

# **IRAN – Persia in PROPHECY**

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

The Middle East is a very volatile area of the world, and situations can and have changed very rapidly in history, as they have in our era. When Iran was governed by the Shah it maintained relatively friendly relations with Israel. When the government changed and the Ruhollah Khomeini took over, Iran's relationship with Israel became tense and hostile.

Iran is identified with Persia, Elam and Media in the Bible. Daniel lived through a period in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., and was given understanding from Divine Inspiration of the dream Nebuchanezzar had experienced in Daniel 2. The dream was to reveal a prophesied plan, history in advance, that God was revealing to the most powerful King in the world at that time.

The dream or vision would cover World Government from that time in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., and continue to be relevant for the next two and a half thousand years, and of increasing in importance at the 'time of the end' until the second coming of Christ Jesus.

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

God woke him up. Nebuchadnezzar called all his wise men to explain his dream. They said, tell us what the dream was about, and we will interpret it. The King told them he had completely forgotten what the dream was about, and they said therefore it was impossible for them to interpret it.

Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

The King's servants were to include Daniel and his friends in this command, but God was with Daniel.

Daniel 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Then in audience with the King, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the exact details of his dream and gave him the interpretation of it. Daniel does not take any credit for being able to reveal the dream. He makes it clear to the King that he is able to do this, not because of any wisdom he might have, but that God has revealed it to him.

Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar **what shall be in the latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; 29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, **what should come to pass hereafter**: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee **what shall come to pass**. 30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

The fact was that the details of the dream were prophecy, not only for the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., but were to set the basis of the entire world scene from that time until the latter days, and indeed up to the second coming of Christ. Then in verse 31 Daniel begins to describe the dream to the King.

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible (fearful to look at). 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

This awesome image was described in four sections. The head was of fine gold, the second was of silver, and the third was of brass, and the fourth of iron and clay, each part described diminishing in quality and value.

Daniel goes on to explain what these sections referred to:

First: The head of Gold was Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon

Second: was of Silver, a kingdom which would arise in Persia, or Media

Third: Was of Brass, a kingdom which would arise under the Grecians

Fourth: Was of legs of Iron, and feet and toes of Iron and Miry Clay. This fourth kingdom is not identified by name.

Nebuchadnezzar, under the unseen direction of Yahweh, was to determine the nature of world rule from this time until the second coming of Christ. Nebuchadnezzar would initiate the creation of a system of world domination

which would include the control of religion and philosophical ideas, of world politics, and of world economies, finances and trade. These kingdoms of this world were to continue until the second coming of Christ, who would destroy the whole of this human system utterly and completely, and bring in His Kingdom of world rule.

Daniel 2:34 Thou sawest till that a Stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The Stone, is the Rock, Christs Jesus, cut out without hands, (that is supernaturally) which will completely destroy the kingdoms of this world at His coming, and usher in a 'great mountain' or Government.

Daniel 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Notice the all inclusive extent of the power of this system, it was to be a kingdom to rule over all human beings, and incidentally, all the fauna of the entire world. The Babylonian system's influence was to permeate all human existence globally, and be the system which would be continued by the subsequent Silver kingdom of Persian, and the Brass kingdom of Greece or Javan.

Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom (silver) **inferior** to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

This world power would appear to be diminishing in quality until the establishment of the fourth kingdom of Iron which would 'go underground'. The Babylonian system would still be the underlying controlling system of world government and would actually be just as much in control but in an unseen or unrealised manner.

People in our era who insist that there is still an unseen government of people who control the world are called with some derision 'conspiracy theorists'. The fact remains that the Babylonian system was to become and has become a 'Mystery' not evident or apparent to the peoples of the world, called in the book of Revelation, 'Mystery Babylon the Great'.

Daniel 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

These will be divided into two legs of Iron, and perhaps these two relate to the 'Iron' fist of the world powers of the 'East' and the 'West'; two different ideologies with differing ideas of world domination.

Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

The 'feet', and the ten toes or kingdoms will **minge** themselves (mixed races, miscegenation) with the seed of men. Although in 2014 these Kings have not arisen, in the last few decades, many parts of the world have embraced the practice of 'mingling the seed' of men to an extent never seen before in history.

For over two thousand five hundred years, despite a vast amount of migration, most people married people of their own tribe, village, town or nation. It was only when travel between countries became a practical and affordable proposition, that a serious amount of inter-marriage began to take place. Britain and America became 'melting pots' the 'mingling' of people of different races. Less so in Europe and other parts of the world where such travel opportunities did not, and still do not exist for many of the world's poor.

The notion of multi-culturalism and multi-racial societies has become the vogue and inter-marriage has also become more and more popular. There is no question that such countries and societies who have embraced these

practices do appear to an extent to get on well together, but it is often the case that this is perhaps more wishful thinking than a reality.

A great deal of tension and sectarianism exists below the surface of such societies. Because human nature tends to lead naturally to the 'birds of a feather, flock together' syndrome, people of similar language or backgrounds tend to form communities, and in many cases ghettos. The different groups do not 'cleave' together or integrate as well as some might suggest.

Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall **mingle** themselves with the seed of men: **but they shall not cleave one to another**, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

So despite the fact that the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia have espoused and even sought to have more people of differing races and nationalities immigrate and proclaim and even boast that they are multi-cultural, the different racial and national groups do not 'cleave' together naturally.

In the last century, as the influence of Christianity waned worldwide, the Commandments were removed from public buildings and they were no longer taught in schools. The stabilising effect of Christian principles began to wane also. Sex before marriage once was more than frowned on, gradually became socially acceptable, and even the norm. The practice of homosexuality once was subject to the death penalty, but over time is now no longer considered 'unlawful', but is increasingly a lifestyle of choice.

Conventional marriage has come under increasing attack over the last two or three decades. Those who simply co-habit and live together in a sexual relationship, or those who support same sex marriages appear to have a more proactive attitude and voice than do those who are in favour of the traditional approach to marriage presented in the Bible.

The majority it seems, start having sexual relations on their first meeting. When unwanted pregnancy occurs, then abortion is often the action of choice. When pregnancy occurs and the child is wanted, then the couple simply live together as a 'couple'. The two people refer to each other as their 'partner'. It is now somewhat unusual for people to speak of their 'husband' or 'wife'. It has almost got to the point where it seems that 'straight' married couples are no longer the norm, and are perhaps looked

down upon by those who have chosen the 'freedom' of casual sex, heterosexual 'relationships', or homosexual or lesbian partnerships.

It seems that the horrific Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah is not well known in our era, or is completely disregarded by one and all. It no longer serves as a horrifying warning to all those who might engage in same-sex activities.

Genesis 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

'Wickedness' or going against Law was one reason for God to bring the flood onto the earth.

Genesis 19:4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: 5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

“Know them” is King James language for having sexual relations with the angels who were visiting Lot. In the Law of Moses, indulging in any form of same sex relations was punishable by death.

Genesis 19:2 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. 26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Apparently Lot's wife 'looked back', not just glanced, but looked back longingly at the place and her home that she was being forced to leave, so God turned her into a pillar of salt; salt is a cleanser.

Genesis 19:27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord: 28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

The area of Sodom and Gomorrah is still desolate thousands of years later. Nobody lives in the region. Its desolation is to serve as a permanent warning to those who would commit sexual perversion.

Defiant practising homosexual proclaim publicly that they are not committing sin, as there is no God. Time will tell.

People may discuss whether or not there really was a flood that drowned everyone on earth but for just eight people. What one never hears mentioned is why God decided take such drastic action to destroy His human children.

The Bible is not well regarded or really taken at all seriously by the vast majority of people. Even those who treasure the Book appear to fail to regard it and what it teaches as an authority to be respected in their lives. The Bible, written by Yahweh, the Creator God who became Christ Jesus IS THE authority for human conduct. Human beings ignore its contents at their peril.

