

WHAT IS REDEMPTION

The salvation of mankind by God proceeds in well-defined phases, which have been documented in great detail in the Holy Scriptures. These different phases of salvation are full of awesome events. Those without the understanding, which comes from the Spirit of God, will not be able to perceive these events. To appreciate the context of this study, it is important to reacquaint ourselves with the meaning of salvation.

Our salvation is God's amazing plan to save mankind from the 'wages of sin' - which is death - and to restore the Earth to His original intention.

This well-orchestrated plan is separated into four distinct processes: justification, sanctification, redemption and glorification. These each have a distinct path with a predestined end and the order of occurrence cannot be altered. Justification precedes sanctification and redemption follows sanctification at the appointed time. It should be noted that there can be long periods of time between these processes occurring. But, as we will see, one process can spring out of another in a very short period of time.

The knowledge of the requirements of salvation is gained during the process of sanctification when, through time employed studying the truth, we are made open to understand and receive the truth. It is at this stage when we begin to believe the gospel of the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We are the most blessed generation of people who have ever existed because of the technology that we have at our disposal. Technology enhances our lives, but it is our increase in knowledge and understanding that is our most important development. This was prophesied many hundreds of years ago:

Daniel 12:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

The amount of knowledge available to all of us due to computers and the internet has increased incredibly over the years, but what are we doing with this blessing? The Lord promised that we will do greater works than Him:

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John 14:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. ¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

That promise has not been fulfilled in our generation. No one has done any works greater than the Lord's. However, the time is coming at the end of the age when some of the Lord's servants will perform great works.

Conversely, we are also the most cursed of all the generations, because we have not heeded the Lord's call to repent and obey the laws and commandments of God. God has said that His people are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge:

Hosea 4:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

It is not because they lack knowledge; it is the fact that they reject the knowledge of the truth and keep to their own traditions. We should be aware that we are the generation that will witness all the calamities prophesied in the Holy Scriptures and see the restitution of all things.

THE WAGES OF SIN

We live in a world governed by laws and principles that enable us to deal justly with others. Our lives are based on one simple principle: the principle of exchange. We cannot gain or obtain anything justly without exchanging it for something else. Even if it is a gift, someone else must have paid the price for that gift. The most common form of exchange is that of time. On a daily basis we exchange our time to redeem our wages at the end of the week. If we do not have a place where we can give our time, at the end of the week we will not have

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any wages. The amount we get paid also depends on the quality of our time. This is developed through time spent learning and gaining good qualifications.

We have all fallen short of the Glory of God because there is no one alive in the world today who has not transgressed the laws and commandments of God our creator.

Romans 3:23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

God knew before He created us - that we were going to fall short of His glory because of transgression. The penalty of sin, which is transgressing the laws and commandments of God, is death. But the penalty which the majority of us still do not realise is the fact that sin creates a wall between us and God.

Isaiah 59:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ²But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. ³For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.

The Lord's hands have not shortened, nor have His ears become heavy. On the contrary, our sins and iniquities are building a wall between us and God, regardless of whether we have been justified and are being sanctified by God. When we transgress the laws and commandments of God, we begin a process of building a wall between ourselves and God, which only repentance can break down.

1 John 1:8-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

But for God to forgive our sins - we have to forgive all those who have done us any wrong and accept His payment for our sins. As mentioned earlier, nothing in heaven and on Earth

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is free. Someone must pay for whatever gift it may be at some stage. In this case - the wages of our sins were paid in full by the Son of God our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

The sins of the whole world have been reconciled to God by the Lord Jesus Christ. We are washed of our sins by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And now, because of His broken body, we can freely enter the most Holy place and ask for help from God in times of trouble.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

It is imperative we understand the fact that we are not capable of paying for our sins. There is nothing on Earth that can pay for our sins, not even our lives. It is for this reason God gave His Son, who did not sin, in exchange for our sins. Having paid for our sins we can walk on the path of righteousness towards salvation.

THE KINGSMAN REDEEMER

The details of what is involved in the process of salvation are just breathtaking. The majority of us read through these details without taking the time to fully understand what they mean. God has already played out almost everything He will do at the end of the age for us

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to see the bigger picture of His path to salvation. But unfortunately, the majority of us are still oblivious to His plan even though it is being played out in front of us.

When God brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt - He gave them His laws and commandments, most of which were not new to them. They were just a prompt for them to start keeping them. In the book of Genesis, we come across an unusual situation that required a brother to perform the part of a husband to keep his name alive:

Genesis 38:7-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him. ⁸ And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother." ⁹ But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.

This commandment was by the Lord and it existed before the children of Israel sojourned in Egypt. When they in the wilderness, the Lord commanded Moses to say to the children of Israel that:

Deuteronomy 25:5 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

There are other duties that a member of the family has to do to redeem a family member who has gone into difficulty. All these laws were given by God in anticipation of what He planned to do for all of mankind:

Leviticus 25:23-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ 'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. ²⁴ And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

²⁵ 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. ²⁶ Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, ²⁷ then let him

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count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.²⁸ But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.

It was not just about property. The law associated with a Kingsman was also geared to help the poor people of Israel who got into trouble and could not redeem themselves:

Leviticus 25:47-50 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁷ Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family,⁴⁸ after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;⁴⁹ or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.⁵⁰ Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release shall be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him.

The book of Ruth is a story about how the duties of a Kingsman were performed in the land of Israel according to the laws and commandments of God.

Ruth 4:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.² And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.³ Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.⁴ And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."⁶ And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I

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ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

The above passage of Scripture is just part of a story that foreshadows what will come to pass in the near future.

We all find ourselves in the same category as Naomi because we are poor and we can by no means redeem ourselves before God. But since God is merciful, full of compassion and loves us, He has provided a path for a Kingsman to redeem us. This is the reason why Jesus Christ died for our sins. This path is only open to the house of Israel.

Ephesians 2:4-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

¹¹Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

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This is salvation. The price for our sins has been paid by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the Lamb of God. Now we all have access to God the Father - whose laws and commandments we have transgressed. But to be established in the household of God the Father we must go through two processes: justification and sanctification. We have been bought for a price.

1 Peter 1:17-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

As you can see, the Lord Jesus Christ is our redeemer if we believe in Him and walk according to the prescribed path set before us in the Holy Scripture. Consider this parable:

Luke 19:11-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. ¹² Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

¹⁵ "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

The nobleman in this passage of Scripture is the Lord Jesus Christ who had to go back to heaven to receive a kingdom: the Earth. He will return, and upon His return, He will discover what His servants have done with what they were given.

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We live in a period of time called the acceptable year of the Lord, in which all men everywhere are called to repent. Some will answer the call and others will not. When we choose to repent and walk in the path of righteousness, we then become justified in the eyes of God and enter the next phase of the path of salvation known as sanctification. This is a lifetime process, but at the end of the age, the process of both justification and sanctification will come to an end. It is at this stage when the Lord will redeem all those who have answered His call to repent. They will be rendered blameless before Him and will be sanctified and made holy in His eyes.

Redemption is the process in which the Lord will take in His procession those who He purchased with His blood. The generations before us who are asleep in the Lord, their redemption will come at the final stage of this process. Those alive in the Lord, who possess the Spirit of God and the faith of Jesus Christ, will go through a series of stages of purification. Some will make it to the end and others, who do not believe, will not endure. Redemption starts when the Lord brings His people out of captivity to the land He promised to their fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

We know the people of God in the Old Testament were known as the twelve tribes of Israel. Who are the people of God in the New Testament? To answer this, we first have to understand what became of the people of God of the Old Testament in the New Testament.

There are fundamental requirements that formed the foundation of those who are in the church built by Lord Jesus Christ. The first and most important is that we have to repent and believe the gospel.

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

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This passage of Scripture was expounded on the day of Pentecost when the Apostle Peter was inspired to give us more details of what the Lord meant by: repent and believe the Gospel.

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Peter was addressing devout Jews: men of Israel who went to Jerusalem in obedience to the laws and commandments of God, to keep the Feast of Weeks: Pentecost. They had to repent just as we do to become circumcised in the heart and in the spirit.

Romans 2:28-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

There is another requirement which is missed by the majority of those who profess to believe.

Acts 3:18-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

We are required to be circumcised in the heart and in the spirit, which occurs during the process of justification, and to be converted to the kingdom of God. Additionally, we are also required to be led by the Spirit of God and live our lives by faith. It is the Spirit of God, which dwells in us, that guarantees our adoption to God and our conversion into the body of Christ: the household of God.

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Romans 8:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

The apostle Paul was inspired to inform us that the will of God also includes the Gentiles, who were not part of the house of Israel, but now have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

This is the path the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood washes us from our sins, has set before both the people of God in the Old Testament: Israel, and the Gentiles. When we follow this path, we become converted into the Body of Christ (which is the church).

We have to understand that the house of Israel is the same as the house of Jacob, the house of Isaac, the people of God, the church, the body of Christ and the woman in the book of Revelation. All of these are one set of people, called by different names depending on the period of time and the circumstance. It is important to also point out that, the prophets of the Old Testament did not have the revelation of the church the Lord built. They all knew the people of God to be the house of Israel. We should also notice that, the children of Israel who were in the wilderness with the Lord Jesus Christ before He took the form of a man, were also called the church in the wilderness in the Holy Scriptures.

Acts 7:37-40 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁷ "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'

³⁸ "This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, ³⁹ whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to

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Egypt, ⁴⁰ saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'

That congregation in the wilderness, which entered the promised land, was the house of Israel. From the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God was poured on the children of men, they became the church the Lord Jesus Christ was building. Furthermore, the church Christ created, the people of God, have not return the land of Judah although some to reside there. The descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are currently in the land of Judah - present day Israel.

STAGE ONE OF REDEMPTION

THE LORD WILL BRING BACK THE CAPTIVITY OF HIS PEOPLE

The Lord is the only one who keeps His promises. Rightly so, because if He did not keep His promises, His words would not be trusted. He would be like men - saying one thing and doing the complete opposite. But, we have a God who says what He means and does what He says, both in heaven and on Earth. His words are to be trusted, since He has no reason to lie or to deal craftily, for everything belong to Him - including us. The Lord Jesus Christ compared the period of time of His return on Earth to the days before the flood of Noah. It was a normal life in those days, but Noah was building an ark, in which the lives of those who believed were saved.

Matthew 24:37-44 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken

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into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The expectations of many will be shattered during this period of time. What they have been led to believe will not happen as these beliefs do not align with what the Lord has said He will do. Noah was not taken into heaven for protection, but rode the waves of the flood in the protection of the ark.

God has promised to bring back His people: the church, which His Son our Lord Jesus Christ built, back to the land of Judah. The Jews have returned to the land of Israel but only in very limited numbers. God said:

Jeremiah 23:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the LORD. ³ “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴ I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the LORD.

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:

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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.”

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This is a prophecy that will be fulfilled in our generation in two stages. The first stage is described in verses one through to four and verse seven and eight. The second and last stage of redemption, described in verse four and five, will be fulfilled when the Lord returns to rule the world with His Saints after the Great Tribulation. It is at this point in time that the salvation of Israel will be completed.

Psalm 14:7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

And again for emphasis:

Psalm 53:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

The salvation of Israel will be when the Lord brings back the captivity of His people. This has been recorded twice in two Psalms to emphasis its importance. We can see that this prophecy has not been fulfilled yet, because the Jews are in the land of Israel. The salvation of Israel has not yet happened since the Lord's throne has not yet been set in Jerusalem. But this is what the Lord has said:

Ezekiel 34:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment."

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There are some profound truths in this passage of Scripture, but this is the subject of another study. The Lord Himself will go through all nations of the world in search of His people and bring them back to the Land of Israel. He will destroy those who are disobedient to His commandments.

Jeremiah 30:18-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents, And have mercy on his dwelling places; The city shall be built upon its own mound, And the palace shall remain according to its own plan. ¹⁹ Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. ²⁰ Their children also shall be as before, And their congregation shall be established before Me; And I will punish all who oppress them.

²¹ Their nobles shall be from among them, And their governor shall come from their midst; Then I will cause him to draw near, And he shall approach Me; For who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?' says the LORD. ²² 'You shall be My people, And I will be your God.'"

²³ Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. ²⁴ The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it

As it is clearly stated, this prophecy is for the latter days, at the end of the age. There are many other prophecies addressing the fact that the Lord will bring back the captivity of His people to the land of Judea: the present-day nation of Israel. This is the first stage of redemption.

STAGE TWO OF REDEMPTION

The second stage of redemption comes at the most critical period of time of all the ages. This is the time described in the Holy Scriptures as a time of trouble that has never existed and will never happen again. The Lord compared this period of time to the days of Lot.

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Luke 17:28-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

³¹ "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

There is a difference here with the days of Noah, who left the world and lived on an ark for safety. This is comparable to God leading His people out of the world into the land He promised to their fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the case of the days of Lot, the people of God are told to leave the land of Judea and flee to the mountains. Similarly, Lot had to leave the city of Sodom and flee to the mountains.

But we should not miss something very important the Lord said in the above passage of Scripture. In verse thirty, the Lord said that it will be on that day when the Son of man is revealed. We know He is the Lord, but why will He be revealed and to who? This is the day the noble Man will receive His kingdom. God the Father will take the custody of the Earth from Satan the devil and give it to the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan and the rest of the fallen angels will be thrown out of heaven onto the Earth. From this a time of trouble will arise, because Satan and the rest of the fallen angels know that they have only got a short period of time before they are bound for a thousand years.

The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this fact, when He was speaking of what will happen at the end of the age. He said:

Matthew 24:15-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸ And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ And pray that

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your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

The instruction to those who are in Judea at the time of the 'abomination of desolation' - is to flee to the mountains. If you are not in Judea at this stage, it means you did not heed the first instruction of the process of the redemption of Israel: to return to the land the Lord promised to Abraham and his seed.

Isaiah 43:19-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The beast of the field will honour Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. ²¹ This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

Those who flee to the mountains will be instructed by the Lord to purify themselves in the ways of the kingdom of God. Similarly as it was when the Lord was with Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness. The Lord has promised to provide for their every need. This is the beginning of the second stage of the redemption of Israel.

Hosea 2:14-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her. ¹⁵ I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ "And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' And no longer call Me 'My Master,

¹⁷ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more. ¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.

Can you see the similarity of this prophecy with what happened when Israel came out of Egypt? The church Christ created will have to go through the same process, to bring unity

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and purification. It will only be after this period of time that the house of Israel will be redeemed from the Earth. When the Lord will bring them into the wilderness and put His laws into their hearts. Everyone will know the Lord.

Hebrews 10:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"* ¹⁷ *then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."* ¹⁸ *Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.*

The apostle Paul was quoting from either one of the following prophets: Jeremiah, Ezekiel or Isaiah, who all bore witness to the same truth.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

³³ *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* ³⁴ *No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

As it stands now, not everyone in the house of Israel is walking according to the laws of the Lord. But after this period of time in the wilderness, everyone will know the laws of God and the house of Israel, which includes both the Israelites and the Jews, will be redeemed when the Lord comes to Zion.

Hosea 2:18-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ *In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.*

¹⁹ *"I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy;* ²⁰ *I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.* ²¹ *"It shall come to pass in that day That I will answer," says the LORD; "I will answer the heavens, And they shall answer the earth.*

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²² *The earth shall answer With grain, With new wine, And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel.*

²³ *Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"*

It will be at this time that the house of Israel will be redeemed. However, redemption and glorification are two separate promises from the Lord. To be redeemed does not mean you will be glorified. Those redeemed will repopulate the Earth, but glorification is for the Jews who worship God the Father in Spirit and truth and have the faith of Jesus Christ.