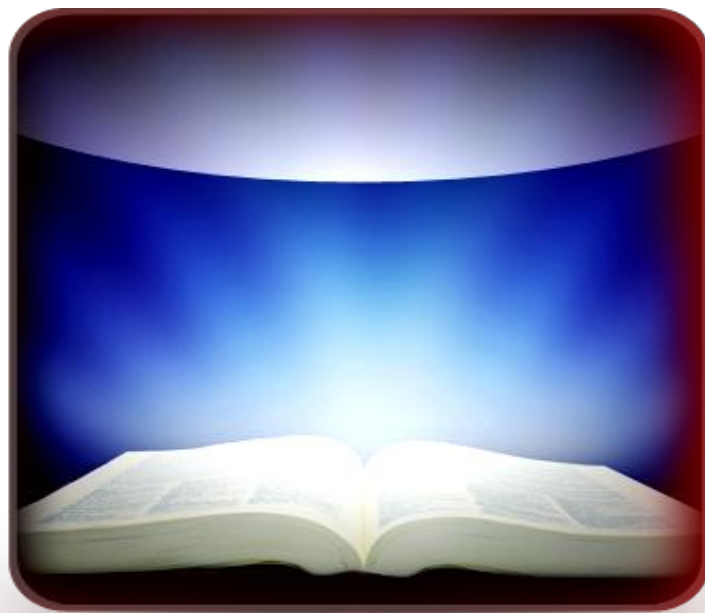


LOGOS SOPHIA

WORDS OF WISDOM



A Collection of Short Articles of Wisdom
Compiled By

Bruce McKernan

LOGOS SOPHIA - Words of Wisdom, is a book of short 'sight bites', of mostly one page, [A4 size] articles to do with Bible prophecy and Righteous living. I abridge most Bible verses and remove the parallelisms, to make the message more easily read. All Scripture is in *italics*. Bible translations used; Revised English Bible [Oxford Press], New International version, New English Translation, King James Version. This book is available as a free download and you may print copies for your own use, or to give away. You must not make any profit from copies that you distribute.

Other books by the author: LOGOS TELOS - The Word About the End Times
ALETHOS TELOS - The Truth About the End Times
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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Chapter One – A COLLECTION OF BIBLE VERSES ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

- 1 The Plans and Purposes of the Creator God**
- 2 The Word about End Time Prophecy**
- 3 Prophecy – A Lamp Shining in the Darkness**
- 4 Rise Now and Judge the Earth**
- 5 A Worldwide punishment, the Next Prophesied Event**
- 6 A Day of Vengeance and Wrath**
- 7 Death and Destruction Cause by a C.M.E.**
- 8-9 Verses that can be Explained Literally by a C.M.E.**
- 10 The Forthcoming Punishment by Fire, is not the End of the World**
- 11 Nuclear and all Weapons of War are Destroyed by a C.M.E.**
- 12 The Lord will uproot the Evil Neighbours who have Encroached onto the Holy Land**
- 13 The Lord's People gathered out of the Nations After the Lord's Day of Wrath**
- 14 The Lord's People will be Judged**
- 15 Who are the Lord's People?**
- 16 Protection for His people**
- 17 The Lord Carries out His Judgement and Reveals Himself to His People**
- 18 The Day of the Lord's Vengeance and Wrath in the Holy Land**
- 19 The Devastation of the Holy Land**
- 20 The Regeneration of the Holy Land**
- 21 The Return of Jesus is NOT the Next Prophesied Event**
- 22 The Restoration and Recovery of His people**
- 23 The Lord's Day of Vengeance and Wrath is Before the gathering of His People**
- 24 The Lord's People After the Day of Vengeance and Wrath**
- 25-26 The Second Exodus of the Israelites**
- 27 The Blessings to His People, as they go back into the Promised Land**
- 28 Entering the Promised Land**
- 29 Understanding**
- 30 Most People will Understand God's Plans Only After the Lord's Day of Wrath**
- 31 Teaching the Word**
- 32 Psalm 119 – The First verses of each Stanza**

Chapter Two – ARTICLES FROM THE APOCRYPHA

- 33-34 Wisdom of Solomon**
- 35 Suffering From Lack of Wisdom**
- 36 One Who Devotes himself to Study Wisdom**
- 37 Now is the Time to Fulfil the Prophecies**
- 38 Signs and Events Before the Coming of the Messiah**
- 39 The Messiah is the Judge**
- 40 Blow the Trumpet in Zion**

- 41 **Emptiness for the Empty and Fullness for the Full**
- 42 **Many have been created, but only a few will be saved**
- 43 **The Prayer of Azariah**

Chapter Three – ARTICLES ON RIGHT LIVING AND THE FUTURE

- 44 **The Future of Planet Earth**
- 45 **These are the end times**
- 46-47 **Hurtling Toward Oblivion**
- 48 **The Real Stumbling Block**
- 49 **Good Person-ism**
- 50 **Becoming Subversive**
- 51 **Old fashioned values**
- 52 **God Looks with favour on the Humble**
- 53 **God's Glory Shared with Humanity**
- 54 **Hear this, Foolish people**
- 55 **The Kingdom of God**
- 56 **The Fig Tree breaks into Leaf**
- 57 **Do Not Assume that I have Come to Bring Peace**
- 58 **Jacob I loved and Esau I Hated**
- 59 **Lead Me in the Everlasting Way**

Chapter One – A COLLECTION OF BIBLE VERSES ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

The Plans and purposes of the Creator God

- Isaiah 44:7-8 *Who is like Me? Let anyone try to foretell what is yet to be. Take heart, have no fear, did I not tell you of future things long ago? You are My witnesses.*
- Isaiah 46:10 *From the beginning, I reveal the end, from ancient times what is yet to be. My purpose stands, I will accomplish all that I plan.*
- Job 42:2 *I know that You can do all things, no plan of Yours can be thwarted.*
- Amos 3:7 *Indeed the Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.*
- Isaiah 55:11 *So it is with My Word that I send out, it will not return empty, My purpose will be accomplished and its task fulfilled.*
- Psalms 67:1-2 *May God be gracious to us, that His purpose be known to us and His saving power among all nations.*
- Psalms 25:14 *The Lord confides His purposes to those who fear Him, His Covenant is for their instruction.*
- Isaiah 14:24 *The Lord has sworn an oath: As I purpose, it surely will be, as I planned, so it will take place.*
- Psalms 33:10-11 *The Lord frustrates the purposes of the nations, He foils the plans of the peoples. But the Lord's own purpose stands forever and the plans He has in mind endure for all generations.*
- Isaiah 30:1 *Woe betide rebellious people who make plans, but not of My devising, whose schemes are not inspired by Me. They pile sin upon sin.*
- Isaiah 32:7-8 *The ungodly devise wicked plans, to deny justice and bring ruin to the poor and needy. But the plans of the righteous stand firm*
- Proverbs 16:4 *The Lord has made each thing for its own end, so He has made the wicked for a Day of calamity.*
- Romans 9:22 *But if it is indeed God's purpose to display His retribution and to make His power known, can it be that with great patience He has tolerated vessels that are objects of retribution due for destruction.*
- Micah 2:3 *I am planning a disaster for this nation, [Israel] the hour of disaster comes.*
- Isaiah 37:26 *Have you not heard? Long ago I planned it all and now I will bring it about. Your military strength will wane and your cities will crash into heaps of rubble.*
- Jeremiah 4:28 *The earth will be in mourning for this and the sky will turn black, for now I have made known My purpose, I will not relent or change it.*
- Jeremiah 30:24 *The Lord's fierce anger is not to be turned aside until He has fully accomplished His purpose. In days to come you will understand.*
- Isaiah 25:1 *Praise the Lord, for He has done wonderful things: long planned, certain and sure.*
- Jeremiah 29:11 *I alone know My purpose for you; it is for your wellbeing and not harm, a long line of descendants will come after you.*
- Romans 8:28... *The Lord works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to his purposes.*

Ref: REB. Some verses abridged.

The Word about end time prophesy

Amos 8:11-12 *The time is coming when the Lord will send a famine on the land, not a hunger for food and water, but for hearing the Word of the Lord.*

2 Timothy 4:3-4 *People will search for the truth of the Word and they will not find it.*

Isaiah 29:11 *The prophetic vision has become as a sealed book for you.*

2 Peter 1:19 *All I have said, confirms for us the message of the prophets, which you do well to study, it will shine like a lamp into a dark place, to illuminate your minds.*

2 Timothy 3:16 *We can gain understanding from all inspired scripture.*

Isaiah 43:9 *The earlier prophecies have come to pass and now I declare new things. Before they take place, I will announce them to you.*

Daniel 12:9-10 *These words are to be kept secret until the time of the end. The wicked peoples will not understand, only the wise leaders will understand.*

Ezekiel 12:23-28 *The days are near when every vision will be fulfilled. No Word of Mine will be delayed, whatever I say will be done. Indeed, in your days, Judah it will be done. [When the Jewish people are in the Land]*

Isaiah 42:18-20 *You that are deaf; hear now! You that are blind; look and see! Who is so blind but My servant, so deaf as the messenger that I send? Who is so blind as the one who has My trust, so deaf as the servant of the Lord?*

Isaiah 48:16 *Draw near to Me and hear this: from the beginning I have never spoken in secret, I will be there at the time of fulfilment.*

Isaiah 46:9-10 *I am God, there is none like Me. From the beginning, I reveal the end.*

Amos 3:7 *Indeed the Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants.*

Revelation 1:1 *This is the revelation of Jesus Christ...to show His servants what must soon take place.*

Ecclesiastes 8:5-7 *Whoever keeps the Lord's commands, will come to no harm. **One who is wise will know in his heart the right time and course for action.** Every enterprise has its time and method, although mankind is greatly troubled by his ignorance of the future; who can tell him what it will bring?*

Proverbs 22:3 ***A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge,** but the uninformed don't know what will happen and they suffer for it.*

Isaiah 43:19 *The Lord is about to do something new, **in an instant it will happen.** I will make a way through the desert and make streams in the wasteland.*

Acts 13:41 *See this, you scoffers, marvel and begone, for I am doing a deed in your days, a deed that you will not believe when you are told of it.*

Ref. REB. Some verses abridged.

Prophecy: A Lamp shining in the Darkness

1 Corinthians 14:22b...*prophecy is not for unbelievers, only for true believers in God.*

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 *If you ask: How are we to know a true prophet? When a word spoken by a prophet is not fulfilled, then it is not a Word from the Lord.*

2 Chronicles 24:19 *The Lord sent prophets, who denounced those leading the people into sin, but they were not heeded.*

Isaiah 42:9 *The earlier prophesies have come to pass and now I declare new things. Before they unfold, I announce them to you.*

Isaiah 49:5-6 *The Lord made me to be His servant, to restore the tribes of Israel and to bring back the survivors to be a light to the nations.*

Isaiah 50:4-9 *The Lord has given me the ability to comprehend, I did not disobey His instruction and so suffered persecution, but God is my helper, therefore no insult can hurt me. Who would dare argue against me? They will not prosper.*

Jeremiah 1:5-10 *The Lord says: I have formed you to be a prophet to the nations. Fear not for I will be with you to keep you safe. I give you authority over nations, to uproot and destroy, to build and to plant.*

Jeremiah 5:14...*I shall make My Words a fire in your mouth, it will burn up this people.*

Jeremiah 5:30-31 *An appalling thing, an outrage has happened: prophets prophesy lies and the priests are in league with them, for the people love to have it so.*

Jeremiah 14:14-16 *Those false prophets who have no commission from Me, will meet their end by the sword and famine. I shall pour down on them the disaster they deserve.*

Jeremiah 23:9-18 *Because of the Word of the Lord, I am like a drunken man. For the Land is full of sinful people, prophet and priest alike are godless, therefore I shall bring disaster upon them on the Day of Reckoning. Do not listen to those so called prophets who buoy you up with false hopes and preach prosperity. Which of them has stood before the Lord, which of them has truly taken note of His Word and told the people the truth?*

Ezekiel 3:17 *I have appointed you, Ezekiel as a watchman for the Israelites, you are to pass to them the warnings you receive from Me.*

Ezekiel 13:1-16 *Speak against those false prophets who say: all is well, when nothing is well. They will have no place with My people, they will not set foot in the Land.*

Ezekiel 14:3-10 *Now the Israelites have their hearts set on their idols. Am I to be consulted by them? No, both the false prophet and those who consult them are guilty and I will rid My people of them.*

Psalms 74:9 *We cannot see any sign for us, we have no prophet now, no one amongst us can say how long our punishment will last.*

Hosea 9:7 *The Day of punishment comes, your prophets are fools, your seers are crazy, this is because of your great guilt and enmity.*

Micah 3:5-7 *Those prophets who lead My people astray will be overcome with shame.*

Zechariah 13:2-6 *In that Day, I will expel the idols, the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness from the Land. There will be no further prophesying.*

2 Peter 1:19 *This confirms for us the message of the prophets, to which you will do well to study. Their words shine like a lamp into a dark place, to instruct your minds.*

Revelation 1:1 *This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, to show His servants what must soon take place.*

Ref: REB. Some verses abridged.

Rise now and judge the earth!

Psalm 94:1-7 **God of vengeance - show Yourself! Rise now and judge the earth, repay the arrogant as they deserve. Lord, how long will the wicked exult and tread down Your chosen Land? They murder and carry out terror attacks, saying: The Lord does not see, their God pays no heed.**

Psalm 94:8-11 **Take heed yourselves, you most stupid of people; you fools, do you think that the Maker of all things cannot see or hear? Will He, who controls the destiny of nations, not correct them? The Instructor of mankind has all knowledge, He knows that the thoughts of everyone are but puffs of wind.**

Psalm 94:12-15 **Happy is the one whom the Lord instructs, those who receive His Law. They will be rescued from trouble, while the godless fall into a pit of their own making. The Lord will not abandon His people or forsake His chosen Land, for justice and righteousness will again come together and all who love the Lord will experience it.**

Psalm 94:16-19 **Who is on the Lord's side against the godless? Who will stand up for Him against evildoers? I nearly made the mistake of not trusting the Lord, but He helped me in my time of trouble, He held me up and His comfort brought me joy.**

Psalm 94:20-23 **If justice is perverted and mischief is contrived under the cover of the law, that condemns the innocent - then you must not agree with it. The Lord will repay the wicked for their injustice, He will destroy them for their misdeeds. The Lord is my Rock, in whom I trust, He will give me refuge.**

Reference: Revised English Bible. Some verses abridged,

This is how it is now: *The wicked exult and tread down the Lord's chosen Land, they murder and carry out terror attacks.* Psalm 10:1-6, Psalm 83:2-3

The prayer of the righteous people: *Rise now and judge the earth; God of vengeance, repay the wicked for their injustice, destroy them for their misdeeds.* Jer. 9:25-26

The Lord's reply: *The Lord will not abandon His people or forsake His chosen Land. He, who controls the destiny of the nations will judge those who disobey Him. The godless will fall into a pit of their own making.* Psalm 7:12-15, Obadiah 15, Habakkuk 3:14

Our response: *The Lord is my Rock, in whom I trust, He will give me refuge.* Isa. 30:15, John 14:1

His promise: *The Lord keeps us safe in the time of trouble. All those who love Him will experience justice and righteousness in the Land.*

A Worldwide Punishment, the Next Prophesied Event

Isaiah 24:1 *Be warned: The Lord is about to strip the earth.... everyone will be affected.*

Isaiah 24:13 *So it will be throughout the world, among all the nations.*

Obadiah 1:16 *All the nations must drink of the Cup of Wrath.*

2 Peter 3:10 *...the sky will dissipate and all the earth will be brought to judgement.*

Psalm 110:5-6 *The Lord judges kings on His Day of wrath, He judges the nations.*

Isaiah 2:9 *.....mankind will be brought low.*

Ezekiel 7:2-9 *The end is coming, it will affect all the earth.*

Isaiah 66:16-17 *The Lord will judge with fire and test all mankind. All the wicked will die*

Isaiah 34:1-5 *My wrath is upon all the nations. My sword appears in the heavens, it descends in judgement.*

Psalm 50:1-3 *The Lord speaks and summons the world, sending consuming fire and storms*

Zephaniah 3:8 *The Day I accuse the whole earth, it will be enveloped by My burning anger. I will pour out My wrath upon the nations.*

Jeremiah 25:29-33 *I am bringing punishment upon the inhabitants of the world. Ruin spreads from nation to nation from a worldwide mighty tempest.*

Ezekiel 30:2-3 *A Day of reckoning for the nations. All the Middle East lands devastated.*

Habakkuk 3:12 *Furiously You traverse the earth, trampling the nations.*

Isaiah 63:2 *...I trampled the nations in My anger.*

Psalm 77:18 *Your arrows flashed around the world.*

Psalm 97:2-5 *His lightning flashes light up the whole world.*

Joel 2:11 *All the nations are in anguish.*

Isaiah 30:30 *The Lord shakes the nations in a sieve of destruction.*

Isaiah 52:10 *The Lord bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, the whole world will see the deliverance of His people.* Ref: REB. Some verses abridged.

A Day of Vengeance and Wrath

Deut. 32:41-43 *I will prepare My flashing sword and take vengeance on those who hate Me. My sword will devour flesh and My arrows will be drunk with blood. I will avenge the slain of My people and cleanse their Land.*

Isaiah 2:12-21 *The Lord has a Day of doom in store...all the proud will be brought low.*

Zephaniah 1:15-16 *The Day of the Lord's wrath is a Day of anguish and torment, of cloud and darkness, of destruction and devastation and a Day of military defeats. [fire?*

Isaiah 33:14 *Sinners in the Land quake with terror, can anyone live in this devouring*

Joel 1:15 *The Day is near, the Day of the Lord's vengeance and wrath, a mighty destruction from Almighty God.*

Isaiah 33:10-12 *Now I shall arise, I will exalt Myself. My enemies will be as chaff and stubble, a fiery wind will consume them. Whole nations will become as heaps of ash.*

Isaiah 63:1-6 *Who is this coming from Edom?...in power and victory....I trampled the nations in My anger, their blood stained My garments. I resolved on a Day of vengeance, the year for redeeming My own had come.*

Rev 14:14-16 *...there appeared a Man wearing a gold crown and with a sickle in His hand. He swept over the earth with His sickle and the earth was reaped.*

Isaiah 66:15-17 *The Lord is coming in fire, like a whirlwind. He will judge with fire, His sword will test mankind, many will be slain by Him.*

Isaiah 29:6 *Suddenly, in an instant, punishment will come from the Lord, with storms, earthquakes and flames of devouring fire.*

Isaiah 66:15-16 *See, the Lord is coming in fire, His sword will test mankind. Many will be slain. Those who do magic and eat unclean things will all meet their end.*

Micah 5:15 *In anger and fury, I shall wreak vengeance on the nations who disobey Me.*

Psalms 50:3 *Our God is coming, a consuming fire and a raging storm.*

Habakkuk 3:12 *Furiously You traverse the earth, in anger You trample down the nations.*

Isaiah 59:15-18 *The Lord was displeased...outraged... so He put on garments of vengeance. According to their wicked deeds, He will repay.*

Isaiah 30:26-30.....*the sun will shine seven times stronger and the Lord will make His voice heard in majesty, with His arm descending in fierce anger with devouring flames of fire amid lightning flashes and hail storms.*

Psalms 144:5-6 *Lord, part the heavens, make lightning flashes far and wide.*

Isaiah 34:4...*the sky will be rolled up like a scroll...*

Revelation 6:14 *The sky vanished, like a scroll being rolled up, and violent earthquakes.....*

2 Peter 3:10 *The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly. On that Day, the sky will dissolve and the earth will be enveloped in flames, all mankind will be judged.*

Malachi 4:1 *The Day comes, burning like a furnace, all evildoers will be stubble.*

Hebrews 10:27..... *a terrifying judgement of fire that will consume God's enemies.*

Psalms 21:8-9 *Your Hand will reach all Your enemies, fire will totally consume them. [fire.*

2 Thess.1:6..*when the Lord is revealed from heaven, with His mighty angels in blazing*

Zechariah 9:14 *The Lord will appear over them, His arrows will flash like lightning.*

Psalms 11:4-6 *The Lord is in heaven, raining fiery coals down upon the wicked.*

Isaiah 9:18-19 *The land is scorched by the Lord, the people are fuel for the fire.*

Ezekiel 20:46-47...*I am about to kindle a fire in the Negev, its fiery flame will scorch everyone to the North.*

Reference: Revised English Bible, some verses abridged

Death and destruction Caused by a Coronal Mass Ejection.

Deuteronomy 32:41 *When I set my hand to judgement, My sword will devour flesh.*

Isaiah 66:16 *The Lord will judge with fire and many will be slain by Him.*

Psalms 37:9-10 & 20 *For evildoers will be no more, their place will be empty. Evil people will die, they will be incinerated and will go up in smoke.*

Malachi 4:1 *The Day comes, burning like a furnace...on the Day the Lord takes action, all wicked peoples will be as ashes under your feet.*

Zephaniah 1:3 & 11 *I shall destroy humans and animals. Dire distress will come upon all the godless peoples, their blood and guts will spill over the ground.*

Psalms 97:3-5 *For My sword is ready and it descends upon those doomed for death. Fire goes ahead of the Lord and consumes His enemies on every side.*

Isaiah 63:6 *The Lord stamped on peoples in His anger, their blood poured out on the ground.*

Isaiah 34:6 *...though the sky be dispersed, the earth be wasted and its inhabitants die like flies.*

Jeremiah 25:33 *Those whom the Lord has slain in that Day will lie scattered from one end of the earth to the other.*

Jeremiah 9:22 *Corpses will lie like dung in the fields, like swaths behind the reaper.*

Isaiah 34:3 *The dead will be flung out and will cover the ground, their bodies will stink.*

Isaiah 13:12 *Humans will become scarce, more rare than fine gold.*

The nations who attack Israel;

Ezekiel 7:14-16 *The trumpet has sounded, but no one goes to war, because their turmoil has called forth My wrath. Those outside will die and those in the cities, by plague and famine. If any escape to the hills, there I shall kill them, for their sins.*

Isaiah 10:23 *The Light of Israel will become a fire that will in one Day burn up and consume His enemies.*

Jeremiah 49:37 *I shall break Elam, [Iran] My fierce anger will bring disaster to them.*

Psalms 83:13-15 *Scatter them, Lord with Your fire and storm winds....*

Habakkuk 3:13-14 *You go forth to save Your people...the enemies are swept away.*

Ezekiel 30:4-5 *Egypt will suffer anguish, her slain will fall along with all the Arab lands.*

Ezekiel 32:6 & 15 *I shall drench Egypt with blood, the whole land will become empty.*

Zephaniah 2:12 *You Cushites [Africa] also will be slain by the sword of the Lord.*

Jeremiah 50:27 *Put all warriors to the sword, lead them to slaughter, for their time has come.*

The Lord's people, Israel and Judah;

Isaiah 34:6 *The Lord has a sword covered in blood.... He has a great slaughter in Bozrah and Edom.*

Jeremiah 11:16 *Once you were My people, now with a great noise, you will be burnt and consumed.*

Isaiah 5:25 *The Lord's anger is roused against His people and as He strikes them down, the mountains shake. Their bodies lie like dung in the streets.*

Ezekiel 21:3 & 8-11 *My sword will kill both righteous and wicked alike from the Negev northward. A sword is ready to kill and kill again, polished to flash like lightning, terrible will be the slaughter.* Ref: REB, NIV. Some verses abridged.

Verses that can be explained literally by a Coronal Mass Ejection

- Deuteronomy 32:22&34 *I have sealed up in My storehouse, in reserve for the Day of punishment - a fire that My anger will set ablaze, that will burn the earth to the depths of hell.*
- 2 Samuel 22:8 *The earth heaved and shook, the sky parted and devouring fire came down.*
- Psalms 11:6 *The Lord will rain down fiery coals and scorching winds will punish the godless.*
- Psalms 18:7-15 *The earth quaked because of the Lord's anger, the heavens parted and smoke, extreme heat and devouring fire came down as He thundered amid thick clouds.*
- Psalms 79:5-6 *Pour out Your wrath on those peoples who hate You, Your fury will blaze like fire.*
- Psalms 83:14-15 *Pursue them with Your storm winds, as fire blazes across the hills.*
- Psalms 97:2-5 *Thick cloud enfolds the Lord, as He consumes His enemies all around. Fire goes ahead of Him, lightning flashes light up the world and the earth trembles.*
- Psalms 110:5-6 *On the Day of the Lord's wrath, He will judge the nations, spreading death all over*
- Proverbs 10:25 *When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are gone.*
- Isaiah 9:18 *For evil is set ablaze and burned like a thorn bush, they are wrapped in smoke.*
- Isaiah 10:3 *What will you do when devastation from afar confronts you?*
- Isaiah 10:17 *The Holy One of Israel will become a fire that in one Day will consume His enemies.*
- Isaiah 13:9-13 *The Day of the Lord is coming, to reduce the earth to a desolation and destroy the wicked there. The sky will tear apart and the earth will quake on the cruel Day of His blazing anger. Humans will become as scarce as fine gold.*
- Isaiah 29:6 *Suddenly in an instant, punishment will come from the Lord, with thunder, violent storms, earthquakes and flames of devouring fire.*
- Isaiah 30:26-28 *The sun will shine seven times stronger...the Lord comes from afar, His anger blazing and His doom heavy, a devouring fire to sieve out the nations for destruction.*
- Isaiah 33:10-12 *The Lord will arise and exalt Himself. His breath is a fire that burns the chaff to a stubble. Whole nations will be like heaps of white ash.*
- Isaiah 34:1-5 *Listen all you peoples: The Lord's anger is against all the nations, He gives them over to slaughter and destruction. Their dead will lie everywhere and the stink will rise up. The sky will roll up like a scroll when the sword of the Lord appears.*
- Isaiah 51:6 *Look: The sky will disperse like smoke, the earth will become tattered and torn and the inhabitants will die like flies....*
- Isaiah 64:1-3 & 10 *Lord: tear asunder the heavens, come down, make mountains shake, make fire blaze as if burning brushwood, hot enough to make water boil. Surprise us with awesome things. You make Zion a wilderness and Jerusalem desolate.*
- Isaiah 66:15-16 *The Lord is coming in fire, as a whirlwind, bringing retribution in His furious anger, with the flaming fire of His rebukes. He will judge all mankind with fire and many will be slain by Him.*
- Jeremiah 4:7 *The Destroyer of nations has risen from his lair, it will devastate the land and make your cities waste and empty.*
- Jeremiah 9:10-11 & 22 *Mourn for the Land, it is scorched and untrodden by man or beast, even the birds have gone. The towns of Judah will be a waste, without inhabitants. Corpses will lie like dung in the fields, like swaths behind the reaper with no one to gather them.*
- Jeremiah 23:19 *A scorching whirlwind goes out from the Lord, it whirls around the wicked.*
- Jeremiah 25:30-31 *The Lord roars from on high, the great noise reaches around the world. He makes His charge against all mankind and the godless are given to the sword.*
- Jeremiah 30:24 *The Lord's fierce anger is not to be turned aside, it will accomplish its purpose.*
- Ezekiel 20:47-48 *The Lord is about to kindle a fire in the Land, its fiery flame cannot be put out, it will scorch everyone. All will see that it was I, The Lord who has done this.*

Ezekiel 30:3-5 *A Day is near, a Day of darkness and reckoning for the nations. A sword will fall upon the Middle East, all those peoples will fall on that Day.*

Ezekiel 32:6-10 *I shall darken the sky on the Day I punish Egypt, blood will drench the land.*

Joel 1:19-20 *To You, Lord, I cry out, for fire has consumed the pastures and trees.*

Joel 2:1-11 *The Day of the Lord is coming, a Day of darkness, a vast host appears - before them is a leaping flame, after is a desolate waste. The earth quakes as the Lord thunders.*

Amos 1:2-15 *The Lord thunders from Zion, the Land is arid and desolate. For the crimes of Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Judah, I shall send fire to consume them.*

Amos 8:8 *The whole earth will surge and seethe like the Nile. [The microwave effect of a CME]*

Micah 1:3-4 *The Lord comes down and walks on the heights of the earth. At His touch mountains dissolve like wax and valleys are torn open.*

Nahum 1:3-6 *The Lord will not let the guilty go unpunished, His way is by the whirlwind and the storm, the earth and all who live in it are in tumult at His presence. His rage is poured out like fire and the land quakes before Him.*

Habakkuk 3:3-15 *The Lord comes from Sinai, His splendid radiance covers the sky, but He is veiled from sight. In His fury, He traverses the earth, trampling down the nations.*

Zephaniah 1:14-18 *The great Day of the Lord is near and coming fast. It will be a Day of wrath, destruction and death, a Day of darkness, loud noise and by His fire the whole Land will be consumed, for He will make a sudden and terrible end to all who live in the Land.*

Haggai 2:21 *....I shall shake the heavens and the earth, overthrow rulers and destroy all military powers.*

Zechariah 9:14 *The Lord will appear over His people and His arrows will flash forth like lightning. He will sound the battle trumpet and advance with the storm winds of the South.*

Malachi 4:1 *The Day comes, burning like a furnace, all the arrogant and all evildoers will be as stubble, the Day will set them ablaze, leaving them neither root nor branch.*

2 Esdras 15:23 *The Lord's anger has burst out in flames, scorching the earth to its foundations and consuming sinners like burning straw.*

2 Esdras 16:12-16 *The earth is shaken to its very foundations and the sea is in turmoil. Strong is His arm, He lets loose calamities, nothing will stop them until they hit the earth. The fire is alight, it cannot be put out until it consumes the earth. REB Apocrypha*

Luke 3:17 *....the chaff He will burn on a fire that can never be put out.*

Hebrews 10:27 *There is only the terrifying expectation of a fierce fire which will consume God's enemies.*

2 Peter 3:10 *The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly. On that Day the sky will dissolve with a great rushing sound and the earth will be enveloped in flames, bringing all in it to judgement.*

Revelation 6:12-17 *The sixth seal. There was a violent earthquake, the sun was blackened and the moon looked red as blood. The satellites crashed to earth as the magnetosphere and the atmosphere was swept away. Everyone was terrified and tried to take cover, as they cried out: The great Day of the wrath of God and His Son has come and who can stand?*

Reference: REB. Some verses abridged.

The Forthcoming Punishment by Fire, a CME, is not the End of the World.

Psalm 65:1-3 *The Lord springs into action! His enemies scatter like smoke and the godless are destroyed before Him. The righteous are happy and praise God.*

Isaiah 66:15-16 *The Lord will judge with fire...He will test mankind, many will be slain by Him.*

1 Peter 4:12-19 *Do not be afraid of the fiery ordeal that comes to test everyone. Judgement is coming, continue in your faith, entrust your souls to Him, your Maker will not fail you.*

Jeremiah 30:7 *How awful is that Day, it will be a time of anguish for Jacob, [His people] yet they will come through it safely.*

Jeremiah 5:18 *But in that Day, I shall not make an end of you.*

Isaiah 24:6 *A curse covers the earth, its people suffer - their numbers dwindle, only a few are left.*

Isaiah 10:19 *...forests and pastures will be suddenly devastated, only a few trees will remain.*

Isaiah 29:4 *Judah will be brought low, the few survivors will hide underground.*

Isaiah 29:22-23 *This will be no time for Israel to be shamed, they will regard the Lord with awe.*

Zephaniah 3:8-10 *The whole earth will be burned by the fire of My anger....then I shall purify the speech of the peoples, that they may call upon the Name of the Lord. My worshippers, now far off, will bring offerings to Me.*

Ezekiel 34:12 *I shall rescue My sheep from wherever they have been scattered in the Day of cloud and darkness.*

Isaiah 45:20 *Gather together and come near, you survivors of the nations.*

Isaiah 58:11-12 *The Lord will guide and satisfy you in the sun scorched Land. You will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the houses and towns.*

Psalm 69:34-36 *The Lord will deliver Zion and rebuild the towns of Judah. His people will settle there and possess the holy Land.*

Ezekiel 36:36 *The nations around that remain, will know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate.*

Ezekiel 6:8-18 *But among the nations, there will be some of you that will survive. They will remember Me; those of My people, scattered in exile, when I remove their idolatrous hearts. They will loath themselves for the evils they committed and know My threats were not in vain.*

Ref: REB. NIV. Some verses abridged.

Nuclear and all Weapons of War are Neutralized and Armies are Destroyed by a CME.

The coronal mass ejection - sunstrike, that the Lord will use on His great and terrible Day of vengeance and wrath, will destroy all electronic systems, cause weapons to explode, sink ships, crash aircraft, burn buildings and kill personnel.

Isaiah 34:2 *For the Lord's anger is against all the nations, His wrath is against their armed forces, they will be slaughtered, their dead will stink.*

Hosea 10:13-14.....*because you have trusted in your chariots and in the number of your warriors, destruction will arise against your people [Israel and the western nations.] and all your fortresses will be overthrown. [military power destroyed]*

Hosea 2:18..... *I shall break the bow and sword, **I shall sweep all weapons of war off the earth**, so that My people may lie down without fear.*

Haggai 2:21-22 *I shall shake the heavens and the earth, shall overthrow the thrones of kings, break the power of the heathen realms, overturn chariots, horses and riders will fall. [armies] Fear will cause them to fight amongst themselves.*

Micah 5:10-11 *On that Day, I shall slaughter your horses and burn your chariots and raze your [military] fortifications to the ground.*

Jeremiah 49:35 *I shall break the bow of Elam, [Iran] the chief weapon of their might. [bow and arrows, a military code name for nuclear weapons]*

Amos 5:9 *The Lord flashes forth destruction upon the strongholds of the powerful nations.*

Zephaniah 1:16 *A Day of battle cries against fortified cities.*

Isaiah 30:25b*on the Day of massacre, when fortresses fall.*

Deuteronomy 32:22 *For fire is kindled by My wrath, it burns to the realms of death below. [weapons stored underground] It devours the earth and its harvest and penetrates to the foundations of the mountains. [The microwave effect of huge coronal mass ejection.]*

Jeremiah 25:32 *Disaster spreads from nation to nation, [as the earth rotates] a mighty storm of military destruction comes.*

Psalms 46:9 *In all the world, He breaks the bow, snaps the spear and burns the shields in the fire.*

Jeremiah 50:22-27 *See how the hammer of the world is shattered. The Lord has opened His armoury, the weapons of His wrath to do His work in the land of the Babylonians. [the godless peoples] Put all warriors to the sword, lead them to slaughter, for their time has come.*

Amos 2:14-16*the warrior will not save himself, on that Day they will all throw away their weapons and run, but they cannot escape.*

Proverbs 12:12 *The strongholds of the wicked crumble like clay.*

Psalms 76:3 *The Lord has broken the flashing arrows [nukes] and all weapons of war.*

Ezekiel 7:14 *The trumpet has sounded, but no one goes to war, for their actions have called forth My wrath*

Hebrews 12:29 ***For our God is a consuming fire.***

Ref: REB, NIV, NET. Some verses abridged.