The world careens on its way with virtually all its inhabitants ignoring the wishes of their Creator as to how He wants them to conduct their lives. Murder, theft, mayhem, immorality, dishonesty, abound virtually unchecked by wrist slapping derisory punishments handed down by unjust judges. Criminal human nature continues to increase even when the lawless are aware of the possibility of police action. Too many 'get away with it', and punishments ineffective and are rarely actually corrective.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

So the Bible tells us the reason God brought the flood upon the earth. Interestingly, 'marriages' of some kind was one issue, and pandemic wickedness was another. Wickedness is the breaking of God's Laws of Love. The Bible accounts of history are brief in the extreme, but comparison of different statements 'here a little and there a little' reveal more understanding of what is meant by apparently enigmatic verses.

Genesis 6:1-3 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. ...

'Wives of all which they chose' must have been contrary to God's wishes, as the next statement is from God saying He will not always strive or wrestle with human behaviour.

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

So God actually repented, or changed his mind about human beings, to the point where he regretted ever putting them on earth. However, God who has infinite knowledge and wisdom knew what would happen when he allowed humans to have a nature, a heart that would be inherently wicked, but that was all part of His long-term plan.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Human beings have to learn that to go against God's laws only leads to unhappiness and disaster. Experiencing the misery of the penalties of sin is the only way that we can be prepared eventually to enjoy the incredible benefits of being in harmony with our Creator. However God selected Noah, a law abiding person, to give the human race a new start.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come.

The Biblical historical record of humans rebellion against God's laws is provided by our Creator as real live examples of the consequences of lawlessness. The events over the four thousand years of human history, plus the prophecies concerning the events of the next two thousand years which are **certain** to occur are all there for our **admonition** to teach those of us who are alive in this era, and admonish us to mend our ways.

But even after the flood, it was not long before people began again to abuse their freedom of choice when it came to choosing who they married.

There is almost always a degree of unease between people of different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. This is particularly so where vastly different religious beliefs and ideologies exist side by side. People of different backgrounds just do not 'gel' as well as many would like to believe.

The mix of people in 'multi-cultural' countries is almost always of some who are 'Iron' and strong, and those who are more of 'clay', which is softer and more malleable and affected by the 'climate' in which they live. This is exactly as God has prophesied for the world Governments that are in existence in this era.

In many countries now, the innate instability of differing religions, politics, work ethic, and financial matters exists and frustrates all efforts to create a fully integrated society. We have seen in the last couple of decades the very different nature of those who support different religions, and even within those religions, those who are peaceable and peace loving, and those who embrace more extreme views, and even those who want to enforce those views and the practices involved on those around them.

Christ Jesus was emphatic about the lessons to be learned from the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah. Christ warned that the activities that brought about the destruction of life because of lawlessness will be repeated at the time of the end just before Christ returns to establish His Kingdom. We are seeing this emerging more and more every year right now. Christ says:

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Christ would not be referring to 'marriage' per se, but to inappropriate or unlawful 'marriages'. Many human beings just ignore these lessons from history, but in due time will reap the dire consequences of their actions.

Hebrews 2:2 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

The disciples heard the warnings given by Christ about the consequences of sexual immorality and inappropriate marriages. We are hearing His voice to this day loud and clear in the pages of the Bible He wrote for our learning. We ignore His Words at our peril.

Continuing in the book of Daniel, the events that immediately precede the second coming of Christ are spelled out.

Daniel 7:12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

The kingdoms of Gold, Silver, Brass and the fourth kingdom did indeed have their dominion taken away, but their attributes were also also continued or 'prolonged' for a season, and then ten kings will arise in the same area of the world, which from the context means 'Babylon', 'Persia' will give rise to ten kingdoms will be influencing world affairs right up until the second coming of Christ.

Daniel 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings **that shall arise**, and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

These 'Kings' have yet to arise in fulfillment of this prophecy, but they WILL arise in the area of Babylon and Persia in the latter days as is shown by the next passage.

Daniel 2:44 And **in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Interesting to note that God also raises Daniel from the depths of disgrace to be the one who is second in the Kingdom, and sits beside the King in great honour and glory **in one day**; just as Christ was raised from the utter disgrace of having the sins of the world on His shoulders, despised and rejected of men to sitting at the Right Hand of the Father **in one day**.

Daniel 2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. 47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. 48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

So with God working with his mind, Nebuchadnezzar gets the beginning of an awakening to the reality of the One True God.

So began the time when God stepped into the affairs of men, and into the mind of the greatest ruler of the time, to cause Nebuchadnezzar to begin to have an appreciation of the power of the One God.

God continues to work with the mind of Nebuchadnezzar over time, revealing to him that indeed He is the One True God by a series of incredible miraculous events. Firstly, the event of the deliverance of Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednigo from the fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

Then because Nebuchadnezzar did not humble himself for several months after a serious warning vision from God, God brought him down. He had boasted of his accomplishments in the establishment of the Babylonian kingdom and system, so God took away his sanity, his mind, and put him out to eat grass like an animal, grow hair like feathers, and his nails like bird's claws for seven long years before restoring his human heart and his position as king.

Daniel 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Then after seven years:

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

Then Nebuchadnezzar witnessed Daniel's deliverance from the lions in the den.

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. 17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar had to pass a sleepless night of anguish for giving in to his advisor's ridiculous insistence that he obey this own foolishly issued law.

Daniel 6:18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

In the latter days, four kings and ten kings will arise in the area of ancient Babylon, Persia, and Greece.

Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue

three kings. 25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 8:19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. 20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.

Jeremiah was the 'axial' prophet who lived at the same time as Daniel in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., when God revealed that this was the moment in history when the scene would be set for the rest of time that would elapse before the second coming of Christ. When Ezra was commissioned by Christ to prepare the Old Testament Canon, Ezra added to the end of Zechariah's book the three chapters 12, 13, and 14.

They are referring to the time in the future when God will pour out on Israel a 'spirit of grace and reconciliation'. The inhabitants of Israel will come to realise that Christ was indeed the Son of God, and a nationwide conversion will take place. This does not mean every person living in Israel at the time will be converted to Christianity, but the recognition that Christ Jesus was the Messiah.

There is a siege coming on the land of Israel.

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. **2** Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. **3** And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

The nations of the world will surround Israel, perhaps to restrain them from war, but all those who take a stance against Israel will be confounded.

Zechariah 12:8 In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before

them. 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Orthodox Jews and indeed all who have taken up residence in Israel will be smitten with the reality that historically their forebears said:

Matthew 27: 24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. 25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. 26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Zechariah 12:11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

God is going to inspire the religious leaders, and the heads of families to clean up the whole country. All the idols, images, and other pagan devices, most of which are in the buildings of Protestant organisations will be destroyed. God will cause all the false prophets, ministers, Rabbis, and all the divisive unclean spirits will depart from the land,

Zechariah 13:2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

The parents of those who evidently were involved in false religious activities will suffer death at their hands.

Zechariah 13:3 And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

Many of the religious leaders will be so ashamed, they will lie in their teeth, and say, 'No, I was never a prophet, I was just a farmer'.

Zechariah 13:4 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive: 5 But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.

The Jewish people will finally acknowledge Yeshuah as the Messiah.

Some who might have inflicted nail marks in their palms will say in great fear:

Zechariah 13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

At this time, God says there will be a great tribulation in the country of Israel, so that two thirds of the population of Israel will perish, and only a third of the people will be scattered and live on to be purged with the cleansing fire of God.

Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. 8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

Then in Zechariah 14, Christ returns.

Zechariah 14:1 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

So where does Iran or Persia come into the picture? A new 'Shah' will arise who miraculously leads Iran to come to the aid of the Jews and Israel at the very end of their time of tribulation. God will put into their hearts the desire to act as God's servants, with a complete change of attitude. Iran will help to build a new Temple where the man of sin will sit claiming he is God.

Isaiah 40 begins a new section of 'end time' prophecies the second coming of Christ.

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Chapter 40 goes on to extol the Creative Power of God, and says flesh is as grass, and the utter futility of idol worship. This theme is repeated over and over again in the early chapters of Isaiah. God never tires of telling Israel that He is the Creator, it is He who foretells the future, and that there is none other like Him.

Isaiah 41:2 Who raised up the righteous man **from the east**, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? He gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.....

25 I have raised up one **from the north**, and he shall come: **from the rising of the sun** (North and East of Israel) shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay.

This man is the new Cyrus, God's anointed and will come in great power over kings.

Isaiah 45:1 Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

Some 'scholars' say because he is an anointed one, it might refer to Christ, but this is not possible. Cyrus was a Gentile and God says 'you have not known me'. That could not refer to Christ! Again, God speaks through Isaiah stating there is no God like Him who makes peace and creates evil.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me.

I am the Lord, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

Babylon and all it stands for will be destroyed, all the gods it relied upon are of no avail, and the area will be left without inhabitants for the age of ages.

Jeremiah 50:1 The word that the Lord spake against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. 2 Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces. 3 For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast.

The scattered of Israel will seek God at last.

Jeremiah 50:4 In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. 5 They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten. 6 My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace. 7 All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the Lord, the habitation of justice, even the Lord, the hope of their fathers.

Wherever Israel had wandered in their scattered state, everyone set out to kill them as it was a byword that they had sinned against their God. But God says, you have not been forsaken. Flee out of the land of Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:5 For Israel hath not been forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the Lord of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel. 6 Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

Israel will be inspired to flee out of Babylon before it is utterly destroyed.

So once again in the future, the Persian empire will rise in power, and Iran will feature significantly in world affairs. God will use the Medes to desolate Babylon, Iraq, where wars and strife have torn the country to pieces will become a total ruin. The next two prophecies concerning Babylon in

Jeremiah 50 and 51 depict events that have certainly never ever happened. The land of Babylon is going to become a desolation, with no water, the sea and the springs dried up, and no inhabitants whatsoever.

Jeremiah 51:28 Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion. 29 And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant....

36 Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry. 37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.

There is more for us to learn from the book of Daniel, and as we draw nearer to the end times, more will become clearer about these prophecies.

Daniel 10:21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

God's angelic messengers will reveal more to us as the time draws near.

Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Daniel 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

The wicked shall not understand, but those that are wise, those who wait upon the Lord will be given insights.

There are many events that are yet to occur in the Middle East before the Great Tribulation will begin.

A new Temple will have to be built in Israel, with the help of the new Cyrus, so the prophecies concerning the man of sin, who will sit in it saying that he is God, and for the daily sacrifices in that Temple to be taken away will be fulfilled.

Daniel 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

These days are approaching, but nobody knows when. Christ tells us that not even the angels in heaven know the details of the timing of God's future plans to bring events in this world to a head, and for His Son to return in glory.

The 'new' wave of globalism is the 'Mystery – Babylon the Great' gradually re-emerging from its 'underground' state into public view after two and a half thousand years of its hidden work of controlling the whole world economically, religiously and psychologically, and politically.

Our God created this world with Sophia, with Wisdom. The 'wisdom' of the god of this world is the perverted philosophy of the Godless 'wisdom' of 'sophistry', the art of deception and devious argument invented in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., by the twisted minds of the Greek philosophers, young men like Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates, who themselves were lost in a sea of immorality, perversion and seductive false reasoning. Their 'philosophy' spawned at that time became the underlying 'wisdom' of the educational systems of the intellectual world.

Daniel 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Christ, the 'Stone', is soon to be on His way to grind the whole Babylonish systems of the world into dust, and cause the winds to blow it all away as He establishes His kingdom of age-lasting righteousness.

God haste that day.