

## The Return of Jesus: The Time of Jacob's Trouble

*"In the future, when you have children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time, do not corrupt yourselves by making idols of any kind. This is evil in the sight of the Lord your God and will arouse his anger.*

*<sup>26</sup> "Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed. <sup>27</sup> For the Lord will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive. <sup>28</sup> There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. <sup>29</sup> But from there you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.*

*Deuteronomy 4:25-29 (NLT)*

*The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said,<sup>2</sup> "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Write down for the record everything I have said to you, Jeremiah.<sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when I will restore the fortunes of my people of Israel and Judah. I will bring them home to this land that I gave to their ancestors, and they will possess it again. I, the Lord, have spoken!"*  
*Jeremiah 30:1-3 (NLT)*

*This is the message the Lord gave concerning Israel and Judah. <sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord says:*

*"I hear cries of fear;*

*there is terror and no peace.*

*<sup>6</sup> Now let me ask you a question:*

*Do men give birth to babies?*

*Then why do they stand there, ashen-faced,*

*hands pressed against their sides*

*like a woman in labor?*

*<sup>7</sup> In all history there has never been such a time of terror.*

*It will be a time of trouble for my people Israel.*

*Yet in the end they will be saved!*

*Jeremiah 30:4-7 (NLT)*

*At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued. <sup>2</sup> Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.*

*Daniel 12:1-2 (NLT)*

*<sup>3</sup> Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.<sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase."*

*<sup>5</sup> Then I, Daniel, looked and saw two others standing on opposite banks of the river. <sup>6</sup> One of them asked the man dressed in linen, who was now standing above the river, "How long will it be until these shocking events are over?"*

<sup>7</sup> The man dressed in linen, who was standing above the river, raised both his hands toward heaven and took a solemn oath by the One who lives forever, saying, "It will go on for a time, times, and half a time. When the shattering of the holy people has finally come to an end, all these things will have happened."

Daniel 12:3-7 (NLT)

"At the end of their rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power. <sup>24</sup> He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people. <sup>25</sup> He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.

Daniel 8:23-25 (NLT)

Then another message came to me from the Lord: <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable sins.

Ezekiel 16:1-2 (NLT)

On the day you were born, no one cared about you. Your umbilical cord was not cut, and you were never washed, rubbed with salt, and wrapped in cloth. <sup>5</sup> No one had the slightest interest in you; no one pitied you or cared for you. On the day you were born, you were unwanted, dumped in a field and left to die.

"But I came by and saw you there, helplessly kicking about in your own blood. As you lay there, I said, 'Live!' <sup>7</sup> And I helped you to thrive like a plant in the field. You grew up and became a beautiful jewel. Your breasts became full, and your body hair grew, but you were still naked. <sup>8</sup> And when I passed by again, I saw that you were old enough for love. So I wrapped my cloak around you to cover your nakedness and declared my marriage vows. I made a covenant with you, says the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.

Ezekiel 16:4-8 (NLT)

"Then I bathed you and washed off your blood, and I rubbed fragrant oils into your skin. <sup>10</sup> I gave you expensive clothing of fine linen and silk, beautifully embroidered, and sandals made of fine goatskin leather. <sup>11</sup> I gave you lovely jewelry, bracelets, beautiful necklaces, <sup>12</sup> a ring for your nose, earrings for your ears, and a lovely crown for your head.

Ezekiel 16:9-12 (NLT)

"But you thought your fame and beauty were your own. So you gave yourself as a prostitute to every man who came along. Your beauty was theirs for the asking. <sup>16</sup> You used the lovely things I gave you to make shrines for idols, where you played the prostitute. Unbelievable! How could such a thing ever happen? <sup>17</sup> You took the very jewels and gold and silver ornaments I had given you and made statues of men and worshiped them. This is adultery against me! <sup>18</sup> You used the beautifully embroidered clothes I gave you to dress your idols. Then you used my special oil and my incense to worship them. <sup>19</sup> Imagine it! You set before them as a sacrifice the choice flour, olive oil, and honey I had given you, says the Sovereign Lord.

Ezekiel 16:15-19 (NLT)

What a sick heart you have, says the Sovereign Lord, to do such things as these, acting like a shameless prostitute. <sup>31</sup> You build your pagan shrines on every street corner and your altars to

*idols in every square. In fact, you have been worse than a prostitute, so eager for sin that you have not even demanded payment.<sup>32</sup> Yes, you are an adulterous wife who takes in strangers instead of her own husband.<sup>33</sup> Prostitutes charge for their services—but not you! You give gifts to your lovers, bribing them to come and have sex with you.<sup>34</sup> So you are the opposite of other prostitutes. You pay your lovers instead of their paying you!*

*Ezekiel 16:30-34 (NLT)*

*This is what I am going to do. I will gather together all your allies—the lovers with whom you have sinned, both those you loved and those you hated—and I will strip you naked in front of them so they can stare at you.<sup>38</sup> I will punish you for your murder and adultery. I will cover you with blood in my jealous fury.<sup>39</sup> Then I will give you to these many nations who are your lovers, and they will destroy you. They will knock down your pagan shrines and the altars to your idols.*

*They will strip you and take your beautiful jewels, leaving you stark naked.<sup>40</sup> They will band together in a mob to stone you and cut you up with swords.<sup>41</sup> They will burn your homes and punish you in front of many women. I will stop your prostitution and end your payments to your many lovers.*

*Ezekiel 16:37-41 (NLT)*

*“Now this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will give you what you deserve, for you have taken your solemn vows lightly by breaking your covenant.<sup>60</sup> Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you when you were young, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.*

*Ezekiel 16:59-60 (NLT)*

*Watch, for the day of the Lord is coming when your possessions will be plundered right in front of you!<sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations to fight against Jerusalem. The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the population will be taken into captivity, and the rest will be left among the ruins of the city.*

*Zechariah 14:1-3 (NLT)*

*Then the Lord will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past.<sup>4</sup> On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.*

*Zechariah 14:3-4 (NLT)*

*And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day there will be one Lord—his name alone will be worshiped.*

*Zechariah 14:9 (NLT)*

*For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again.<sup>22</sup> In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive.*

*But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.*

*Matthew 24:21-22 (NLT)*

*“And when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived.<sup>21</sup> Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. Those in Jerusalem must get out, and those out in the country should not return to the city.<sup>22</sup> For those will be days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the Scriptures will be fulfilled.<sup>23</sup> How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. For there will be disaster in the land and great anger against this people.<sup>24</sup> They will be killed by the sword or sent away as*

*captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end.*

*Luke 21:20-24 (NLT)*

**SUMMARY:**

- ! THE NATION OF ISRAEL WILL SUFFER ONE FINAL TIME BEFORE JESUS RETURNS
- ! IT WILL HAPPEN IN THE LAST HALF OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION
- ! THE ATTACKER WILL BE THE ANTICHRIST AND HIS ARMIES
- ! IT WILL AFFECT THE WHOLE WORLD
- ! AFTERWARDS, JESUS WILL DEFEAT THE ANTICHRIST AND RESTORE ISREAL TO THEIR LAND AND TO HIMSELF.