

Sunday June 10th 2018
The Word of God
A Survey of the Bible – Part 7F
'His Special People'

1). Ge 22:17 *"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

Following Abraham's faithful obedience with regards to the offering of Isaac on Mount Moriah, God had made him the unconditional promise that his descendants would occupy the place of rulership – 'possess the gate of their enemies' – in both the earthly and the heavenly realm of God's Kingdom.

a). And God had previously told Abraham that this promise would only be realized through Isaac and his descendants - Ge 21:12.....*for in Isaac your seed shall be called.*

And with regards to these descendants he was told this - Ge 15:13 *Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. 14 "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*

Then as we followed the account of Abraham's descendants through Isaac and Jacob and Jacob's 12 sons – the nation of Israel, we saw God's word seen in Genesis Chapter 15, confirmed - Ex 12:40 *Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years-on that very same day-it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.*

And so, we had seen a pattern set through the Exodus account of captivity and persecution followed by deliverance in order to fulfill the promise to Abraham.

b). Having redeemed His firstborn son on the night of Passover we saw how God had established the Theocracy at Sinai and then taken His own special people to the border of the land they were to receive as their inheritance, the land He had promised to Abraham, the earthly 'gate of their enemies', to rule at the head of the nations.

c). And we saw how that first generation had rejected both the land and the One who offered it, through unbelief - Heb 3:19 *So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

With the consequence that all that first generation, save Joshua and Caleb, perished in the wilderness, eternally redeemed, but falling short of their inheritance, not fulfilling God's purpose, not receiving the promise.

d). And then we saw the second generation enter the land of promise under Joshua, within the Theocracy, and how that generation remained faithful, but things changed after Joshua's death – Jg 2:8 *Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. 11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; 12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.*

The nation of Israel at that time was in a position to see God's promise to Abraham fulfilled but did not remain faithful and there then followed the cycle of disobedience, affliction, repentance, deliverance and disobedience again throughout the time of the Judges, continually repeating the pattern set in Exodus, but never bringing it to its proper conclusion. This led to the time when the nation demanded to have a king, like all the other nations, during the days of Samuel- 1Sa 8:19 *Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,*

The king the nation was given, Saul the son of Kish, also proved to be unfaithful and so God took the kingdom from him and gave it to David, a man after God's own heart.

e). By the end of David's reign God had given the people rest from their enemies and David's son Solomon built the House for the Lord in Jerusalem.

f). Solomon, as we know, descended into deplorable sin by multiplying for himself horses and wives contrary to God's command, eventually going after other gods, with the kingdom subsequently taken from him and divided in the days of his son Rehoboam - 2Ch 7:19 *"But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, 20 "then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 21 "And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?' 22 "Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.'"*

Then as we had seen last time, the divided kingdom, Israel in the North and Judah in the South, also continued in a downward spiral of disobedience and unfaithfulness resulting in God allowing both kingdoms to be taken into captivity, beginning with the Assyrians and then through the Babylonians, exactly as God had said in the verses we have just read to chasten His wayward son. And here in captivity the pattern in Exodus was set again, but not quite in the way that we might think.

g). And we will remember that it was during the Babylonian captivity that the prophet Ezekiel had the heartbreaking experience of seeing the glory of the Lord depart from Solomon's Temple bringing an end to the Theocracy and beginning the Times of the Gentiles, which is still in existence today - Solomon's Temple itself being destroyed, cast out of God's sight. Now the Theocracy was gone, the kingdom was gone and God's promise to Abraham was out of reach, but the first part of the pattern was set - the people scattered among the Gentile nations allowing for the rest of the pattern, repentance and deliverance for rulership to be followed, eventually.

h). Now, we had also seen last time how God in His mercy had given to Ezekiel amazing detail concerning another Temple that would be built in the future and had allowed him to see the glory of the Lord returning to this Temple - Eze 43:1 ¶ *Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. 2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way*

of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. 3 It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw-like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. 4 And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. 5 The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. 6 Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. 7 ¶ And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.

However, before this Temple can be built and before the glory of the Lord can return, there must be national repentance on the part of Israel –

2Ch 7:14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

There must be a regathering of the Jewish people from among the Gentile nations where God has scattered them and there must be an end to the Times of the Gentiles; the pattern set in Exodus must be brought to conclusion – only then will that which Ezekiel saw come to pass.

i). Now the Lord had revealed to Jeremiah that the Babylonian captivity was for a predetermined number of years - Jer 29:10 *For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.*

Here then in Jeremiah is the promise to bring about the circumstances that would make the building of the Temple shown to Ezekiel possible, that would bring the promise made to Abraham back within reach.

2). With all this in mind then, let's turn our attention to Daniel, a prophet like Ezekiel, also prophesying during the Babylonian captivity - Da 9:1 ¶ *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans- 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.*

Daniel read that which Jeremiah had written about the 70 years to be 'completed at Babylon' and 'the desolations of Jerusalem', and knew that these 70 years were almost at an end.

a). He knew, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah, that God would visit His people to 'perform My good word toward you'; that God's thoughts towards His people were of 'peace and not evil, to give [them] a future and a hope'. And he would have known the writings of Moses and the account of the Exodus.

b). And having realized this Daniel saw in Jeremiah's writing, *12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity;*

And Daniel set himself to call upon the Lord - captivity, repentance, leading to deliverance and rulership - Da 9:3 *Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 ¶ And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 "we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6 "Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. 7 "O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day-to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.....15 "And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day-we have sinned, we have done wickedly! 16 "O Lord, according to all*

Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17 "Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

So, not only did Daniel pray in accordance with that seen in Jeremiah, but also in accord with that which God had said to Solomon in 2 Chronicles Chapter 7, confessing the sins of the nation on behalf of the nation.

c). And all with a view to the kingdom being restored to Israel, the reestablishment of the Theocracy, the entire nation returned to their land healed and forgiven.

d). But that which Daniel was looking for, which is exactly what God will do, was not to be accomplished at the end of the 70 years seen in Jeremiah, although the Babylonian captivity would end at this point after a fashion, and the Lord sent 'the man Gabriel' to Daniel to explain the Divine timetable – Da 9:20 ¶ *Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23 "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

And that which Gabriel then revealed to Daniel has significance beyond measure. The foundational pattern set out in Exodus would be completed, but within a specific timeframe set by the Lord - Da 9:24 *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the*

Most Holy. 25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

e). So, rather than God's purpose for His people being accomplished at the end of the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity, it is to be accomplished at the end of 70 'weeks', or 70 sets of 7 years – 490 years.

f). Now this timeframe is set for Daniel's people, the nation of Israel, and their Holy City, Jerusalem. This prophecy concerns nothing else and deals with no one else.

g). V24, where the 70 'weeks' are given, gives an overview of the 490 years, making clear what will be accomplished in that time – by the end of the 490 years Israel's transgression will be finished, their sins will be at an end and their iniquity will have been reconciled. Vision and prophecy will be 'sealed up', ended, and 'the Most Holy' will be anointed.

h). The completion of this time then will fulfill that foreshadowed in Exodus and bring the nation to that typified by the second generation under Joshua; completing that written by Jeremiah.

i). So, having begun by giving the conclusion of the matter in v24, the verses which then follow drop back to give the detail of specific events that must take place during the 490-year period.

j). There was a pre-determined point from which the 490 years was to begin to be counted, '*from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem*'. And from this beginning point there would be 69 'weeks', 483 years until 'Messiah the Prince', which we can understand to mean the anointed chief ruler.

k). And this anointed chief ruler can only be the same as the anointed 'Most Holy' seen in v24. And keeping in mind that which God had promised David, this can only be a reference to the Son promised to David, who would be God's Son, whose Kingdom would be established forever.

l). Gabriel then told Daniel that at the end of the 483 years 'Messiah', the anointed One, will be 'cut off', a euphemism for being killed.

m). This means that the rest of the detail given in these verses must take place after the 483 years, within the remaining 7 years of the 490, bringing about the conclusion of the matter as set out in v24.

n). The prince who is to come is seen to confirm a covenant with many in Israel for 'one week', for 7 years, the final 7 years of the 490 and then to break that covenant in the 'middle of the week', putting an end to sacrifice and offering, performing an abomination that makes desolate, destroying the city and the sanctuary.

o). And what is described from the 'middle of the week' onwards at the hands of the last king of Babylon parallels the events at the hands of a previous king of Babylonian – the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the people taken captive into the Gentile nations. But, unlike the original captivity, this final phase will see the pattern set in Exodus brought to completion – repentance and deliverance followed by rulership with the greater Son of David.

3). And if we think about it, this greater Son of David, has already been seen in Adam and spoken of in Moses - De 18:15 ¶ *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,*

Nu 24:17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

Zechariah wrote about Him - Zec 3:8 ¶ 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.

Zec 6:12 "Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

Jeremiah wrote about Him - Jer 23:5 *"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.*

6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7

"Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

Jer 33:14 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: 15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'

And Isaiah - Isa 11:1 ¶ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. 10 ¶ "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." 11 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 who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea. 12 He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

And the last words of the OT look to that coming Day of the Branch –
Mal 4:1 ¶ *"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. 3 You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts. 4 ¶ "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

7 years yet remain for Daniel's people and their Holy City and then the whole earth will be full of His glory and the Mountain of the Lord's House shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills. His Kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven, just as He had promised Abraham.

We will continue next time – if the Lord is willing.