The Lord will uproot the Evil Neighbours who have encroached onto the Holy Land

Jeremiah 12:14 *These are the Words of the Lord about those evil neighbours who have encroached onto the Land that I allotted to Israel as their inheritance. I shall uproot them from their holdings.*

Jeremiah 9:25-26 *The Lord says: The time is coming when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh. All those who live in the desert regions are uncircumcised in their hearts.*

Philistines - Palestinians:

Ezekiel 25:15-17 *Because the Philistines seek to destroy Judah with malice in their hearts, keeping up their ancient hostility, then I will take mighty vengeance.*

Amos 1:6-8 *For crime after crime of Philistia, they will have no reprieve, I shall send fire until the last of the Philistines is dead.*

Zephaniah 2:4-7 *At mid day Gaza will be left in ruins, I will destroy it. Gaza will be left with no inhabitants.*

Tyre and Sidon - Lebanon:

Luke 10:14 *Tyre and Sidon will be judged.*

Amos 1:9-10 *For the sins of Tyre, I will not hold back My wrath. Fire will consume them.*

Zechariah 9:3-5...*I will remove your possessions and your cities will be destroyed by fire*

Damascus - Syria:

Jeremiah 49:23-27 *News comes of a disaster, they try to escape, but fire will kill them.*

Amos 1:3-5 *For their crimes, there will be no reprieve, I will send fire upon them.*

Isaiah 17:1-14 *Damascus will cease to be a city, forever desolate. Such is their fate.*

Ammon and Moab - Jordan:

Ezekiel 25:1-11 *Because the Ammonites exulted over the Land of Israel with spiteful contempt, I will cut you off and bring you to ruin.*

Jeremiah 49:1-5 *Ammon will become a desolate mound, its towns burnt to ashes.*

Ezekiel 21:28-32 *My sword will flash like lightning when I judge Ammon. You will be fuel for the fire and be remembered no more.*

Amos 1:13-15 *For crime after crime of the Ammonites, there will be no reprieve. Fire will destroy Amman with a whirlwind on that Day. Their King will go into exile.*

Edom, Kedar, Teman and Hazor - Arabia:

Obadiah 1:2 *I shall make Edom the least of all nations, an object of utter contempt.*

Isaiah 21:13-17 *You who live in Arabia, meet the fugitives, [from Jordan] then within a year all of your glory will come to an end, only a few will be left.*

Ezekiel 30:5 *All of the Arab peoples will fall by the sword.*

Egypt, Cush, Put and Libya - North Africa:

Ezekiel 30:2-9 *A Day is near, a Day of terror and reckoning for the nations. All the Egyptians, Libyans and peoples of allied lands will fall by the sword.*

Zephaniah 2:12 *You Cushites will be slain by the sword of the Lord.*

Isaiah 19:1-5 & 17 *The Lord comes and a cloud descends on Egypt. they will become confused and fight each other. The very name of Israel will strike terror in them.*

Assyria - Iraq, now possibly includes Turkey and Germany:

Isaiah 31:8-9 *Assyria will fall, but not by a man's sword, a sword that no mortal wields will devour them. They will panic at the fire of the Lord and all their armed forces will be killed or be captured and put to labour.* Ref: REB. Verses abridged.

The Lord's People gathered out of the Nations, after the Lord's Day of Wrath

Isaiah 40:1-3 *Comfort My people, **their term of bondage is served, their penalty paid.** Clear a road through the desert for the Lord; level the way!*

Isaiah 54:7-10 *For a passing moment, I forsook you, but now with tender affection, I shall bring you home again. I swear that My covenant of peace will never break.*

Deuteronomy 30:3 *In the Lord's compassion, He will gather His people from all the nations to which He has dispersed them.*

Ezekiel 37:21 *I am going to take the Israelites from their places of exile among the nations. I will assemble them from every quarter and restore them to their own soil.*

Hosea 2:14 *Now I shall woo her [Israel] and lead her into a deserted [depopulated] place. I will speak words of encouragement to her and restore her land. [devastated by a CME]*

Ezekiel 20:34 ***By My strong hand and outstretched arm and outpoured wrath, I shall bring you out of the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are dispersed.***

Ezekiel 11:17 *I shall gather you from among the nations and bring you together from the countries where you have been exiled and I will give the Land of Israel to you.*

Ezekiel 36:13 *I shall lead My sheep out of the nations, gather them from the different lands and bring them to their own country.*

Hosea 11:10-11 *My people will follow Me when I roar, My sons will come speedily and I will settle them on their own homes.*

Zechariah 10:8-10 *I shall whistle to call My people home. Though dispersed in far off lands, I will call for them and lead them into Gilead and Lebanon until there is no more room.*

Isaiah 66:20 *From every nation your countrymen will be brought, on horses, in chariots and wagons, on mules and camels, as an offering to the Lord on His holy mountain.*

Psalms 68:17 *There were thousands of chariots when the Lord came in His holiness.*

[Me.

Psalms 50:5 *Gather to Me, My loyal servants, those who by sacrifice have made a covenant with*

Isaiah 41:1-10 *Listen in silence, you coasts and islands, together we go to the place of judgement. Israel, My servants summoned from the ends of the earth, have no fear, you will be strengthened and helped by My Right Hand. [Jesus]*

Isaiah 49:8-23 *They are coming, some from far away. My people, not forgotten, they are inscribed on the palms of My hands. All of them, assembling flooding back to the Land. The nations will bear your children in their arms. So many that the place is too cramped. **None who look to Me will be disappointed.***

Zephaniah 3:16-20 *On that Day; fear not, the Lord your God is in your midst [not visible - the same as in the first Exodus. 1 Cor. 9:4] and will keep you safe. I will rescue the lost, gather the dispersed and bring you home.*

Isaiah 27:13 *On the Day, a great trumpet will sound and those lost in Assyria, [the 10 tribes] and those exiled in Egypt [the Jews] will come to worship the Lord in Jerusalem.*

Isaiah 60:1-9 *Arise and shine, Jerusalem, your sons and daughters are coming from afar, sailing along like clouds in vessels from the coasts and islands, returning your children from distant places, to the honour of the Lord, for He has given you the glory.*

Jeremiah 31:8-9 *See how the Lord gathers His people from the far ends of the earth, among them; the blind and the lame, children and pregnant women. A vast company, they return, weeping as they come, but I will comfort them and lead them by streams of water.*

Psalms 107:103 *Those who were redeemed by the Lord and gathered from the North, West, East and the South, will say: **Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever!***

The Lord's people will be judged

Deuteronomy 32:36 *Moses says: after Israel has sinned and been dispersed, that the Lord will judge His people and have compassion on His servants, for He will see that their strength has gone.*

Isaiah 1:25 *Once again I shall act against you, to refine and purge away all your impurities.*

Nahum 1:3 *The Lord is longsuffering, but does not let the guilty go unpunished.*

Hosea 12:2 *The Lord has a charge to bring against Judah and is resolved to punish Jacob for his misconduct.*

Amos 3:1 *You alone I have chosen of all the nations, therefore I shall punish you for your sins.*

Ezekiel 20:35-36 *I shall confront Israel and bring you to judgement. Even as I did in the Wilderness of Egypt against your forefathers, so against you I shall state My case.*

Ezekiel 22:17-22 *The Lord says, all Israelites are a debased alloy, I shall gather you in My anger and wrath into Jerusalem, where I will melt and refine you.*

Hosea 7:1 *When I am minded to restore the fortunes of My people their guilt will stand revealed.*

Isaiah 41:1 & 8-10 *Listen in silence to Me, you coasts and islands, together we go to the place of Judgement. Israel My servant, summoned from the ends of the earth. Have no fear, for I am with you, I shall strengthen you and uphold you with My victorious Right hand.*
[Jesus]

Ezekiel 18:30-32 *I shall judge each of My people on their record. Repent and renounce all your offenses, or your iniquity will be your downfall. Get yourselves a new heart and spirit. Why should you die? I have no desire for the death of anyone.*

Malachi 3:5 *The Lord will appear before you in court, He will testify against all sorcerers, perjurers, adulterers, against all who cheat and steal and all who refuse to acknowledge Me.*

Psalms 68:6 *God leads the exiles home, but the rebels must remain in the desert.*

Ezekiel 20:37-38 *I shall make you pass under the rod, counting you as you enter. I shall purge you of those who revolt and rebel against Me. I shall take them out of the lands where they now live, but they will not set foot on the soil of Israel.*

Isaiah 10:17-22 *The Holy One of Israel will become as a flame which in one Day will consume his thorns and briars. On that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of Jacob, will rely only on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. Israel, your people may be as many as the sands of the sea, but only a remnant will return (back to the Land) Destruction has been decreed- righteous and just.*

Zephaniah 3:8 *Therefore, wait for the Day when I stand up to accuse you, on that Day, I shall pour the fire of My wrath on the nations, in My burning anger the whole earth will be burned.*

Amos 8:1-10... *The time is ripe for My people, never again will I pardon them. On that Day, songs will become lamentations, so many corpses laying everywhere. Keep your silence! For the sins of My people, the sky will be darkened and the earth quakes like the surging sea.*

Isaiah 3:13-15 *The Lord stands up to judge His people. He opens the indictment against the elders and leaders: it is you that have ravaged My vineyard and misled My people.*

1 Corinthians 3:13 *The works that each person does will be brought to light, the Day of judgement will expose it. For that Day will dawn in fire and fire will test each persons worth.*
[fire....

Hebrews 10:26-27 *For if we persist in sin, there remains only the terrifying judgement of*

Acts 26:6-7 *Paul says: And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers: unto which promise our twelve tribes, serving God day and night, hope to come.*

Who are the Lord's people? The true Israelites, who will inherit the holy Land

Psalm 24:3-5 *Who may go up to the mountain of the Lord and stand in His holy Place?
One who has clean hands and a pure heart, one who refuses what is false.*

1 Peter 1:5 *Because you put your faith in God, you are under the protection of His power, until His salvation is revealed at the end of the age.*

Romans 9:24-26 *We are those vessels of mercy, called from among Jews and Gentiles alike. Those who were not My people, I will call My people. They will be called the 'children of God'.*

Malachi 3:16-17 *Those who respected the Lord met together and the Lord listened. Their names were written in the Book of Life, the Lord says: they will be Mine, I will spare and deliver them on the appointed Day, the same as a father spares the sons that serve him.*

Malachi 4:2-3 *For you who fear My Name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.*

Ephesians 2:11-18...*for through Jesus, we ALL have access to the Father in the one spirit.*

Isaiah 3:10 *Happy are the righteous, all will be well with them.*

Isaiah 56:1-3 *Maintain justice and do what is right. The alien who has given his allegiance to God, is not excluded from His people.*

Isaiah 55:1-3 *Come for water, all who are thirsty....hear Me and your soul shall live. I will make a Covenant with you.*

Psalm 94:14-15 *The Lord will not abandon His people or forsake His chosen nation, for justice will again be joined to righteousness and all who are upright in heart will follow it.*

Psalm 22:22-31 *The Lord does not scorn the downtrodden or hide His face from them, but He listens to their cry for help.*

Psalm 69:36 *Those who serve the Lord and love His Name, will inherit the Land.*

Psalm 85:9 *Certainly, His loyal followers will soon experience His deliverance, then glory will appear in our Land.*

Isaiah 29:19-22 *The lowly and poor will once again rejoice in the Lord, sinners will be cut down.*

Acts 2:21 *Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord on that Day; will be saved.*

Psalm 149:4-5 *For the Lord accepts the service of His people and crowns the lowly with victory. Let His loyal servants exult in triumph!*

Psalm 37:9 *Those who trust in the Lord, will inherit the Land.*

Isaiah 57:13b *...but he who makes Me his refuge, will possess the Land.*

Jeremiah 23:3-4 *I will bring My sheep back to the Land, they will increase and be fruitful. I shall appoint shepherds who will tend them, they will live in peace.*

Isaiah 61:36 *A righteous people, planted in the Lord's holy Land, to display His glory.*

Reference: REB. Some verses abridged

Protection for His people

Psalm 50:3-6 *Our God is coming and will not keep silent, consuming fire runs ahead of Him and around Him a great storm rages. He summons the heaven and earth to the judging of His people. Gather to Me, My loyal servants, those who by sacrifice have made a Covenant with Me.*

Zephaniah 2:3 *Seek the Lord, all you who obey Him, it may be that you will be sheltered on the Day of the Lord's anger.*

1 Corinthians 10:13.... *God will not test you beyond your powers, when the test comes, He will provide a way out to enable you to endure.*

Psalm 9:10 *The Lord does not abandon those who seek Him and trust in Him.*

2 Peter 2:9 *God knows how to rescue the godly from their trials.*

Psalm 18:3 *I shall call upon the Lord, then I will be made safe.*

Psalm 31:23-24 *The Lord protects the faithful. Be strong, all you whose hope is in the Lord.*

Psalm 64:10 *The righteous rejoice, their refuge in the Lord.*

Zechariah 9:15-16 *The Lord of hosts will protect His people...On that Day, He will save them, like a flock, for they are precious to Him.*

Psalm 37:18-19 *The Lord watches over the righteous, when times are bad, they will not be distressed.*

Job 22:30 *He will deliver the innocent, because their hands are pure.*

Psalm 91:1-16 *...He will rescue you, you will not fear the terrors abroad.*

Psalm 121:1-8 *My help comes from the Lord, He will guard your life.*

Psalm 109:31 *The Lord stands at the right hand of the poor and saves them from trials.*

Isaiah 51:16 *I keep you covered under the shelter of My hand.*

Psalm 97:10-12 *He keeps His loyal servants safe and rescues them from the wicked.*

Jeremiah 17:7-8 *Blessed is anyone who trusts in the Lord, they will be like trees by a stream, when the heat comes it has nothing to fear.*

Nahum 1:7 *The Lord is a sure protection in times of trouble and cares for all those who make Him their refuge.*

Psalm 60:4-5 *To those who fear You, a flag will show the way to escape from trouble.*

Psalm 37:9 *For evildoers will be destroyed, those who trust in the Lord will prosper in the Land.*

Isaiah 26:20 *On that Day, I will come to your aid.*

Daniel 12:1 *There will be a time of anguish, but at that time, Your people will be delivered, all those whose names are written in the Book of Life.*

2 Thessalonians 1:7 *...to give you relief when the Lord Jesus comes in blazing fire.*

Joel 3:16 *The Lord roars from Zion, the heavens and the earth shudder, but He is a refuge for His people and a defence for Israel.*

Isaiah 65:9b *My chosen ones will take possession of the land, those who serve Me will live there.*

Ecclesiasticus 34:13-17 *Those who fear the Lord will live, for their trust in Him can keep them safe. The Lord keeps watch over those who love Him, He is their shield and support, **a shelter from the scorching wind and the heat of the sun.** He raises their spirits and gives healing, life and blessings.*

Reference: Revised English Bible.

The Lord carries out His Judgement on the Nations and Reveals Himself to His People.

This will be the next prophesied event, the Return of Jesus in His glory comes later.

1 Samuel 2:10 *Those who oppose the Lord will be terrified, **when from the heavens He thunders against them.** The Lord is the judge, to the ends of the earth.*

Isaiah 66:14 *The Lord will make His power known to His servants and His fury felt among His enemies.*

Ezekiel 7:9 *Doom is upon you, a **Day of panic** and all will know the Lord has acted.*

Psalm 18:7-15.....*He made darkness His covering.....*

Jeremiah 12:14 *The Lord says: I will uproot those evil neighbours who have encroached on the Land which I allotted to My people. I shall also uproot Judah as well.*

Jeremiah 10:18 *...**This time I shall throw out the whole population of the Land, I shall press them and squeeze them dry.***

Isaiah 6:11-13 *I asked: Lord how long? Until the land is made waste and cities are ruined and deserted. The Lord will drive people far away, **the whole land will be one vast desolation.** Only a stump remains, a holy seed in Jerusalem.*

Jeremiah 50:4-5 *In those days, Israel and Judah will go in tears to Zion, in search of their God.*

Ezekiel 34:29-31 *When I rescue My people, they will know that I am the Lord.*

Isaiah 60:1-3 *Over you His glory will appear.*

Hosea 14:5-7 *Israel will again live in My shadow.*

Ezekiel 36:23&37 *I will reveal My holiness through you and you will know I am the Lord.*

Ezekiel 39:27 *I shall make them exemplify My holiness for all to see.*

Isaiah 61:3.....*a righteous people, planted in His Land - to display His glory.*

Ezekiel 28:25 *I will show My holiness in them, for all the nations to see.*

Isaiah 33:5-6 *The Lord dwells on high, He fills Zion with justice and righteousness.*

Psalm 102:22 *The Lord looks down, He sets free His people, they praise Him in Zion.*

Jeremiah 50:28 *I hear the voices of those who flee. They praise God in Zion.*

Isaiah 49:8...*on the Day of Deliverance I came to your aid.*

Joel 2:27 *You will know that I am present in Israel and that I am your God.*

Ezekiel 20:42 *You will know that I am the Lord, when you go home to Israel.*

Isaiah 52:6 *My people will know My Name and know that it is I: the Lord who speaks.*

Isaiah 60:16 *Then you will acknowledge your Redeemer.*

Isaiah 32:15 *The Spirit from on high will be poured upon His people.*

Jeremiah 30:21 & Hosea 1:11 *A ruler will appear, one of the Israelites...*

Ezekiel 46:12 *The ruler of Israel makes offerings in the new Temple.*

Reference: REB, NIV. Some verses abridged.

The Day of the Lord's vengeance and wrath in the Holy Land

Ezekiel 21:2-7 *Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem and prophesy against the Land of Israel. My sword will be drawn against everyone from the Negev to the North, it will kill both the righteous and wicked alike. All courage will fail - it will surely take place.*

Ezekiel 21:10-14 *My sword is sharpened to kill, even the sceptre of My Royal Son. Testing will surely come and what if the sceptre of Judah, which the sword despises, does not continue? Swing the sword three times, the great sword of slaughter. [1st time - 585BC, 2nd time - 69/70AD, 3rd time- to come]*

Jeremiah 8:5-12 *Judah has no remorse or repentance, How can you say: We have the Law, when your scribes have falsified it? For all, high and low are out for ill-gotten gain, your prophets and rabbis are frauds, every one of them. This wicked race would rather die than live. They say: All is well; no, nothing is well, they will all fall with a great crash on the Day of Reckoning. You will be as dung spread on the ground. Then, I will give the Land to new owners.*

Ezekiel 16:35-63 *Listen you harlot: Because of your brazen excesses...I shall bring you to trial for adultery and murder...You must bear the consequences of your lewd and abominable conduct, I shall treat you as you deserve, because you violated an oath and made light of a covenant.*

You will remember and be so ashamed and humiliated that you will never open your mouth again. [after the Lord's punishment and pardon]

Amos 2:4-5 *For the crimes of Judah, there will be no reprieve, they have spurned the Law of the Lord and have not observed His decrees. They have followed false gods. Therefore I shall send fire on Judah, fire will consume them.*

Hosea 8:14 *And for you, Judah, a harvest of reckoning will come, I will send fire onto your cities*

Zephaniah 1:4-6 *Judah will be judged and those who have neither sought the Lord, nor enquired of Him, will be wiped out.*

Obadiah 1:15-16 *The Day of the Lord is at hand for all the nations....you too will drink the cup of wrath that My people, Judah, must drink on My Holy mountain.*

Jeremiah 19:11 *I shall smash this people, as a clay jar is smashed beyond repair. There will be no room left to bury them all.*

Jeremiah 21:11-14 *To the Royal House of Judah....I shall punish you as you deserve. I shall set fire to your scrubland, it will consume everything around about.*

Ezekiel 20:46-47 *...I am about to kindle a fire in the Negev....it will scorch everyone in the Land.*

Zechariah 13:8-9 *It will happen throughout the Land, that 2/3 of the people will die. The 1/3 left will pass through the refining fire. They will call on Me and I will answer them....*

Isaiah 9:18-19 *Wicked men have been set ablaze. The Land is scorched and the people are fuel for the fire.*

Jeremiah 13:19 *The towns in the Negev are besieged, no one can relieve them. Judah has been swept clean away.*

Isaiah 4:3-4 *The remnant of Judah will be called holy when the Lord cleanses Zion by a Spirit of judgement burning like fire.*

Luke 19:27 *As for those enemies of Mine, who did not want Me for their King, bring them here and slaughter them*

Matthew 27:25 *His blood be upon us and our children.*

Matthew 21:41-43 *The King will bring those criminals to justice and destroy them. Therefore the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will bear its fruit.*

The Devastation of the Holy Land

Isaiah 28:22b*For I have heard that destruction is decreed upon the whole Land.*

Isaiah 10:23 *For the Lord of Hosts will bring final destruction on the whole Land.*

Ezekiel 20:47 *The Lord says: **I am about to kindle a fire**, one that will consume anything flammable. All of the Land and people from the Negev northward will be scorched by it.*

Ezekiel 21:4 *It is because **I intend to make away with both righteous and wicked alike**, that My sword of punishment is against everyone from the Negev northward.*

Jeremiah 22:6-7 *The Lord says about the Royal House of Judah: Though you are dear to Me, I swear that I shall turn your Land into a desert; **a Land of towns no longer inhabited**. A destructive host will come upon you and burn your dwellings.*

Jeremiah 21:14 *I shall punish you as you deserve, **I shall set fire to your open Land**, it will devour everything round about.*

Hosea 4:3 ***Therefore the Land will be desolate**, all that lives in it will be wasted, even the wild animals, birds and the fish of the sea will vanish.*

Jeremiah 7:34 *From the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, I shall banish all sounds of joy and gladness, **for the whole Land will become a desert**.*

Zephaniah 1:18 *On the Day of the Lord's wrath, by the fire of His jealousy, the whole Land will be consumed, for **He will make a sudden and terrible end to all who live in the Land**.*

Micah 1:6 *I shall reduce Samaria to a ruin, to a place for planting vineyards. I will level the hills and valleys; lay bare their foundations.*

Micah 5:11 ***I shall devastate the cities of your Land and destroy your military power**.*

Amos 6:11 *When the Lord commands, great houses will be reduced to rubble and the small houses shattered.*

Jeremiah 8:16 *The sound of the Destroyer approaches and the whole Land trembles, it comes and consumes everything, crops, trees, city and citizens alike.*

Joel 1:15-20 *The Day of the Lord comes; a mighty destruction from the Almighty, all food is cut off, the Land is shrivelled and dry, **for fire has consumed the pastures and every tree is burned up**. Jeremiah 25:38 *The Land has become a waste and ruined because of the fierce anger of the Lord.**

Jeremiah 10:19 *The Land says: O the pain of my wounds, I have suffered cruel injuries and am laid low, but I must endure it, because the shepherds of the people are fools and never consult the Lord; their flock is scattered.*

Jeremiah 9:10 *I shall chant a dirge over the mountains and pastures, **for all is scorched and untrodden**, I hear no sound of livestock, even the birds have fled and gone.*

Jeremiah 4:26-28 *The fertile Land has become a wilderness, its towns all razed to the ground before the fierce anger of the Lord. The Lord says: **the whole Land will be desolate, totally destroyed**. All the earth will be in mourning for this and the sky will be black. For now I have made known My purpose, I will not relent or change it.*

Isaiah 32:12 *Go into mourning for your pleasant fields and fruitful Land; for every happy home in the bustling city. **Houses are forsaken and the streets are deserted**.*

Isaiah 33:8a-9 ***The roads are deserted, the Land is parched and dry**. Lebanon is dried out, Sharon is like a desert and Bashan and Gilead are stripped bare.*

Isaiah 24:10 & 13 *The city is shattered and in chaos....all joy and merriment has gone from the Land. **Nothing but desolation is left** and the entrances to the city are smashed.*

Jeremiah 12:4 & 10-13 *How long must the country lie parched, its grass withered? No birds or beasts are left, because God has judged the wicked inhabitants, they said: God does not see what we are doing. **A sword from the Lord has devoured the Land from end to end and now its all a desolate wilderness**.*

Ref: REB, NIV, KJV. Some verses abridged.

The Regeneration of the holy Land

Ezekiel 36:8 *Prophesy over the hills and valleys of Israel: **You Land of Israel, grow your trees and yield fruit, for My people, as their homecoming is near.***

Isaiah 29:17 ***In a very short time Lebanon will return to garden land.***

Amos 9:13 *A time is coming, says the Lord, when the Land will be bountiful again.*

Zechariah 8:11-12 *The Lord says: I do not feel the same towards the remnant of this people as I did in former days. Now, they will sow in safety, the vine will yield its fruit and the soil it's produce, for the sky will give rain in due season.*

Jeremiah 33:12-13 ***In the Land, there will once more be heard sounds of joy and gladness. My people will offer praise and thanksgiving in the House of the Lord. In this place and in all the towns, now ruined and devoid of both people and animals, there will once more be flocks of sheep and people, in all of the Land of Israel.***

Joel 2:21-24 *Earth: fear not, but rejoice and be glad, for **the pastures will be green and the trees will grow**, the fig and vine will bear harvest. People of Zion, rejoice, the Lord provides food by sending rain in season, as in days of old. The threshing floors will be heaped with grain and the vats will overflow with new wine.*

Isaiah 35:6b-7 *Water will spring up in the desert, the thirsty Land will bubble with water and the mirage will become a lake. Grass will grow over all the country.*

Isaiah 66:12-14 *The Lord says: I shall make prosperity flow over My people like a river, I shall comfort them and they will flourish like the grass in springtime. The Lord will make His power known among His servants and His fury to His enemies.*

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 *On that great Day, the Lord will reveal His glory among His own and His **fiery punishment** on those who refuse to acknowledge Him.*

Isaiah 49:19 ***The Lord did indeed make His Land waste and desolate.** He razed it flat, but now the Land is too small for all its inhabitants. Those who caused its ruin are now gone.*

Psalms 24:3 ***Lord: restore now what has been completely ruined,** all the destruction that the enemy has brought upon Your sanctuary.*

Isaiah 44:3a ***I shall pour down rain** on the thirsty Land, showers onto the dry ground.*

Isaiah 51:3 *The Lord has comforted Zion, He will look with compassion on all her ruined houses. **The desert will become like Eden, like the garden of the Lord.***

Jeremiah 30:18 *I shall restore the fortunes of Jacob's clans, **every city and house will be rebuilt.***

Isaiah 32:15-20 *When the Spirit from on high is lavished upon us, then **the desert will become a garden land.** There will be justice and peace as My people live in their settled and secure country.*

Isaiah 30:23-25 *On that Day, the Lord will provide rain for the seed that you sow and the soil will produce heavy crops. Your livestock will graze in lush pastures.*

Psalms 126:1-5 *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like people renewed in health. Our mouths were full of laughter and we sang for joy! The nations said: The Lord has done great things for them and we rejoiced.*

***Restore us now, Lord, let streams flow in the desert.** Those who sow in tears, will reap with songs of joy, coming home with a bountiful harvest.*

Proverbs 10:24-25 *What the wicked dread will overtake them, what the righteous desire, will be granted. **When the whirlwind has swept past, the wicked will be gone, but the righteous will be established forever.***

Ref: REB. Some verses abridged.

The Return of Jesus is NOT the next prophesied event

2 Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no one deceive you, that Day cannot come before the final rebellion against God and the Anti Christ is revealed.*

Psalms 110 & Hebrews 10:13 *Christ waits until His enemies become his footstool.*

Psalms 11:4-6 *The Lord is in His holy place, on His heavenly throne. He looks at mankind and searches out the just and the unjust peoples. The Lord tries the unrighteous, but He hates those who do violence on them and all who deny Him and act against His Laws. On them, He will rain fiery coals and burning sulphur, a scorching wind will be their lot.*

Isaiah 10:17-19 *The Light of Israel will become a fire that in one Day will burn and consume His enemies.*

Isaiah 66:14 *The Lord will make His power known among His servants and His wrath felt among His enemies.*

Isaiah 61:2 *To proclaim a year of the Lord's favour [spoken & fulfilled at the 1st advent] and a Day of vengeance of our God. [the next prophesied event]*

Isaiah 60:1-3 *Arise and shine, Jerusalem, over you the glory of the Lord has dawned, though darkness covers the earth, on you the Lord shines. Over you, His glory will appear.*

Psalms 20:6-9 *The Lord saves His people, He answers from heaven with the saving power of His Right Hand. [Jesus] Some trust in horses and chariots, [weapons] but our trust is in the Name of the Lord, we rise up and stand firm.*

Ezekiel 20:42-44 *You will know that I am the Lord, when I bring you home to Israel. You will know that I am the Lord when I deal with you, not as you deserve, but as the honour of My Name demands.*

Ezekiel 28:26 *My people will live in their own Land in peace and security, then they will know that I am the Lord.*

Hosea 1:11 & Jeremiah 30:21 *The Israelites, in their own Land, will choose a leader from among themselves.*

Hosea 14:4-8 *...the Israelites will dwell in My shadow, I will shelter My people.*

Isaiah 66:18b-19 *I will gather peoples of every tongue, they will come to see My glory. [the Shekinah glory] I shall put a sign on them and some I shall send out to the nations who have never heard of Me. They will proclaim My Gospel to all peoples. [The Gospel of the coming Kingdom of Jesus. Revelation 14:1-7]*

Jeremiah 31:34 *In the latter days, I shall set My Law within their hearts, all the Israelites will know only Me. I will forgive their wrongdoing.*

Isaiah 32:15 *Then the spirit from on high will come upon us.*

Psalms 102:18-22 *Unborn generations will praise the Lord. He looks down from His sanctuary on high and sets free the captives from their exile. They praise Him in Jerusalem.*

Reference: REB. Some verses abridged.

The Restoration and recovery of His people

Psalm 60:1-5 *You have been displeased and rejected us, now restore us, we pray. **You have shaken the Land, it is barren and desolate. Your people are punished, but to those who love and obey You, You have raised a signal, to which they may escape. Save us and help us with Your strong Right Hand, deliver those whom You love.***

Acts 3:19-24 *Repent, therefore and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out. **Then the Lord may grant you a time of recovery.***

2 Sam. 7:10-11 *I shall place My people, Israel, in their own Land and give them peace.*

Jer. 33:6 & 25 *I shall restore the fortunes of the Land. **My people will live there. They will shout: "Praise the Lord of hosts, for He is good, His love endures forever".***

Deut 30:1-10... *the Lord will again rejoice in you, as He did over your forefathers.*

Isaiah 14:1-2 *The Lord will show compassion for Jacob & settle them on their native soil.*

Isaiah 32:15-20 ***A spirit from on high will fall upon them. Happy are His people, living in peace and security.***

Isaiah 40:1-2 *Comfort My people - their term of bondage is served, the penalty paid.*

Isaiah 49:8 ***I have destined you to be a light to all peoples. On the Day of your deliverance, I came to your aid and restored the Land.***

Isaiah 58:11-12 *The Lord will be your guide constantly. He will satisfy your needs and you will be called; the restorer of ruins.*

Isaiah 31:2-3 & 28 *A people that escaped from the sword, found favour, from afar, He appeared to them. **I shall watch over them, to build and plant.***

Jeremiah 4:1-2 *Israel, come back to Me, then the nations will pray to be blessed like you.*

Jeremiah 23:3-4 ***I will bring My sheep back to the Land. I will appoint shepherds to tend them***

Ezekiel 34:27 *When I rescue My people, they will know that I am the Lord.*

Ezekiel 36:8-18 *I will settle My people in the Land, Thus they will acknowledge Me as Lord.*

Ezekiel 38:8 ***The Land restored from ruin. My people, gathered and settled there.***

Ezekiel 39:27 ***They will exemplify My holiness for all peoples to see.***

Hosea 2:23 *Israel will be My new sowing in the Land. I will say; You are My people and you will say; You are our God.*

Psalm 12:1 *The Lord will arise, for His people are oppressed. They will live in safety.*

Psalm 29:11 ***The Lord will give strength to His people and bless them with peace.***

Psalm 37:9 *For evildoers will be destroyed, while those who trust in the Lord will enjoy prosperity in the Land.*

Psalm 69:35-36 ***God will deliver Zion, His people will possess it and settle there. Those who serve Him and love His Name, will live there.***

Psalm 80:19 *Restore us, O God, grant us new life and we shall invoke You by name.*

Psalm 85:1-3 *Lord, You have blessed Your Land... and turned Your anger away from us.*

Psalm 107:1-3 ***Let those redeemed by the Lord, give thanks, His people, gathered from around the world.***

Psalm 147:14 ***The Lord has brought peace and plenty to His Land.***

Ref: REB. Some verses abridged

The Lord's Day of Vengeance and Wrath is before the Gathering of His People

Isaiah 26:20-21 **Go My people, enter your rooms and hide until the Lord's wrath has passed.** The Lord is coming from His dwelling place to judge the earth.

Isaiah 10:17-22 **Destruction is decreed.....only a remnant will return to the Land.**

Psalms 69:22-36 **Our enemies cannot see the punishment coming upon them.** Let Your burning anger overtake them, let their towns and houses be deserted. Take heart, you seekers after the Lord, for He will deliver Zion and restore the Land. His people will settle there and possess the holy Land. The children of those who serve Him will inherit it and those who love Him will live there.

Amos 9:5 & 11-12 **At the wrath of the Lord, the earth surges and heaves, all who live on it mourn.** On that Day, I shall restore David's fallen house and repair it to as it was long ago, so that Israel may possess what is left of Edom and all of the nations once named as Mine.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 **Jesus comes in blazing fire to punish all the godless peoples.** On that Day, He will reveal His glory among all believers.
[NOT the Return in glory, seen by the whole world]

Isaiah 30:26 **The sun will shine with seven times its normal strength on the Day the Lord heals the wounds of His people.**

Jeremiah 30:4-9 **A Day of terror, do not despair, I will bring you back from afar.**

Isaiah 61:2-3**a Day of vengeance of our God, comfort to those who mourn.....**

Isaiah 35:1-10 **Be strong My people, your God will save you. Return to Zion.**

Isaiah 29:17-21 **In a very short time..... the lowly will exult in Israel.**

Isaiah 32:15-20 **The Land is forsaken and desolate....then the wilderness will become a garden Land and My people will dwell in peace.**

Habakkuk 3:1-19 **The Lord's Day of vengeance and wrath, then the Land starts to bud and flower.**

Isaiah 57:12-15.... **when disaster comes, your strength will vanish, but those who trust in Me will possess the Land.** Prepare the way, let My people come to the place of My dwelling.

Ezekiel 34:11-16 **I will rescue My sheep that were scattered in the Day of darkness.**

Luke 1:51-55 **The Lord shows the might of His arm, He routs the proud and all their schemes.....He shows mercy to Abraham's children's children forever.**

2 Peter 3:12-13 **Look forward to the coming of the Day of the Lord and work to hasten it on; that Day will set the heavens ablaze until the sky dissipates and the earth is enveloped in flames. But relying on His promise, we look forward to a renewed heavens and a regenerated earth, where His people will live in righteousness and justice.**

Ref: REB, NIV. Some verse abridged.

The Lord's People After the Day of Vengeance and Wrath

Psalm 91:14-16 *When you call, I shall answer, rescue you in times of trouble.*

Isaiah 24:4 *Truly You have been a refuge for Your people in their time of distress. A shelter from the tempest, shade from the heat.*

Psalm 20:6-8 *Victory will come to the Lord and those who rely on Him, will rise up and stand firm.* [God!

Psalm 70:4 *Let all who seek the Lord rejoice! All who long for His rescue, will shout: All glory to*

Isaiah 57:15b *I shall revive the spirit of the humble and restore the courage of the broken.*

Jeremiah 51:50 *You that escaped the sword, go - do not linger. Remember the Lord from afar and let Jerusalem come to your mind.*

Isaiah 46:4 *Till you grow old, I shall carry you away to safety.*

Psalm 97:10-12 *The Lord's servants are kept safe. A harvest of light comes to the righteous.*

Psalm 107:1-43 *Give thanks, you who are redeemed by the Lord, saved from the power of the enemy and gathered from all the world.....the poor He lifts clear of troubles.*

Isaiah 24:14-16a *People from all over the world will acclaim the Lord, from the coasts and islands, they sing; giving glory to the Righteous One.*

Isaiah 49:9-11 *I say to those in exile: go free, come out to a Land of plenty. It will not be too hot, the Lord who loves them, will guide them.*

Isaiah 52:11-12 *Go out of Babylon....you will not flee in haste, the Lord will guide and guard you.*

Zechariah 10:8-9 *Though My people are dispersed in far off lands, they will remember Me, for I shall whistle and call them in, for I have delivered them.*

Jeremiah 16:14-18 *I will send for fishermen and hunters to find all the Israelites.*

Isaiah 49:22-23 *I shall beckon to the nations, they will carry you and serve you. They will bow before you and none who look to Me will be disappointed.*

Isaiah 60:9 *Vessels assemble from the coasts and islands, bringing the children of Israel, their wealth with them - from far away.*

Jeremiah 30:10 & 18 *Do not be afraid, My servants, I will bring you back safe from afar. I shall restore your fortunes, your towns will be rebuilt.*

Jeremiah 32:37-41 *I shall gather My people from every place where I have banished them. I will do them good, when I plant them in this Land.*

Ezekiel 20:34-36 *I shall bring you out of the nations....to the Meeting place in the desert. I shall judge you and those who revolt and rebel will not enter that Land.*

Jeremiah 33:12-13 *In this Land, there will once more be heard sounds of joy and gladness. My people will offer praise and thanksgiving in the House of the Lord. In this place, ruined and empty of people and animals, there will again be flocks of people and sheep, in all of the Land of Israel.*

Micah 7:18-20 *God will forgive the sins of the remnant of His people. The promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be fulfilled.*

Isaiah 32:15-17 *Then the Spirit from on high will come upon us. The Land will flourish and justice and righteousness will fill the Land, peace and quiet rest will prevail forever.*

Colossians 1:11-12 *In His glorious might, may He give you ample strength to meet with fortitude and patience whatever comes. Give joyful thanks to the Father who has made you fit to share the heritage of His people in the Kingdom of light.*

Reference: Revised English Bible. Some verses abridged.

The Second Exodus of the Israelites

- 2 Chronicles 6:36-39 *If your people sin against You and in Your anger, they are sent out of the holy Land, but then; if they turn back in penitence - confessing their sins in true sincerity, then: I ask, hear their prayer and uphold their rights.*
- Isaiah 51:5-6 *In an instant I will bring victory, My Deliverance will appear to My people. **Look, although the sky is dispersed like smoke and people die like flies,** My saving power to you will be everlasting. [Protection on the Lord's Day of wrath - a CME sunstrike]*
- Psalms 66:12 *We have been downtrodden and **passed through fire,** but now You bring us into a place of plenty.*
- Psalms 68:19-27 *Blessed is the Lord, He is our salvation, He smites our enemies. The Lord says: I shall bring My people back from their dispersion - now look: The procession of the twelve tribes comes into view, singing and dancing as they return to the Land.*
- Isaiah 30:29 ***For you there will be songs and gladness as you march to the Lord's holy Land.***
- Isaiah 11:11-16 *On that Day, the Lord will exert His power a second time to recover the remnant of His people, He makes a signal to the nations and will gather all those dispersed of Israel, from every corner of the earth. The enmity between Judah and Israel will cease.*
- Isaiah 41:8-10 *Have no fear, My people - the descendants of My friend, Abraham. I have not rejected you, now I summon you from the four corners of the earth; I am with you and will give you strength.*
- Isaiah 49:8-23 *At the appointed time of My favour, I will answer you, on the Day of deliverance I come to your aid. I have prepared you and destined you to be a light to the nations. You will go free from every place where you were exiled; **the Lord will guide and comfort you, as you assemble back into your heritage.***
- Isaiah 54:7 & 2-3 *For a passing moment I cast you off, now with tender affection I shall bring you home again. Enlarge your space, for you will dispossess nations and live in cities made empty and desolate. [The Mid East, depopulated by the Lord's Day of wrath]*
- Isaiah 55:14 *You will be restored triumphantly, you will have nothing to fear.*
- Jeremiah 3:14-18 *Come back, you apostate people! I shall take a few of you and bring you to Zion. **I will give you leaders with understanding,** never again be led astray.*
- Jeremiah 30:4-11 *The Day of terror comes, everyone grips their sides in fright. It is a Day of anguish for Jacob, but he will come through it safely. On that Day, I shall break the yoke of servitude off My people, I will bring you back safe from afar, Jacob will be at rest once more, I will discipline you only as you deserve.*
- Isaiah 60:4-12 *Look: The people are coming, some from far away, in vessels that sail along like the clouds, that fly like doves. [aircraft] They bring their treasures with them, and flocks of livestock will be acceptable offerings on the altar of My Temple.*
- Isaiah 61:2b-11 *....a Day of vengeance of our God, then comfort to all who mourn, they will be called 'trees of righteousness', planted by the Lord. They will rebuild the ruined cities; aliens will help you bring the Land back to prosperity. Great will be your wealth and renown.*
- Isaiah 66:18-20 *I am coming to gather **peoples of every tongue;** they will come to see My glory. From the entire world, in every type of conveyance, they come as an offering to the Lord.*
- Jeremiah 16:14-16 *The time is coming when I shall bring the Israelites back to the soil that I gave to their forefathers, I will fish and hunt in every place to find them all.*
- Jeremiah 30:18-22 *I shall restore the fortunes of Jacobs clans, the houses will be rebuilt and the Land made prosperous. **A ruler will appear, one of themselves - he will approach Me.***
- Jeremiah 23:3 *I, Myself will gather the remnant of My sheep from all the lands to which I have dispersed them; I shall bring them back to their rightful homes and they will be fruitful and increase.*

Continued -

Jeremiah 31:1-40 *At that time, I shall be the God of all the families of Israel and they will be My people. Those who survive My sword of punishment, will find My favour. Virgin Israel - I will build you up again, again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria. Give shouts of joy and go forth with a merry throng of dancers!*

*There is hope for the posterity of Israel, their children will return to within their own borders. **The days are coming when Jerusalem will be rebuilt to the Lord's honour.***

Jeremiah 32:1-15 Jeremiah is told to go and buy a field and to seal the title deed into a jar, to be kept for a distant future time, when once again all Israel will live in the Land.

Jeremiah 32:37-41 *I shall gather My people from every place where I have banished them. It will be a joy to Me to do them good when I plant them in this Land.*

Jeremiah 33:6-9 *Now I shall bring healing and care to Israel and Judah, they will see lasting peace and security. I will cleanse them of all the sins they have committed in their rebellion against Me. Their Land will be famous for its prosperity.*

Jeremiah 46:27-28 *Israel, My servants: do not be afraid, from afar I will bring you back safe, your children with you, from all the countries where they are now in exile. Don't worry, for I am with you, I shall punish the nations, but you - I will discipline only as you deserve.*

Jeremiah 50:4-6 *At that time, Israel and Judah will come together and in tears go in search of their God, they will go to Zion and bind themselves to the Lord. My people are like lost sheep, forgetful of their rightful fold. [Their Land]*

Jeremiah 29:13-14 *When you seek Me, I shall let you find Me. I shall restore your fortunes and will gather you from your banishment and resettle you in the place from which I sent you into exile.*

Ezekiel 11:15-20 *The whole people of Israel [the 10 tribes] to whom Judah [the Jews] have said: The Land is now ours to possess. The Lord says: When I sent Israel far away around the world, for a while I was their protector and blessed them wherever they lived. [The blessings of Jacob; Genesis 49] I shall gather My people from their dispersion and give the Land of Israel to them. I will remove their hearts of stone and put a new spirit in them. They will be My people and I will be their God.*

Ezekiel 20:34 *By My outpoured wrath, [the Lord's Day of vengeance and wrath] I shall bring you out from the nations and gather you from wherever you are dispersed.*

Ezekiel 28:24-26 *No longer will the Israelites suffer threats from their neighbours. When they are settled on their own soil, they will display My holiness for all the world to see. [Jesus is not yet present in His glory, as it is His people who 'display His holiness', Ezekiel 39:27]*

Ezekiel 36:8-12 *But you; Land of Israel, grow your trees and bear fruit for the homecoming of My people is near. I shall settle in you many people, the towns again inhabited and the fields tilled, more people and more prosperous than in days of old.*

Ezekiel 37:1-28 The great spiritual regeneration and rejoining of all the Israelites.

Hosea 1:11 *The people of Israel and Judah will be reunited and will choose for themselves one leader. Great will be the Day of Jezreel. [Jezreel= all righteous Israel.]*

Hosea 2:14-23 *Now, I shall woo and encourage the Israelites. They will be My new sowing in the holy Land, they will live there without fear, in prosperity and peace.*

Hosea 11:8-11 *I will not let loose My fury on Israel, a change of heart moves Me, they will now follow Me when I call, they will come like birds back to their own Land.*

Hosea 14:4-8 *I shall heal My peoples apostasy, I will love them freely, they will dwell in My shadow and will flourish like a vine. [in His shadow, not His presence, as yet]*

Joel 2:18-19 *The Lord showed His love for the Land and had compassion on His people.*

Micah 2:12-13 *I shall assemble you, the whole House of Jacob, herd you like sheep in a fold. They will all break out of their exile, the Lord showing the way.*

The Blessings to His people as they go back to the Land

Jeremiah 33:6-14 **See this Land: it lies in ruins, inhabited by neither man or animals.** Yet in this place, once more will be heard the sounds of joy and happiness, for I will restore the fortunes of My Land and people. The days are coming, says the Lord, when I shall bestow on Judah and Israel all the blessings I have promised to them.

Isaiah 30:18 *The Lord is waiting to show you His favour. He yearns to have pity on you, for the Lord is full of justice. Happy are you who wait on Him.*

Isaiah 54:4-10... *For a passing moment I forsook you, but with tender affection I shall bring you home again....My covenant promising peace will not be shaken.*

Hosea 2:14-23 *But now I shall woo her and restore her vineyards. I shall betroth her to Myself, making her faithful, they will know the Lord. Israel will be My new sowing in the Land, I will show love to Israel and Judah and say to them 'You are My people'. They will say 'You are our God'.*

Hosea 14:4-7 *I shall heal My peoples apostasy and love them freely, for My anger is turned away from them. I shall be as dew to Israel that they may flower and put forth shoots. I am the tree that shelters you; your prosperity comes from Me.*

Isaiah 52:6 *On that Day My people will know My name and know that it is the Lord who speaks, here I am.*

Ezekiel 34:22-31 *Therefore, I shall save My flock and they will be ravaged no more..... You are the flock that I feed and I am your God.*

Isaiah 65:24-25 *Even before My people call to Me, I shall answer. Neither hurt nor harm will be done in all of My holy Land.*

Zechariah 8:13-15 *To the nations, you Judah and Israel have been as a curse, now I shall save you and you will become a blessing. Courage! Do not lose heart.*

Isaiah 46:4 *Till you grow old, I am the Lord and when white hairs come, I will carry you still. I have made you and I shall uphold you. I shall carry you away to safety.*

Psalms 105:43-44 *The Lord led out His people in triumph. He gave them lands of the heathen nations for their possession.*

Isaiah 65:20-23 *My people will build and plant for themselves, they will enjoy the fruit of their labour. They will be as long lived as a tree.*

Jeremiah 31:23-28 *...The days are coming when I shall sow Israel and Judah with the seed of man and the seed of livestock. As I inflicted disasters upon them, now I shall watch over them to build and to plant.*

Ezekiel 36:8-12 **Now you: Land of Israel, grow your plants and bear fruit for the homecoming of My people is near. The whole House of Israel will come, very many people and you will be their possession.**

Psalms 147:2-3 *The Lord gathers the scattered Israelites, He heals their broken spirit and binds their wounds. He rebuilds Jerusalem.*

Joel 3:18 **When that Day comes the Land will be well watered and productive.**

Isaiah 32:15-20 *The Spirit from on high will come upon the people, then the Land will become a well watered beautiful garden; a tranquil country, its people living in peace and security.*

Romans 8:18 *For I consider that the sufferings of the present times are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.*

Psalms 37:29 **The righteous will possess the Land and will live there forever.**

Entering the Promised Land

Isaiah 62:10 *Hoist a signal to the peoples, clear a road, go out you people of Zion.*

Isaiah 49:11-12 ***I shall make a highway for My people, they come from every direction.***

Isaiah 40:1-4 *Comfort My people, their penalty is paid. Prepare a highway through the waste lands, make smooth the way.*

Isaiah 11:11-12 ***On that Day, the Lord will recover the remnant of His people from the four corners of the world.***

Ezekiel 37:21-22 *I am going to take the Israelites from their places of exile around the world, assemble them and restore them to their own soil. Israel and Judah will rejoin and one leader will rule over them all. Jeremiah 30:21, Hosea 1:11*

Micah 2:12 *I shall assemble the whole House of Jacob [the 12 tribes of Israel] and gather you like sheep into a sheep yard, the Lord will lead the way. 1 Cor. 10:4 [wrath.*

Ezekiel 34:11-12 *Now I will search for My sheep...where they are scattered on the Day of*
Hosea 8:10 *I will now round up My people...*

Zechariah 8:7-8 ***I am about to rescue My people, from all the countries they are in and bring them back to live in Zion. They will be My people and I will be their God.***

Isaiah 60:1-9 *Jerusalem, your Light will shine on you, your sons and daughters are coming back to you. Vessels assemble to bring your children from far away.*

Jeremiah 16:15-16 *I shall hunt for My people from wherever they are now dispersed and bring them back to the Land that I gave to their forefathers.*

Zechariah 10:8-10 ***I shall whistle to call in My people, for I have delivered them and they will be as many as they used to be. Though dispersed among the nations, they will remember Me. I will lead them into the Land until there is no more room for them.***

Isaiah 52:11-12 *Go out of Babylon, [the ungodly nations] keep yourselves pure, you will not leave like fugitives or in urgent haste. The Lord will go before you, to guide and guard you.*

Isaiah 66:20 ***From every nation you will be brought, on every kind of transport...***

Isaiah 35:8-10 *A highway will appear, the Way of Holiness, by that way all those the Lord has redeemed will enter Zion, with shouts of triumph and great joy.*

Isaiah 49:9-13 *I will lead My people along paths beside streams, they will neither hunger or thirst, nor will scorching heat affect them. They come, some from far away, in every direction, on level highways, for the Lord comforts them in their distress.*

Jeremiah 31:8-9 *See how I bring My people from every part of the earth, the blind, lame and pregnant women among them. They are a vast company, weeping as they come home, but I shall comfort them and lead them on smooth paths.*

Isaiah 30:21 ***A voice from behind you will tell you the right path to follow.***

Isaiah 58:11-12 *The Lord will be your guide and will satisfy your needs in the desert. You will rebuild the ruins, you will be called the restorers of the Land.*

Ezekiel 39:25-29 *I will show compassion and restore all Israel, they will live once more in their homeland, free from their enemies. I will leave none of them behind.*

Ezekiel 20:42 *You will know that I am the Lord, [not present as yet, before the Return of Jesus] when I bring you home to the Land of Israel. The Land I swore to give to your ancestors.*

Psalms 68:7-10 *Lord, You go before Your people, marching through the barren wastelands. When Your Land languishes You restore it. You send rain and there Your people settle. In Your goodness, You provide for the needy. [The same as the First Exodus. 1 Cor. 9:3-4]*

Hosea 2:14-23 *Now, I shall woo them and lead them into the wilderness, I will restore themthey will be My new sowing in the Land. I will say: 'You are My people' and they will say: 'You are our God'. [The Lord is not seen - the same as the 1st Exodus]*

Micah 7:11-12 *The Day the people return to the Land will be a Day to extend your boundaries.*

Ezekiel 36:8-12 *The Land will become fruitful and the whole House of Israel will settle there, they will increase, more prosperous than in ancient days. Ref: REB. Some verses abridged. 28*

Understanding

Deuteronomy 29:4 *To this day, the Lord has not given you a mind to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.*

Deuteronomy 32:28-29 ***The Israelites are a nation devoid of good counsel, they lack proper understanding. If only they had the wisdom to discern what their end is to be!***

Isaiah 6:9-10 *The Lord said to the Israelites: However hard you listen, you will never understand, however hard you look, you will never perceive. **My people's wits are dulled;** they have stopped their ears and closed their eyes, so now they cannot hear, see or understand how they could be healed. Matthew 13:13*

Isaiah 29:9-11 ***If you confuse yourselves, you will stay ignorant, for the Lord has poured on you a spirit of deep stupor and you have no prophets now. The prophetic Word has become for you like the words in a sealed book.***

Isaiah 48:6-8 *You have heard what I have said; consider it well, it is the truth. From now on, I will show you new things....because your understanding has been blocked.*

Isaiah 56:10-11 ***The watchmen of Israel are blind and dumb. They understand nothing, all of them going their own way and intent on their own gain.***

Jeremiah 23:20 *The Lord's anger is not to be turned aside until He has fully accomplished His purposes. In days to come, you will truly understand.*

Psalms 53:4-5 *Have they no understanding? Those evildoers who make trouble for My people, those who refuse to acknowledge the true God.*

Psalms 119:169 *Let my cry of joy reach You, Lord and give me understanding as You have promised.*

Isaiah 43:8 *Bring forward My people, those who have eyes, but are blind. Have ears but, cannot hear.*

Ezekiel 12:2 *These people cannot see or hear the Word, because they are rebellious.*

Jeremiah 6:10 ***To whom shall I speak, to whom give warning? The people are incapable of listening, for they treat the Lord's Word as a reproach.***

Jeremiah 33:3 *If you call to Me, I shall answer and tell you of great and mysterious things, of which you are still unaware.*

Daniel 2:22 *God reveals deep mysteries, He knows all things.*

Daniel 12:4-9 ***Keep the Words secret until the time of the end, many will search hard to find this knowledge, but will not succeed.***

Isaiah 29:23-24 *...when My people see what I have done in their midst, **then** they will praise their Maker and regard the Lord with awe and the confused will gain understanding and the obstinate will accept instruction. Isaiah 35:5-6*

Isaiah 42:18-19 *You that are deaf hear now! You that are blind, look and see!*

Isaiah 32:3-4 ***Then My people will see and hear clearly, those who could not 'see it' or 'hear the prophetic message', will finally understand and know the truth.***

2 Peter 1:19 *You will do well to study the Words of the prophets, They will shine like a lamp into a dark place to illuminate your mind.*

Matthew 11:25...***Father, You hide these things from the learned and the wise and reveal them to the uneducated.***

Ref. REB. Some verses abridged.

Most People will Understand God's Plans only After the Lord's Day of Wrath

Revelation 3:3 *If you don't wake up, I will come upon you like a thief and you won't know the moment of My coming.*

Deuteronomy 29:4 *But to this day, the Lord has not given you a mind to understand, or eyes to see, or ears to hear.*

Isaiah 56:10 *All Israel's watchmen are blind, perceiving nothing, they are like dumb dogs that cannot bark.*

Jeremiah 6:10 *To whom shall I speak? To whom give warning, who will hear me? The peoples ears are blocked, they are incapable of listening, they treat the Lord's Word as a reproach.*

Psalms 74:9 *We cannot see any sign, we have no prophets now.*

Isaiah 29:10-14 *For you the whole vision is nothing but words in a sealed book.*

Isaiah 6:9b-10 *However hard you look and listen, you will never perceive.*

Isaiah 48:8 *You don't understand, because your ears were stopped long ago.*

Psalms 94:5 *Understand, O dullest of people; when will you be wise?*

Deuteronomy 32:28-29 *My people are a nation devoid of understanding. If only they had the wisdom to discern what their end will be!*

Daniel 12:9-10 *None of the wicked will understand, only the wise leaders of My people.*

Amos 8:11-13 *People will search for the truth, but will not find it.*

Isaiah 48:6 *You have heard what I have said, consider it well, it is the truth. From now on I show you new things, hidden things, that you did not know before.*

Matthew 11:25 *Father, You have hidden Your secrets from the learned and revealed them to the simple.[the uneducated]*

2 Peter 1:19 *Study the messages of the prophets, they shine like a lamp in a dark place and when the Day breaks, they will illuminate your mind.*

Psalms 119:17-18 *Grant this to me, Your servant, let me live so that I may keep Your Word. Take the veil from my eyes, that I may see the wonders of Your Word.*

Jeremiah 23:20 *..in days to come, you will understand.*

Daniel 2:21 *God is all powerful, He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

Psalms 119:169 *May my cry come before You, give me understanding according to Your Word.*

Hosea 14:9 *Let the wise consider these things, let the discerning understand them.*

Isaiah 43:8 *Bring forth this people, a people whose eyes are blind, whose ears are deaf.*

Isaiah 35:4-5 *Be strong, fear not; the Lord comes to save you, with His vengeance and retribution. THEN the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.*

Isaiah 42:18-20 *You that are deaf; hear now, you that are blind; look and see! Who is so deaf and blind as My servant, the messenger that I send, the one who has My trust?*

Isaiah 29:18 *On that Day, the deaf will hear and the blind will see.*

Isaiah 29:24 *Then the confused will gain understanding and the obstinate will take instruction.*

Isaiah 32:3-4 *Then those who see and hear will understand clearly, the impetuous mind will know and the stammering tongue will speak fluently and plainly.*

Isaiah 41:17-20 *The poor and needy [His people] look for water and find none, but I, the Lord, shall provide for their wants, I shall open springs of water and grow crop and trees. So all may see and understand that it is the Lord who does these things.*

Jeremiah 3:15 *In the Land, I shall give you leaders with knowledge and understanding.*

Ref: REB. Some verses abridged.

Teaching the Word

Psalm 78:1-8 *My People, mark My Words, I shall tell you a meaningful story, I shall expound the riddle of things past. Things that our forefathers have told us - the wonderful acts of the Lord to His people. The Lord laid upon Jacob a solemn charge to teach his descendants, to repeat through the generations, for them to put their trust in God, to remember His great deeds for them and to keep His commandments. Not to do as their ancestors did - a disobedient and rebellious generation, their hearts not fixed firmly on the Lord.*

Jeremiah 24-26 *Your ancestors did not listen to the prophets I sent.* Zechariah 7:12

Hosea 3:6 *Want of knowledge has been the ruin of My people....*

Isaiah 28:9-11 *Who is there that can be taught? Who makes sense of what he hears? They are like babes, newly weaned. So now, in another tongue, the Lord will address this people.*

Isaiah 55:1-3 *Come for water and food, [the Law and the Commandments] get My instruction at no cost. Listen to Me and you will fare well, you will enjoy the best of food, hear Me and you will have life.*

Isaiah 48:17 *Thus says the Lord your redeemer: I will teach you for your own wellbeing and lead you in the way you should go.*

Jeremiah 16:21 *Therefore I am teaching My people once and for all, of My power and might and they will learn that My Name is the Lord.*

Psalm 25:8-9 *The Lord is good and upright, therefore He teaches sinners the way they should go. He guides the humble in right conduct, teaching them His Laws.*

Psalm 27:11-12 *Teach me Your way Lord, do not give me up to the greed of my enemies. Lead me by a level path, so I can escape the troubles that beset me, those liars that threaten harm.*

Psalm 32:8 *I shall teach you and guide you the way you should go, I will keep you under My eye.*

Psalm 86:11 *Lord teach me Your way, that I may walk in Your truth.*

Isaiah 51:4-8 *Listen to Me, My people, My instruction will shine forth from Me and My judgement will dawn upon you. In an instant the sky will be dispersed like smoke, the earth will become tattered and torn and many people will die, but you who keep My Laws - do not fear your enemies, do not let their reviling dismay you. For My saving power is unbroken and My Deliverance will be everlasting*

Isaiah 2:2-3 *In days to come the Lord's House will be raised above the mountains and many people will say: Let us go up to the Lord's House, that he may teach us His ways, for instruction comes from Zion and the Word from Jerusalem.*

Jeremiah 31:34 *No longer will My people teach one another, they will all know the Lord.*

Matthew 23:10 *Do not call yourself 'Teacher', for you have one teacher - the Messiah.*

James 3:1 *My friends, not many of you should become teachers, because you may be certain that we who teach will ourselves face a severer judgement.*

2 Peter 2:1-3 *In the past there were false prophets and now there are false teachers among you. They will gain many adherents to their destructive theories, bringing the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed for money, they will trade on peoples credulity with sheer fabrications.*

Ref: REB, Some verses abridged.

Psalm 119 ; the first verses of each stanza.

- v1 *Happy are they whose life is blameless, who walk according to the Law.*
- v9 *How may a young person lead a blameless life? By living according to Your Word.*
- v17 *Grant this to me, Your servant: let me live, so that I may keep Your Word.*
- v25 *I lie prone in the dust, revive me according to Your Word.*
- v30 *I have chosen the path of faithfulness, I have set Your decrees before me.*
- v35 *Make me go in the path of Your commandments, for that is my delight.*
- v41 *Let Your love descend on me; Your deliverance as You promised.*
- v49 *Keep in mind the Word spoken to Your servant, that which You have taught me to fix my hope.*
- v57 *You are my portion, Lord, I have promised to keep Your Laws.*
- v65 *You have dealt kindly with Your servant, fulfilling Your Word.*
- v73 *Your hands made and formed me, give me understanding to learn Your commandments.*
- v81 *I long with all my heart for Your deliverance, in Your Word, I put my hope.*
- v89 *Your Word is everlasting, Lord, it is firmly fixed in heaven.*
- v97 *How I love Your Laws, I meditate on them all day long.*
- v105 *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
- v113 *I hate double minded people, but I love Your Law.*
- v121 *I have done what is just and right, You will not abandon me to my oppressors.*
- v129 *Your instruction is wonderful, therefore I gladly keep it.*
- v137 *How just You are, Lord, how straight and true are Your decrees.*
- v145 *I call with my whole heart, answer me, Lord. I shall keep Your statutes.*
- v153 *See the trouble I am in and set me free, for I do not forget Your Laws.*
- v161 *I am persecuted without cause, but Your Word is my mainstay.*
- v169-176 *Let my cry reach You, as promised You give me knowledge and understanding.
May Your hand be quick to help me, I long for Your deliverance.
I have strayed like a lost sheep, come now and search for Your servant.
Let me live to praise You, I am Yours, keep me safe, I pray.*

Ref: Revised English Bible.

Chapter Two – ARTICLES FROM THE APOCRYPHA

The Wisdom of Solomon

- 1:7-11 The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole earth and that which holds all things together, knows well everything that is done and said. The doings of a godless person will be brought to account, the proof of his iniquity will come before the Lord.
- Wisdom 1:12-16 Do not court disaster or death by living a wicked life, for God takes no pleasure in the destruction of any living thing. Death has no sovereignty on earth, for justice is eternal; but the godless, by their deeds and words have asked death for his company. They have made a pact with him because they are fit members of his party.
- Wisdom 2:1-9 They say to themselves: Our life is short and full of trouble, by chance we were born and then we vanish like the mist. Come then, let us enjoy good things while we can- this is the life for us, revelry and pleasure. For us, let might be right! Let us set traps for the just person, they stand in our way. He knows God, so he says- he styles himself 'a child of God'. He is a living condemnation of our way of thinking. We will condemn him to death, for if what he says is true, he will have a protector. So they thought, blinded by their own sins, they fail to understand God's hidden plan. They never realised a holy and righteous life would have its recompense. It was the devil who brought death into the world and those who take his side will experience it.
- Wisdom 3:1-10 The souls of the just are in God's hand, no torment will touch them. In the eyes of the foolish, they are killed and their death reckoned as a defeat. But they are at peace, for though, in the sight of men they may suffer punishment, they have a sure hope of immortality. God has tested them and found them worthy to be His. He put them to the proof like gold in a crucible and found them acceptable. In the time of their judgement, they will shine in glory. They will be judges and rulers over nations and peoples and the Lord will be their King forever. Those who have put their trust in Him, they are His chosen and grace and mercy will be theirs. But the godless will meet with the punishment their evil actions deserve, because they took no heed of justice and rebelled against God.
- Wisdom 5:1-8 On the Day of reckoning, the just man will take his stand, to confront those who oppressed him and made light of his sufferings. At the sight of him there will be terror and confusion, they are astounded at his unforeseen deliverance. Remorseful, groaning and gasping for breath, they will say: this man was once the target for our contempt. Fools that we were, we held his way of life madness and his end dishonourable. To think he is now counted as a son of God!

Reference: Revised English Bible Apocrypha, some verses abridged.

Continued:

Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-5 Love justice, you people of the earth, set your mind upon the Lord and seek Him in purity of heart. For He is to be found by those who trust Him without question and He makes Himself known to those who never doubt Him. Dishonest thinking cuts people off from God and if fools think they can abrogate His Laws, He shows them up for what they are. Wisdom will not enter a shifty soul, nor make her home in a body that is mortgaged to sin. The Holy Spirit will shun falsehood, she cannot stay in the presence of unreason, and will withdraw at the approach of injustice.

Wisdom of Solomon 13:1-9 What born fools are all who live in ignorance of their Creator! From the good things before their eyes, they cannot learn to know Him and fail to recognize the Maker, though they observe His handiwork. Fire, the wind, the sun and moon - these they make their gods.

If in the beauty of these things, people suppose them to be gods, they should understand how much better and greater, must be He who made them. For the greatness and beauty of created things gives us some idea of the Creator. Perhaps these people are really seeking God, but with enough understanding to speculate about the Universe, why can't they realize that there must be a Maker.

Wisdom 14:22-31 Then, not content with crass error in their knowledge of God, people live in deep ignorance and call this evil, peace. They perform secret ceremonies and the frenzied orgies of unnatural cults. The purity of life and marriage is abandoned. All is chaos, bloody murder, theft and fraud, corruption, treachery, riot, adultery, sexual perversion, and honest folk driven to distraction. For the worship of idols, whose names it is wrong even to mention, is the beginning, the cause and the end of every evil. Judgement will overtake them on two counts- because in their devotion to idols, they have denied God and because in their contempt for religion, they have perjured themselves.

Wisdom 15:1-3 But you, our God, are kind and true and patient, a merciful Ruler of all there is. Even if we sin, we are Yours, since we acknowledge Your power. But because we know we are accounted as Yours, we shall not sin. To know You is the whole of righteousness and to acknowledge Your power is the root of immortality.

Wisdom 19:13-22 On the sinners, however, punishment comes, heralded by violent thunderbolts. They suffer justly for their own wickedness, because their hatred of strangers and the oppression of Your people.

Reference; Revised English Bible Apocrypha, abridged.

SUFFERING FROM LACK OF WISDOM

What is wisdom?

Job 28:28 *The fear of the Lord is wisdom and to turn from evil, that is understanding.*

Psalm 53:1 *Only a fool says; there is no God.*

Where can wisdom be found?

Job 28:20 *Where, then, does wisdom come from? v23 God alone understands the way to it; He alone knows its source.*

Micah 6:8 *The Lord has told you mortals what is good and what it is that the Lord requires of you; only to act justly, to love loyalty, to walk humbly with you God.*

Deut 4:6 *Observe My lawsshow your wisdom to the nations.*

Who gets wisdom?

Dan 2:21 *God gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have discernment.*

1 Corinthians 1:21 *As God in His wisdom ordained, the world failed to find Him by its wisdom, and He chose the folly of the Gospel to save those who have faith. V23 The Gospel proclaims Christ crucified and resurrected; this offends the Jews and is foolishness to the Gentiles, yet to those who are called, Christ is the power and wisdom of God.*

Matthew 11:25 *..these things hidden from the learned and wise and revealed to the simple.*

James 1:5-6 *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God and it will be given you.*

But whoever asks must ask in faith, with no doubts in their mind.

Proof of wisdom.

James 3:13 *Which of you is wise or learned? ... practical proof is by your right conduct.*

V17 *The wisdom from God is pure, peace loving, considerate and open minded. Sincere, compassionate and deeds of kindness are its fruit.*

Matthew 11:19 *Gods wisdom is proved right by its results.*

His people

Hosea 4:6 *My People rejected knowledge and wisdom, so will I, your God forsake you.*

Jeremiah 4:22 *My people are fools, they have no understanding.*

Isaiah 29:10 *The Lord has poured on you a spirit of deep stupor.*

V11 *The prophetic vision is like the words in a sealed book.*

V13 *Because this people worship Me with empty words.. their religion is but a human precept, learnt by rote.... the wisdom of the wise shall vanish.*

V17-21 *In a very short time.....the evil doers will be cut down.*

V22-24 *Therefore.... this is no time for Israel to be shamed...when they see what I have done in their midst....they will regard Israel's God with awe; the confused will gain understanding and the obstinate will accept instruction.*

Deuteronomy 32:29 *O that they were wise- consider the latter end!*

Results of gaining wisdom and righteousness

Proverbs 3:13 *Blessed is the man who finds wisdom... more profitable than gold.*

Righteousness and faith will gain you eternal life, but to gain rewards-crowns- we must live wisely and bear fruit. The righteous must also seek wisdom, as the Bible says "*Apply our hearts to wisdom to escape all these things*", that is: the punishment of unbelievers. Free will is God's plan for mankind. We choose our own path in this life. God is testing us. God tells us to watch, pray and be wise. This must make a significant difference in the results we experience, or free will is a sham. Luke 21:36 *We will stand before the Son of Man in judgement.*

One who devotes himself to study Wisdom

Ecclesiasticus 39:1-11 How different it is with one who devotes himself to reflecting on the Law of the Most High, who explores all the wisdom of the past and occupies himself with the study of prophecies!

He preserves the sayings of the famous and penetrates the subtleties of parables. The great avail themselves of his services and he appears in the presence of rulers. He travels in foreign countries, learning at first hand human good and human evil.

He makes a point of rising early to seek the Lord, his Maker; he prays to the Most High, asking pardon for his sins.

If it is the will of the mighty Lord, he will be filled with the spirit of intelligence; then he will pour forth wise sayings of his own and give thanks to the Lord in prayer.

He is directed in his counsel and knowledge by the Lord, whose secrets are his constant study. In his teaching, he will reveal his learning, and his pride will be in the Law of the Lord's covenant.

Many will praise his intelligence, and his works will never be forgotten. The memory of him will live forever and ever. The nations will tell of his wisdom and the assembled people will sing his praise. If he lives long, he will leave a name in a thousand; when he goes to his long rest, his reputation is secure. Reference: REB Apocrypha.

Job 28:20-28 *Where, then does wisdom come from? God alone knows the way to wisdom. The fear of the Lord is wisdom and to turn from evil, that is understanding.*

Daniel 2:21 *God gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have discernment.*

James 1:5-6 *If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God and it will be given to you. But, whoever asks, must ask in faith, with no doubts in their mind.*

Proverbs 3:13 *Blessed is the person who finds wisdom, it is more profitable than gold.*

Psalms 40:8-10 *God, it is my desire to do Your will. Your Law is in my heart. In the Great assembly, I have proclaimed what is right and not concealed Your unfailing truth.*

Isaiah 32:3-4 *Then those who see, will see clearly and those who hear will listen with care. The impious mind will understand and the stammerer will speak plainly.*

James 3:1 *..you may be sure that we who teach, will ourselves face a stricter judgement.*

Romans 12:16 *Do not be proud, but be ready to mix with humble people. Do not keep thinking how wise you are.*

"At about the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up, who will turn their attention to the prophesies and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamour and oppression." Quote from Sir Isaac Newton.

2 Corinthians 2:11 *For Satan must not be allowed to get the better of us, we know his wiles all too well.*

Now is the time to fulfil the prophecies

Ecclesiasticus 15:11-20 Do not say; 'The Lord is to blame for my going astray'. It is for you to avoid what he hates. Do not say; 'I was led into error'. The Lord has no use for a sinner. He hates every kind of vice, you cannot love sinful things and still fear Him.

When, in the beginning God created mankind, He left them free to make their own decisions. If you choose, you can observe the commandments, you can keep faith if you are so minded. He has set before you fire and water - reach out and make your choice.

Mortals are offered life or death, whichever they prefer will be given to them.

For great is the wisdom of the Lord, He is mighty in power and all seeing. His eyes are on all, no human action escapes His notice. He has commanded no one to be impious, to none has he given a licence to sin.

Ecclesiasticus 16:6-17 Where sinners assemble, fire breaks out - retribution blazes up when a nation is disobedient. There was no pardon for the giants of old who rebelled in their strength. There was no reprieve for Lot's adopted home, abhorrent in its arrogance. There was no mercy for the doomed nation, exterminated in its sin. Not even one stubborn person can escape punishment, for mercy and anger belong to the Lord - He shows His power now in forgiveness, now in overflowing anger. **His mercy is great, but so is His condemnation,** He judges people by what each has done. He does not let a wrongdoer escape or try the patience of the godly for too long. Everyone is treated according to their deeds. **Do not say; I am hidden from the Lord, who up there gives a thought to me, among so many I will not be noticed.**

Ecclesiasticus 16:18-23 **The highest heaven, the earth and the abyss are shaken at His coming.** The mountains and the foundations of the world tremble when he looks upon them. What mortal mind can comprehend the ways of the Lord? As a storm can take people unawares, for the most part His works are done in secret. Who is to declare His acts of justice, their fulfilment being so remote? But these are the thoughts of a small mind, the lack of sense of a misguided person.

Ecclesiasticus 36:1-10 Look on us with pity, Lord God of all and strike fear into every nation. Lift Your hand against the heathen and let them behold Your power. Let them learn, as we have; that there is no God but You. Renew Your signs, repeat Your miracles, win glory for Your mighty Right hand and pour out Your anger and wrath to destroy the enemy. **Remember the Day You have appointed** and hasten it, give us cause to recount Your wonders. **Let burning wrath devour the oppressors of Your people,** so the hostile and arrogant meet their doom.

Ecclesiasticus 36:11-17 Gather all the tribes of Israel and grant them their inheritance, as You did so long ago. Have compassion, Lord, on Your people, on Israel, named as Your firstborn. Show mercy to Jerusalem, Your sanctuary, fill Zion with the praise of Your triumph and the Temple with Your glory. **Now is the time to fulfil those prophecies** given in Your Name prove Your prophets correct. Listen now, Lord, to the prayers of Your servants, reward those who look to You in trust and claim the blessings promised to Your people. Let all who live on earth acknowledge that You are the Eternal God.

Reference: Revised English Bible Apocrypha.

Signs and Events Before the Coming of the Messiah

2 Esdras 15&16 These are the words of the Lord: I shall show sinners no pity, My punishment will not spare those murderers who stain the ground with innocent blood. **The Lord's anger will burst out in flame, scorching the earth to its foundations and consuming sinners like burning straw.** Woe to sinners who flout My commands, I shall show them no mercy. I well know all who offend against Me, I consign them to death and destruction.

See the clouds - full of fury and tempest, their appearance is hideous. They will let loose a vast storm over the land. **There will be terror and trembling throughout the world,** people will shudder, stricken with panic. Huge clouds will pile up and ravage the whole land and its inhabitants and **a terrible storm will sweep over all that is high and exalted, with fire and hail and flying swords.**

Strong is the arm that bends the bow and sharp the arrows that He shoots. Once they are on their way, nothing will stop them until they reach the ends of the earth. Calamities are let loose and will not turn back. **The fire is lighted and will not be put out. When the scorching heat bears down upon you,** your strength and splendour will wither like a flower. When Y'hovah sends calamities, who can avert them? **When His anger bursts into flame,** who can extinguish it? **When the lightning flashes and it thunders,** who will not quake with dread?

The Wisdom Of Solomon 5:17-23 The Lord will array Himself from head to foot with the clothing of His wrath and **will make His creation the weapon against His enemies.** He will take holiness for His invincible shield and sharpen His relentless anger for a sword. The bolts of His lightning will fly straight to their mark and the artillery of His resentment will let fly a fury of hail. **A great tempest will rise against them** and scatter them like chaff before a whirlwind. So lawlessness will make the whole world desolate.

But the just will live forever, their reward is in the Lord's keeping. Therefore royal splendour will be theirs and a crown from the Lord Himself. **He will protect His people** with His Right Hand and shield them with His arm.

The Wisdom of Solomon 16:15-16 From the Lord's Hand there is no escape, the godless who refused to acknowledge You are scourged by Your mighty arm and pursued by storms of hail in relentless torrents and are **utterly destroyed by fire.** Ref: Revised English Bible Apocrypha

The Otot haMashiah [the sign of the Messiah, written circa 12th century]

The Holy One, blessed be He, will bring to the world heat from the sun, that will kill a thousand times thousands of all the nations and all the wicked of Israel will also die. Everyone will say: Woe is us, where can we escape to? They will dig holes and hide in caves to cool themselves. If you ask: **How will the righteous be saved from the heat of the sun? The Holy One, blessed be He, will give them a remedy in that heat.**

The Qibbutz Galuyot [the ingathering of the Exiles]

Ever since the destruction of the Temple, in 70AD, the Jews have prayed daily for the rejoining and the restoration of all the twelve tribes of Israel. To make this complete, there has to be a redemption of the Lord's people to Himself. **Therefore, all the tribes of Israel must return to their ancestral Land and also the Shekinah Glory must return with them.**

Happy are those who live in those days, to see the good fortune of Israel which God will bring to pass. For the ingathering of Israel, may God hasten His mercy to His people.

The Messiah is the Judge

2 Esdras 12:32-34 The Messiah, from the stock of David, whom the Most High has kept back until the end of the age, will come and judge the rulers of the nations and after convicting them, He will destroy them. But He will be merciful to the rest of My people, all those who survive and in My Land, He will set them free and give them joy until the final Day of judgement comes.

2 Esdras 12:46-49 Take courage, Israel, lay aside your grief, you descendants of Jacob. The Most High keeps you in mind, He has not forgotten or abandoned you. I pray for Zion in her desolation and beg for mercy, the sanctuary now fallen so low. Go to your homes, all of you and in a few days, I will return to you.

2 Esdras 13:2-4 In my vision, I saw a Man flying with the clouds of heaven and wherever He looked, everything trembled and wherever the sound of His voice reached, everyone who heard it melted as wax at the **touch of fire**.

2 Esdras 15:22-27 The Lord says: I shall show sinners no pity, My sword will not spare those murderers who stain the ground with innocent blood. The Lord's anger has **burst out in flame, scorching the earth to its foundations** and consuming sinners like burning straw. Woe to the godless who flout My commands, I shall show them no mercy. Away from Me, you rebels, do not pollute My sanctuary with your presence. The Lord knows who offend against Him and has consigned them to death and destruction.

Already calamities have spread over the world and there is no escape from them, God will refuse to rescue those who have sinned against Him.

2 Esdras 15:40-43 & 50 Huge clouds; mighty and full of fury will ravage the land and its inhabitants and a terrible storm will sweep over all that is high and exalted, with a **deluge of fire and hail**. It will flatten to the ground; cities and walls, hills and mountains, trees and crops in the fields. **When the scorching heat bears down upon the earth**, it's strength and splendour will wither like a flower.

2 Esdras 16:74-78 Listen you who I have chosen! The days of harsh suffering are close at hand, but I, the Lord, will rescue you from them. Have done with fears and doubts - God is your guide! As followers of My commandments and Laws, you must not let your sins weigh you down or let wickedness gain ascendancy.

Woe to those who are entangled in their sins and overrun with wicked deeds! Unless they can clear away the path to righteousness, they will be separated off in readiness for **destruction by fire**. Ref: REB Apocrypha. Some verses abridged.

None of the above passages say that this happens at the Return of Jesus in His glory. That event is described quite differently and happens much later, after many other things that are prophesied must take place.

Blow the Trumpet in Zion

The Psalms of Solomon: Psalm Eleven -

Blow ye in Zion on the trumpet to summon the saints. Cause ye to be heard in Jerusalem the voice of him that brings good tidings. For the Lord has had pity on Israel and has come to them.

Stand on the height, O Jerusalem and behold your children. From the East and the West, gathered together by the Lord. From the North and South, they come, in the gladness of their God.

High mountains He has flattened for them, the hills fled at their entrance. The forests gave them shelter as they passed by, every sweet smelling tree He caused to spring up for them, that Israel might pass by and glorify Him.

Put on, O Jerusalem, thy righteous garments, make ready thy Holy robe, for the Lord has spoken good concerning Israel, for ever and ever. Let the Lord do what He has spoken for Israel and Jerusalem. Let the Lord raise up Israel by His glorious Name.

The mercy of the Lord be upon Israel forever.

The Psalms of Solomon: Psalm Fourteen -

Faithful is the Lord to them that love Him in truth, to those that endure His chastening. To them that walk in the righteousness of His commandments, in the Law which He commanded us that we might live.

The pious of the Lord shall live by it forever. The Paradise of the Lord, the trees of life, are His pious ones. Their planting is rooted forever, they shall not be plucked up all the days of heaven. For the portion and the inheritance of the Lord is Israel. But not so are the sinners and transgressors, who love their brief day spent in companionship with their sins. Their delight is in fleeting corruption and they remember not their God.

The ways of men are known before Him at all times and He knows the secrets of the heart before they come to pass. Therefore their inheritance is Sheol and darkness and destruction, they shall not be found in the Day when the righteous find mercy.

But the pious of the Lord will inherit life and gladness. Ref: Early church manuscript.

Emptiness for the Empty and Fullness for the Full

- 2 Esdras 6:1-6 The Angel of the Lord said to Ezra: When the earth began, the gates of the world were not yet in place, no winds blew, or rains fell. The stars and firmaments were still to be established. Zion had not yet been chosen as God's own footstool, the present age had not been planned, nor had God's seal been set onto those who have laid a treasure of faithfulness. Then it was, He had His thought and the whole Universe was created by Him. In the same way, through God alone, the end will be.
- 2 Esdras 6:11-20 My Master and Lord, make known to me the signs of the end times. Rise to your feet and you will hear a loud and resonant voice. Do not be frightened when you feel the earth tremble at the sound, for it speaks of the end and the earth's foundations will understand. I listened and a voice like a mighty torrent said: **The time draws near when I shall come to judge the earth's inhabitants**, the time when I shall enquire into the wickedness of wrongdoers, the time when Zion's humiliation will be over. A time when a seal will be set on the age about to pass away. Then I shall perform these signs - the books will be opened in the heavens and all will see My judgement at the same moment.
- 2 Esdras 6:23-29 **A loud trumpet blast will sound, striking terror into all who hear it.** At that time friends will fight friends, all will be terrified. Rivers will stand still and for 3 hours, cease to flow. Whoever is left after all this, will be saved and see the salvation that I bring and the culmination of this world of Mine. They will see men who were taken up into heaven without tasting death. All peoples will have a change of heart, wickedness will be blotted out, but faithfulness will flourish and truth will be revealed. As the Lord spoke, the ground swayed to and fro.
- 2 Esdras 7:17-24 Again I asked the Angel; In the Law, laid down by the Most High, the just shall inherit blessings, but the ungodly will perish. The just, therefore can endure this life and look to a glorious future, but those who have lived a wicked life will never see it. He said: You are not a better judge than God, nor wiser than the Most High. Better that many now living should perish, than the Law which God has set before them should be despised. God has given clear instructions to all in this world, telling them how to attain life and how to avoid punishment. The ungodly have refused to obey Him, they have adopted their own futile ways. They make deceit and dishonour their goal and even deny the existence of the Most High. They have rejected His Law and repudiated His promises; they have neither put faith in His decrees nor done what He commanded.
- 2 Esdras 7:25 Therefore, Ezra, it is emptiness for the empty and fullness for the full.
Reference: Revised English Bible Apocrypha. Some verses abridged.

