the Roman Empire invaded and conquered the repatriated Israelites and Jerusalem in 63 BCE. The Romans set up an authoritative governmental administration's occupation over the Jews, who were allowed to keep their civil and ritualistic practices. Israel would then remain in the Promised Land under the Roman Empire for over 130 years until 70 AD.

The New Testament opens, with a completely different tone as compared to the Old Testament: however, it continues in thought, which is God reaching out to the Jewish people to bring them back to Him. Right from the beginning, [Matthew](#) bridges the two Testaments with his opening evidence. [Matthew 1:1](#) "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, and the Son of Abraham." The following 17 verses of [Matthew 1](#) recount Jesus' genealogy to include Jesse, King David, and Abraham. The Gospel texts focus less on law and more grace. [John 1:17](#) "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Before we continue, a point needs to be made here. The main focus of Jesus' ministry was the Jews, not "the Gentile church," of which we are a part. His disciples were Jewish, His family was Jewish, and He was Jewish. He often preached and taught in the local Jewish temples. The teachings and parables of Jesus were directed to His immediate audience, the Jews of the day, although I am sure there were gentiles in some of those open-air sermons. However, His sacrifice was for all, Jew and Gentile alike. [John 3:16-17](#) "16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Notice the previous verses say "whoever" and "world." It is inclusive of every soul ever born. The four gospels and beginning of [Acts](#) are first person eyewitness accounts by the apostles of the life, teachings, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. When one contemplates the vast divide between God and man, the only bridge that can span the gap is the blood stained cross. We will look more closely at the roles that Jesus Christ, Peter, Paul, and the church plays in God's master plan later also in this book.

Our next loop's focus is directed to the Hebrews and what has happened specifically to them in regards to prophecies listed in the Bible. [Daniel 10:14](#) "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days." The partial list below are the fulfilled prophecies centered around Israel's return to the land promised to them. After the destruction of Solomon's temple, the Jews were subsequently expelled out of the promised land, but because of God's covenant with Abraham, they would not be out forever. The Jewish people were put into slavery and shipped like cattle to Rome to build the Coliseum and other public works. Those who did not go were dispersed into the four corners of the known world known as the Diaspora. This is the beginning of the Gentiles control and occupation of Israel and Jerusalem, which continued until 1948 when the state of Israel was reestablished and put under self-control. Before they could come back, the Bible does state that there will be a "times of the Gentiles." [Luke 21:24](#) "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." When we get to the questions later in [Matthew 24](#) this will be better explained. The short version of this phrase means that control of the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem (and occupation of the Temple) will not be self-ruled, but rather ruled by outsiders. It also means that there is a predetermined end date. We will also look at this more closely after we talk about Jesus as Messiah and Prophet. For now, though we are concentrating on the Jews. As we just mentioned, Roman Legions occupied Israel and Jerusalem at the time of Christ's birth. As time moved on, different gentile empires wrestled control from each other. These included the Byzantines, a succession of Arab dynasties, the Crusaders, the Mamelukes, the Ottoman Empire, and finally, the British Empire, who controlled it throughout both world wars. As a compensation of sorts for the Holocaust, in 1948, the modern day State of Israel was reborn as foretold where Isaiah spoke of Israel being reborn in one day [Isaiah 66:7-8 \(NKJV\)](#) "7 Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. 8 Who has heard such a

thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.” [Isaiah 10:20-22](#) “<sup>20</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. <sup>21</sup> The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. <sup>22</sup> For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.” Most, if not all, prophecy scholars agree that Christ’s second coming could not happen until the Israelites were physically back in their promised homeland which happened in 1948.

The following are several important, and relevant prophecies given to Israel concerning the actual return to the land during the end times that have been fulfilled in our lifetime. These highlighted passages are only some and are by no means a complete list.

- ✧ The Hebrew language will be revived in Israel. [Jeremiah 31:23](#) “Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in its cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity: “The LORD bless you, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.” [Zephaniah 3:9 \(NKJV\)](#) “For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.” This was revitalized in the late 1800’s and completed in 1921 by Eliezer Yitzhak Perlman.
- ✧ The Dry Bones Live [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) “<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, <sup>2</sup> And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And He said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, Thou knowest. <sup>4</sup> Again He said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. <sup>8</sup> And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then said He unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. <sup>11</sup> Then He said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say unto them, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, <sup>14</sup> And shall put My spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.” Many believe that this passage was fulfilled in the Holocaust during 1933-36 in Hitler’s final solution.
- ✧ A remnant of Israel will be re-established as a nation. [Isaiah 11:11-12](#) “<sup>11</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

<sup>12</sup> And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

- ✧ The people of Israel would return to “their own land” and be the vessel from where 144,000 missionaries would come. [Ezekiel 34:13](#) “And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.” [Jeremiah 31:10](#) “Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth His flock.’” As we learned earlier, there were two tribes who survived to maintain a continual thread for the nation of Israel, while the other 10 tribes were captured and removed to the far off country of Assyria. From there, they seemed to simply disappear from history, but not from God’s view. When Israel is reborn and her peoples repatriated (Aliyah), there would be representatives from ALL twelve tribes. God, the designer of DNA genetic coding, will know from which tribe they belong. Representatives from all twelve tribes must be present in order so that the 144,000 missionaries of [Revelation](#) can be recruited. [Revelation 7:4-8 \(NKJV\)](#) “<sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;  
<sup>6</sup> of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;  
<sup>7</sup> of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;  
<sup>8</sup> of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.”

- ✧ Jacob’s descendants would regain control of Israel and would never again be removed from it. [Amos 9:14-15](#) “<sup>14</sup> And I will bring again the captivity of My people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. <sup>15</sup> And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.” [Jeremiah 30:1-3](#) “<sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, <sup>2</sup> Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, “Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. <sup>3</sup> For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.”
- ✧ Israel will come back as one nation, not two. [Hosea 1:11](#) “Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint for themselves one head; and they shall come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel!” [Ezekiel 37:21-22](#) “<sup>21</sup> And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: <sup>22</sup> And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and

one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.”

- ✧ The Star of David will be on the Israeli flag. [Isaiah 11:10 \(NIV\)](#) “In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.”
- ✧ The Desert will bloom and blossom. [Isaiah 35:1 \(NIV\)](#) “The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus.”
- ✧ Jerusalem will be reclaimed as the capital of Israel. In 1967, the Jews recaptured Jerusalem from the Gentiles in the Six Day War. We will develop this topic when we talk about Jerusalem being a burdensome stone and the time of the Gentile occupation ending when we talk about the political condition of the Jews between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation.