

## God's Purpose And Plan For Israel—Part 2

### Introduction: God's different plans for the nation of Israel and the Church

As we began learning last time, the singular purpose of the nation of Israel's existence is to be used by God as an essential part of His plan of salvation; the vehicle, so to speak, that God used, and will use, to bring the Messiah into the world for both His First and Second Comings respectively. Israel had an essential role with the first coming of Christ, and Israel will again have a central role when it comes to Christ's Second Coming. The Second Coming of Christ refers to the time at the very end of the 7 year tribulation when He returns to earth with the saints (The church), and defeats the antichrist and the armies of the world at the Battle of Armageddon. Jesus will then establish His 1,000 year Millennial reign on the earth.

However, for the church, Jesus will be revealed to us before the Second Coming at the Rapture, when, before the seven year Tribulation starts, He comes and meets us in the clouds, transforms our mortal bodies into immortal glorified bodies, and then takes us back to Heaven to be with Himself for the duration of the 7 year Tribulation.

John 14:1-3 NLT

“Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NLT

We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 NLT

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! <sup>52</sup> It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. <sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

Every believer should all be looking forward to the Rapture with great anticipation: the effect of living in anticipation of His soon return is living a pure and holy life dedicated to Him, with our motivation being love and gratitude for all He has already done for us.

Titus 2:11-14 NLT

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. **We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,** <sup>13</sup> **while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.** <sup>14</sup> **He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.**

1 John 3:2-3 NLT

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. **But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.** <sup>3</sup> **And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.**

But for Israel and the rest of the world, Jesus will be revealed when He physically returns to the earth at His Second Coming at the end of the 7 year Tribulation. As we learned last week, the Second Coming will mean the national salvation of Israel (the majority will be saved). However, there will be many, those who have chosen to worship the antichrist and have taken the mark of the Beast, who will not be glad to see Him.

### **Revision—last time we covered:**

1. Israel and God's Plan of Salvation
2. Why should we try and understand what's next for Israel? What does it matter?
3. Three prophecies that have already been fulfilled by Israel in recent history
4. What is the current situation for Israel?
5. The next event on the timeline of God's prophetic plan concerning Israel—The Gog Magog war of Ezekiel 38-39
6. Israel in the Tribulation (Jacob's trouble)

### **Outline:**

1. *"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord"*—what must happen concerning the nation of Israel before Jesus's Second Coming
2. Satan chained up for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3)
3. The progressive nature of the First Resurrection
4. The Millennial Reign—Christ rules from the Temple in Jerusalem (Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 35:5-7)
5. The Millennial Reign—When all God's promises to Israel are finally and completely fulfilled (Isaiah 2:2-3, 61:8-9 Jeremiah 31:7 Acts 1:6)
6. The Last Battle—satan is released for his last opportunity to deceive mankind Revelation 20:7-10
7. The Great White Throne Judgement (Daniel 12:2-3, Revelation 20:11-15)
8. The New Heavens and the New Earth (Revelation 21-22)

## **1. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord—what must happen before Jesus's Second Coming**

Before we move on to the Jesus's glorious Millennial Reign, we'll take a moment to understand more closely just why Christ's Second Coming is so closely linked to the nation of Israel. We must begin by going back to a very important Messianic prophecy in the Old Testament.

Psalm 118:22-26 NKJV

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone [a picture of the nation of Israel rejecting their Messiah the first time—see Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10-11, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, Ephesians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:7-8]. <sup>23</sup> This was the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. <sup>24</sup> This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it [the day of Christ's resurrection].

<sup>25</sup> **Save now [literally, "Hosanna"]**, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

<sup>26</sup> **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!** We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

The nation of Israel clearly understood that this Scripture referred to the Messiah, the Christ, the Saviour, the Seed in Whom “all the nations of the earth will be blessed” (see Galatians 3:16). They knew that all the animal sacrifices pointed towards the substitutionary sacrifice of the Messiah, Him dying in their place, for the singular purpose of being the full and final payment for all the sin of all mankind. This is why, when Jesus choreographed His Triumphant Entry on what we now call “Palm Sunday”, when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey purposefully fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies, they began singing the very song or psalm that they had been practicing every Passover for for hundreds of years in great anticipation of this very event.

Matthew 21:1-11 NKJV

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. <sup>3</sup> And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”

<sup>4</sup> All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

<sup>5</sup> *“Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” [Zechariah 9:9]*

<sup>6</sup> So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. <sup>8</sup> And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

***“Hosanna to the Son of David!***

***‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’***

***Hosanna [literally, “save now”] in the highest!”***

<sup>10</sup> And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”

<sup>11</sup> So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Jesus’s Triumphant Entry was also recorded by John.

John 12:12-16 NKJV

The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

***“Hosanna!***

***‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’***

***The King of Israel!” [Psalm 118:26]***

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: <sup>15</sup> *“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt.” [Zechariah 9:9]*

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

The people recognised Jesus as their Messiah, for a few hours at least, when they said the words, ***“Hosanna [save now]! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”*** That’s why the whole city was in such an uproar—they all knew what that **the One who came in the name of the Lord** was the one who would save them from their sins. After hundreds, even thousands, of years, their Messiah had finally come!

But as you read the gospels, over the next few days the song quickly changes. The leaders of the nation of Israel reject Jesus as their messiah, and a week later, along with the majority of the people, end up shouting out, “crucify Him, crucify Him”, and “We have no king but Caesar”. Jesus, being aware of what was going to happen, gave them a very scary, but also a very hope filled, rebuke.

Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> **for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’**”

Jesus told the Jews that because they had rejected Him, He would go away and not come back until they did recognise Him as their Messiah, until they (the majority of the nation of Israel) said, in true faith and genuine repentance, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’

**\*\*So we see that Jesus can’t come back until the majority of the nation of Israel recognises Him to be their saviour.\*\*** Even though they rejected Jesus the first time, Israel remains an integral part of God’s plan of Salvation. Paul refers to this in Romans.

Romans 11:25-27 NKJV

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, **that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** <sup>26</sup> **And so all [believing] Israel will be saved, as it is written:**

**“The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; <sup>27</sup> For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”**

As we learned last time, one of God’s purposes for the Tribulation is to bring the nation of Israel to the point where the majority of the nation puts their trust in Jesus as their Messiah—they recognise that the One that they rejected and crucified was actually their Messiah. God always keeps His promises, and it’s all grace, undeserved favour: obviously Israel don’t deserve to be saved, especially after how they treated Jesus the first time He came. But God chose an ungrateful, unthankful, unresponsive nation for a reason—to demonstrate to us what grace looks like—and to show us that we are just like them, sinners in need of a Saviour.

## 2. Satan chained up for 1,000 years

At the end of the 7 year Tribulation, Satan leads the armies of the world to eventually fight against Jesus at the Battle of Armageddon. But Satan's end was not victory. Instead Satan will end up being chained up for the entire 1,000 years that Christ rules on the earth.

Revelation 20:1-3 NKJV

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, **so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.** But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Why is this important? What does this have to do with Israel ruling on the earth for a thousand years with Christ? Simple. Because it's Christ who will be ruling and reigning on this earth, not Satan. Right now, Ephesians 2:2 says that Satan is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (NKJV). *When Jesus comes, then Satan has to go. There is no place in God's reign for evil influences and deception.* It would also seem strange that God would allow Satan to roam free considering that he is Israel's arch enemy, and also that the prophecy in Genesis 3:15 says that Jesus would crush Satan's head.

But why is Satan then released at the end of the thousand years? Because Jesus will rule the earth with a "rod of Iron" (see Psalm 2). People will have to do what Jesus says, and live His way, whether they like it or not. Jesus will *enforce righteousness*. Obviously, God knows who will obey Him because they love Him (those who are true believers—those who have put their trust in Jesus as their Saviour to save them from their sins), and those who only obey out of fear of being punished (those who don't believe—those who choose not to put their trust in Jesus as their Saviour to save them from their sins).

However, looking from the outside, it will be very hard, as it is today in the church, to determine who is a true believer, and who is not, as everyone will be at least going through the motions of worshiping and serving God. Therefore, in this future dispensation (in this way or system of how God relates to mankind), God still allows free choice. Remember that in every dispensation, in every way or system that God has used over time to relate to mankind, there has always been the free choice to love and obey God, or remain in rebellion against Him. Adam and Eve were given a choice to eat or not eat the forbidden fruit. Then God made it clear when He killed the animal and then clothed Adam and Eve with the animal skins, that all men need a Saviour to save them from their sin. However, God has related to man in different ways in the different ages or dispensations. First it was "live by conscience" from the fall to the Law of Moses. Then man related to God according to the law of Moses until the Church age. And now in the church age (or dispensation) we relate to God according to the New Covenant.

The choice for those living in the Millennium comes at the end of the 1,000 years. God will release Satan, and those who were only obeying because they had to will be given the choice to disobey, to follow Satan instead. It may seem incredible, but we will read later that there will be many who will willingly choose to openly rebel against God and follow Satan; many who, because they allowed their hearts to become "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (see Hebrews 4:13), have refused God's offer of forgiveness.

### 3. The Progressive nature of the first resurrection

Revelation 20:4-6 describes the resurrection of the believers who die (are martyred) during the 7 year Tribulation. They receive their new glorified bodies at the beginning of Christ's Millennial Reign. They will then reign with Christ for a 1,000 years.

Revelation 20:4-6 NKJV

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead [the unbelievers] did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death [Hell, the Lake of Fire] has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, **and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**

Daniel 12:1-3 describes the 7 year Tribulation and the time when all the Old Testament saints (believers), Jew and Gentile, will also rise again and receive their glorified bodies after the 7 year tribulation. They too will rule and reign with Christ for a 1,000 years. However, as we just read in Revelation 20:4-6, the Old Testament unbelievers will not rise again until after the 1,000 years are finished.

Daniel 12:1-3 NLT

“At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish [the 7 year tribulation] 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 [the believing Jews] will be rescued [by Christ].** <sup>2</sup> [Then] Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. <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.

Then of course there is the Church, those believers from the church age who all, dead or alive, will receive their glorified bodies at the rapture before the seven year Tribulation begins. We will then come back with Jesus, riding on white horses to the earth at His Second Coming.

Revelation 19:14 NKJV

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

So during the Millennial Reign of Christ, there will be three groups of resurrected and glorified people:

1. The Tribulation saints (Revelation 20:4-6)
2. The Old Testament saints (Daniel 12:1-3)
3. The church who come back with Christ at His second coming (Revelation 19:14)

These three groups of people make up what the Bible calls the “first resurrection”, what we could call the “believers resurrection”. The rest of the people who will be allowed to enter into the Millennium will be the believing Jews and Gentiles who survive the 7 year Tribulation.

## 4. The Millennial Reign—Christ rules from the Temple in Jerusalem

There is much more information regarding the Christ's Millennial reign in the Old Testament than in the New Testament. The only new information regarding the Christ's Millennial reign in the New Testament is the duration, that it will last for 1,000 years, a millennium. The following Scriptures give us some insight into what it will be like during this time.

Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 35:3-10 NKJV

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup> The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there.

**But the redeemed shall walk there, <sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion [Jerusalem] with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads.** They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Ezekiel 43:4-7a

And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. <sup>5</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple [in Jerusalem], while a man stood beside me. <sup>7</sup> And He said to me, "Son of man, **this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.**

## 5. The Millennial Reign—When all God's promises to Israel are finally and completely fulfilled

As we learned last week, God gave Israel many promises, and a mandate that they would be a light for all the nations, that they would point people to God.

Exodus 19:6 NKJV

And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

However, this has never been completely fulfilled—the nation of Israel has always, to some degree, been in rebellion against God, and has done more to blaspheme God’s name than they have to glorify it. But this will change in the future. During the Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth, everyone will get to see the blessed and glorious kingdom that God wanted Israel to be all along. They also reveal more to us about what life will be like during this wonderful time when the church, along with Israel, will be ruling and reigning with Christ.

Isaiah 2:2-4 NKJV

**Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.**

<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.”

**For out of Zion [Jerusalem] shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.** <sup>4</sup> **He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Isaiah 61:2b-9 NKJV

And the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; **that they [Israel] may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.**”

<sup>4</sup> And they [Israel] shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

<sup>5</sup> Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

<sup>6</sup> **But you [Israel] shall be named the priests of the LORD, they shall call you the servants of our God.** You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast.

<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame you shall have double honour, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land [Israel] they [Israel] shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

<sup>8</sup> “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. <sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people.

**All who see them [Israel] shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity [the future generation] whom the LORD has blessed.”**

Jeremiah 31:10-14 NLT

“Listen to this message from the LORD, you nations of the world; proclaim it in distant coastlands: The LORD, who scattered His people, will gather them and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has redeemed Israel from those too strong for them. <sup>12</sup> They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem. They will be radiant because of the LORD’s good gifts—the abundant crops of grain, new wine, and olive oil, and the healthy flocks and herds.

Their life will be like a watered garden, and all their sorrows will be gone. <sup>13</sup> The young women will dance for joy, and the men—old and young—will join in the celebration. I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.

<sup>14</sup> The priests will enjoy abundance, and My people [Israel] will feast on My good gifts. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

The disciples understood what the Old Testament said about God's glorious future for Israel, and they asked Jesus directly when it would happen.

Acts 1:6 NKJV

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "**Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**" <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

*As can be seen, our future is directly tied to Israel's future: We will rule and reign with them during the Millennial Reign of Christ on this earth—we can't come back to the earth until Israel receives Jesus as their Messiah. God's blessings on His chosen nation will be enjoyed by all. But despite all this glory, the best is still yet to come. Let's see what still needs to happen before we get to enjoy God's perfect new world, where God creates a new heaven and earth and lives with mankind forever.*

## **6. The Last Battle—satan is released for his last opportunity to deceive mankind**

Revelation 20:7-10 NKJV

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

As we discussed earlier, God always gives people a choice—with a warning. Here is the choice, the same as it's always been—follow God or follow satan.

## **7. The Great White Throne Judgement**

Have you ever wondered what happens to the unbelievers who died in all the previous ages? They will all get their turn to stand before God at the second resurrection, the great white throne Judgement. In addition to all the unbelieving dead, all the people who lived during the Millennium will also be judged at this time. If their names are not written in the Book of Life, if they never chose to put their trust in Jesus as their Messiah, then they will join all the other unbelievers and the demons in the Lake of Fire, where they will be tormented for ever and ever. This is what the wrath of God feels like.

Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God [Jesus, see John 5:22-30], and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** <sup>15</sup> **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

## 8. The New Heaven and the New Earth

Revelation 21-22 describe the New Heaven and the New earth. As great as the Millennium will be, there will still be death and sin present. With the finish of the Millennium, God's plan and purpose for Israel will be finished. They will indeed a light to the nations, a holy priesthood and God's special people. They will enjoy all the blessings that God promised them for a full thousand years. God will indeed keep His promise to them.

Jeremiah 31:35-36 AMP

Thus says the Lord, **Who gives the sun for a light by day and the fixed order of the moon and of the stars for a light by night**, Who stirs up the sea's roaring billows or stills the waves when they roar—the Lord of hosts is His name:

**<sup>36</sup> If these ordinances [of fixed order] depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the posterity of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me throughout the ages.**

But consider that God did set a limit on how long the Jews, the people of Israel, would be a separate nation—*it was only as long as day and night, the sun and the moon, would exist*. Remember that in the New Heaven and New Earth, there will be no day or night—times and seasons as we know it will be no more. In this new perfect world, the nation of Israel is not required and will no longer exist—God's plan and purpose for Israel will have been complete. The same is true for the Church. All people who live on the New Earth will have only one thing in common—we all have our names written in the book of life—we have all put our trust in Jesus to be our Saviour.

Revelation 21:1-2, 22-27 NKJV

<sup>1</sup> Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>22</sup> But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

<sup>23</sup> The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. <sup>24</sup> And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. <sup>25</sup> **Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).** <sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. <sup>27</sup> But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, **but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

What a glorious future—all believers from all ages living together in perfect harmony in a perfect world, with everyone in a glorified resurrection body, perfect in body, soul, and spirit. There will be one city for one people, the redeemed and ransomed people of God. There will be no more sin, and no more death, The old nature will be gone and we will be unable to sin, because our new perfect nature that we received when we were saved cannot sin—we will be free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and finally the presence of sin. Praise God for His awesome promises.