Many have been created, but only a few will be saved

2 Esdras 7:45-56 Therefore, on the Day of judgement, there can be no mercy for those who have lost their case and no reversal for those who have won. Ezra replied: But Lord, how much better it would be if Adam had been restrained from sinning. O Adam; what have you done? What good is the hope of eternity, in the wretched and futile state to which we have become?

You say that the Lord will save those who lead pure lives, but what of the many who fail to attain that standard and give no thought to what is in store after death.

2 Esdras 7:57-61 This is the thought for every person to keep in mind during the battle of life: Moses, in his time said to the people: "*Choose life, that you may live*". But they believed neither him, or the prophets sent after him.

There will be no sorrow over their damnation, but there will be joy for the salvation of those who have believed and obeyed the Lord's commands.

2 Esdras 7:62-70 I know that the Lord is merciful and compassionate. Without His forgiveness, there could be no hope for this world's inhabitants. He is our Judge and unless He blots out our countless offences, there would be very few who could be spared. The angel replied: The Lord has made this world for many, the next world for but a few. It is the same with the earth, plenty of clay, not much gold - many have been created, but only a few will be saved. Romans 9:22-23

2 Esdras 8:19-39 This is the prayer offered by Ezra, before being taken up to heaven: O Lord, You inhabit eternity, everything belongs to You.....We and our fathers have lived evil lives, yet it is on account of us sinners that You are called merciful. What is man, that You should be angry with him? The truth is, no one who was ever born is entirely innocent of sin. The Lord will have joy in the salvation of those who trust Him

2 Esdras 8:59-62 Yours, then will be the joys I have predicted.

It is not that the Most High has wanted any person to be destroyed, but those He created, brought dishonour onto their Creators Name and show ingratitude to the One who put life within their reach. That is why My judgement is now close at hand. I have not made this known to all, only to you and a few like you.

2 Esdras 9:1-6 My Lord, tell me when the last days will be.

Watch carefully, you will see that some of the signs predicted have already passed, then you will understand that the time is near for the Lord to begin to judge the world that He has created. When the world becomes the scene of earthquakes, insurrections, plots among the nations, unstable governments and panic among rulers, then the end of the age, as prophesied, draws near. The times that the Lord has determined; the beginning is marked by portents and miracles, the end by manifestations of power.

2 Esdras 9:7-8 All who come safely through and escape destruction, thanks to their good deeds and faith they have shown, will survive the dangers I have foretold and witness the salvation I shall bring to My Land, the territory I have set apart from all eternity as My own. The just will be saved, the world is theirs and for their sake it exists. Romans 2:9-11

Reference: REB Apocrypha. Verses abridged

The Prayer of Azariah

This prayer is an addition to the Greek version of the Book of Daniel. It is inserted in chapter 3 between verses 23 and 24. Azariah, the Hebrew name of Shadrach, with his friends, Meshach and Abednego, were thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.

The prayer of Azariah 1:2-23 -

They walked in the midst of the fire, praising God. Azariah stood among the flames and began to pray aloud: Blessed are You and worthy of praise, Y'hovah, the God of our fathers, Your Name is glorious forever. Just is the sentence in all that You have brought on Your people and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors, true and just is the sentence You have passed on us because of our sins. We had broken Your Laws in rebellion, we did not heed Your Commandments, we failed to do what You had given us for our own good. Now You have handed us over to our enemies, those wicked peoples and so we are reduced to silence, shame and disgrace has befallen Your people.

For the sake of Your honour do not abandon us forever, do not annul Your Covenant. Do not withdraw Your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Your friend, for the sake of Isaac, Your servant and for Israel Your holy one. You promised them that their descendants would be as numerous as sand on the seashore. Yet, Lord, we are all now in exile, for our sins we are brought low. Now we have no ruler, no prophet, there is no place we can make offerings to obtain mercy. But because we come with a contrite heart and a humbled spirit, may we be accepted? As though we come with thousands of whole offerings, let this sacrifice be made before You this Day: that we will obey You in everything, for no shame will come to those who put their trust in You. We will now follow You with our whole heart and in fear seek Your Presence. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us in Your forbearance and great mercy. Y'hovah, Creator of all things, deliver us and let Your Name be glorified.

May all who harm Your servants be brought low, let them be stripped of all power and sovereignty and may their strength be crushed. Let them know that You alone are the Lord God, glorious over all the earth. Ref: REB Apocrypha

My comments:

The three friends said to King Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 3:17 *If there is a God who is able to save us from the blazing furnace; it is our God, whom we serve, He will deliver us.*

Now, in 2012, as we near the end of the decreed exile of the House of Israel, the Lord will once again take action in His creation, with the many prophesied judgement of fire, that will destroy His enemies. But to those who call on His Name, who have a contrite heart and a humble spirit, those who put their trust in God, then when the terrible Day of the Lord's vengeance and wrath strikes the earth with '*blazing heat and consuming fire*', then this prayer would be one to pray with fervent sincerity.

Zephaniah 2:2, Isaiah 43:2-3, 1 Peter 1:5

Chapter Three – THE END TIMES AND RIGHT LIVING

The Future of Planet Earth

People who think that life on our earth can continue as it is indefinitely are in denial of the reality that confronts us every day in the news about nations preparing for war and the increasing proliferation of natural disasters.

In many areas of the world at this time, there are countries with populations that exceed the capability of their land to feed them. This is especially apparent in the Middle East and now with governmental changes in many of these nations, the new regimes find themselves unable to fulfil the aspirations of their youthful populations. In their desperation to divert the anger of their hungry and unsatisfied peoples, these leaders will point to a scapegoat as the cause of their troubles. We already hear the leaders of Iran doing this and it is the State of Israel who is 'the cancer in the midst of the Islamic lands', that must be gotten rid of, then they assure their people; all will be well.

For anyone who looks at the success rate of diplomatic efforts to resolve international threats, it will be evident that an aggressive nation simply uses that process to buy time in their preparations for war. The Islamic code of Al Takkaya means that they are allowed, even encouraged, to use untruths and to abrogate treaties in order to advance their cause. But the intentions of Iran and its allies, have been made abundantly clear, they say: '*We will wipe them out as a nation, Israel will be remembered no more*'.

The amazing thing about this quote, is that it was written more than 3000 years ago as a prophecy and now, in the Bible we can read it in Psalm 83:4. This Psalm lists the people groups who plot against Israel and it goes on to prophesy how those enemies will be vanquished, as the opponents of ancient Israel were.

The Bible consists of approximately one third prophetic scripture. That which has been fulfilled proves its accuracy and the inspired revelation of the ancient prophets.

Now, in 2012, we are very close to the time when the Creator God will act once again on the earth and the very many prophecies about the end of this age will take place.

These are the End Times

It is amazing to think that we are now, at the very edge of the end of this age. Soon we will experience the fulfilment of many prophecies. The ancient prophets spoke of how all the Israelites will be brought back into their own Land. Ezekiel 37:21 *...I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own Land.*

This Second Exodus began in 1948, with the return of part of the Southern Kingdom of Judah into part of the Land. Now we are seeing the world turning against the State of Israel and the emergence of an Islamic confederation, that is already preparing for an attack to: *"erase all remembrance of them"*. Then the Lord will act once again in His creation, to fulfil the rest of Psalm 83, Habakkuk 3:12-14, Revelation 6:12-17 and many other Bible passages. This clearance of the "evil neighbours" as described in Jeremiah 12:14-17, will allow the rest of the 12 tribes of Israel to join their kinsmen in the Land.

When will this happen? Just this question causes some Christians to quickly say; *But of that Day and hour no man knows."* Those who seek clues from the Word are often criticized and told to focus on evangelism, and not to be concerned when the Lord will Return. This shows their lack of Bible knowledge, as the actual Return will be known to the day, when certain events take place preceding it. It is the Great Day of the Lord's vengeance and wrath, that will take the world unawares. The doubters may mention the verses that say this event will come *"as a thief"*. Again, those people do not read scripture carefully, as Paul says; *"But you, my friends, are not in the dark, that this Day should surprise you"*. **Jesus exhorted;** Revelation 3:3b *If you do not wake up, I will come upon you like a thief... Jesus rebuked:* Matthew 16:3 *You hypocrites, you can interpret the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of your times.* **Jesus will judge:** Luke 3:16-17....*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and gather the wheat, but the chaff, He will burn up.* **Jesus promised:** Luke 21:28 *When all these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.* John 15:15-17 *I no longer call you servants, now I call you My friends, I have made known all that I have learned from My Father. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, that you would bear fruit. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name. This is My command; love one another.*

There are many precedents for God revealing specific times in advance.

1/ He gave Noah the exact amount of time to build and load the ark, before the Flood.

2/ He told Abraham that the Israelites would be in Egypt for 400 years.

3/ He revealed the exact day of Elijah's rapture.

4/ Jeremiah prophesied the 70 year time for the Babylonian exile.

5/ Daniel told exactly when the Messiah would come the first time.

6/ Now, Ezekiel 4:4-6, with the multiples as given in Leviticus 26, gives us the dates for the events of our time.

To leave us without clues now would be contrary to God's established pattern. Obviously we are not *"in the dark"*, there are many signs. Let us be watchful, doing our Masters work and ready to heed His call to receive our inheritance.

Hurting toward oblivion

At present, we are behaving like insane passengers on an aircraft, who are busy dismantling it as it flies along!

Jesus knew how it would be in the world at the time of the end - "*Just as it was in the days of Noah....*In the days before the flood, they ate and drank and married until the day that the flood came and swept them all away. It will be like that on the Day when the Son of man is revealed."

If God has called us for such a time as this, He has His reasons. His message is the only hope and He has asked us to bear that message to those without hope. Why has He picked us for these times? We cannot know, but be sure that it is a privilege and let us live ready, willing and able for whatever He has planned.

Progress and profusion are the hallmarks of civilization and we are seeing an exponential increase in most everything - more and more, faster and faster. At first the momentum was gradual, imperceptible, checked by wars, the dark ages, plagues, etc, but in recent times, it has accelerated- the curve of every graph steepening like a mountain rising from a plain. Never before have we seen such speed and power as we have available today. Never before such profusion in everything from population to pollution.

Because progress proves so alluringly proficient, we built our entire economy around its twin engines of proliferation and differentiation. Progress has delivered on a grandiose scale, leaving us gratified and awed. To continue in the direction we are going is our only apparent option. Even if we wanted to stop, slow down or change direction, we would not know how to do so. But, why, who in their right mind wants to change our modern world? The world economic system now dwarfs all the other forces in society. Progress and the economy are directly related. We can expect more and more, faster and faster as profusion expands and the world economy grows exponentially.

A recession is obviously not the preferred condition for any society. Therefore, people and systems will work to return to the condition of progress and economic prosperity, thus leading to more profusion of everything.

We have developed lifestyles so habituated to progress, that it is now very difficult to change or even slow this process. Progress is irreversible - based on the contention that we are addicted to it, therefore we are quite willing to accept whatever profusion comes our way. Much of it is not good for us or the world, but we don't do anything about it because we are so dependent on always moving onward and upward.

Now, however, something dramatic, something different is happening in our generational shift. Life pace and change are escalating wildly. Without our permission, history has picked up speed, turbo charged by progress.

In the 1970s, many doomsayers made dramatic and somewhat premature assertions of how population, pollution, etc would cause the end of the world. By the 1980s the shock had worn off and people now look on progress as an asset, not as a threat, but as a promise. The entire concept changed from a depressing topic with apocalyptic implications, to an exhilarating one, with prosperity and growth to be encouraged.

Continued -

I assume that most people reading this know about the presence of *fallenness* in the world, derived from Adam and Eve's "fall" from perfection into sin. Even those not spiritually minded can see that there is a distortion in everything that constantly thwarts perfection. Without first understanding fallenness, it is impossible to fully explain what is happening in the world around us. It is like trying to understand infectious disease without knowing about bacteria.

When we understand fallenness, then we know why the many advantages we have in progress still do not offset the serious problems in the world system. With each new thing that profusion adds to the world stage, there is a downside that must be acknowledged, anticipated and dealt with. We realise why Utopia did not show up as expected.

We once thought that science would solve our problems. It has, indeed solved many, but has created additional ones, from weaponry to pollution. Antibiotics have resulted in widespread microbial resistance. Abundant food has resulted in unprecedented obesity. Progress has put power and weapons without regard to wisdom, into the hands of the leaders of nations, the military, the media, the entertainment industry, etc. All our knowledge has not ushered in a brave new world, it has simply increased our ability to perpetrate evil.

There are more and more people, six billion and rising, in the world. This is not evil, the Lord said; increase and populate the earth, so we have. Each person is a separate, individual moral agent. Fallenness coupled with profusion, more people, more technology, more weapons, more mobility, means ever increasing statistics such as crimes, accidents, disease, and wars over land and resources. No matter what topic we choose we can find the good and the bad growing side by side. If we list all the positives of progress, it would be a very long list, but when we list the negatives we see such a daunting litany of problems, that they threaten the very viability of our society.

If the negatives are sufficiently dangerous, they cannot be offset by the positives, no matter how beneficial the positives are. If we fail to grasp this principal, we will also fail to anticipate the cataclysmic dangers of our future. No matter how large the quantity and quality of the positive, if the negative is harmful enough, it wins. This principal of lethality applies to all systems, from the individual to companies, nations, species, etc.

To summarize; The world is always experiencing profusion. As this increases, we have much new positive, but also much new negative, all growing at an alarmingly rapid rate. No amount of positive can offset the negative if it reaches a certain threshold of lethality, it will prove fatal to our present world system. We have no possible option but to continue in this fatal direction because of our dependency on progress.

These days are not about fear, they are about privilege. These days will not be dominated ultimately by the chaos of worldly forces but by the sovereignty of God.

"I have told you these things, so that you might have peace" explained Jesus. "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"

It is time to start living as if we believed it.

Reference; Hurling toward oblivion, Richard Swenson

The real stumbling block

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, as preached in the Bible, is declared in 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, to be a "stumbling block". The message given to us through the Bible does not hide from the reality of this difficulty of belief. Where other worldviews might downplay the problems within their respective systems, the Bible is uniquely forthright about that which is hard for us to understand.

Logically, the existence of a difficulty in a worldview message is not sufficient to reject it. That may be a sign it is worth sincere examination. Usually, nothing worthwhile is easy. G.K. Chesterton wrote: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried".

It is one thing for a worldview to be difficult because its truths are profound and complex, it is another for a worldview to be incoherent or deep and mysterious. Many have pretentious ideas and contradictory sentiments wrapped in sophisticated packaging

It is true that there are difficult doctrines in Christianity, such as the Trinity, the incarnation and Christ's substitutionary atonement. But the primary problem with the Gospel, arises from its indictments of the human heart and its proclamation that humanity is incapable of saving itself. The Gospel says that every person is spiritually dead and we can do nothing in our own strength about it. Only the saving work of Christ can make us alive to God. To humanity, this means we cannot rely on ourselves to make a better future. This is the real 'stumbling block' - people hold on to their own strength and merit, then refuse to acknowledge their Creator.

In secular humanism, unreliable humanity is their only choice for improvement, as in that worldview, there is no alternative. As a result, frustration arises when crime rates keep rising, promises are broken and treaties violated. Cultures persist in their hatred of other peoples.

Embracing the God who gives so selflessly, changes the follower of Christ from a self centred person to a selfless one. This is one effect of what the Scripture calls 'sanctification'. It is a process by which the Holy Spirit floods the life of one who puts their trust in the Lord Jesus and transforms that life.

To be sure, that follower of Christ can still sin, as we are living in this fallen world, but this sanctification process gradually (in many cases, dramatically) changes that person into one who believes and trusts in God and genuinely tries to live sinlessly. Paul refers to this transformation as becoming 'a new creation' and Jesus calls the beginning of the process 'born again'.

In other worldviews, people suffer from the impure reflections of those deities and atheism has only unreliable humanity to support it. God is the selfless moral example, as demonstrated at Calvary. When our sanctification causes us to reflect God's selflessness, we are on the way to more perfectly reflecting the true image of God.

Ref: Apocalypse later, by A.H.Murray

Good Person-ism

If you live a life, doing good things and keep on the right side of the law, then will you go to heaven? In the humanist or atheistic worldview, good personism is defined this way; if we all live the good life that we are capable of, then we create a heaven on earth.

Whether we strive for nirvana, moksha or utopia, we can attain them only if we do or give something first. Thus, whether religious or secular, each of these worldviews has as their primary requirements, set conditions and tasks to be achieved. They all demand time, effort and sometimes, pain, in the attempt to get there.

From a natural point of view, nature rewards only the strong.

The ultimate authorities in such worldviews do not give freely, they demand resources for only hoped for favours.

All worldviews and beliefs have a reflective character about them. We reflect the attributes of what we worship. Just as children imitate their parents, the adherents of any particular religion or lifestyle will emulate the words and deeds of their chosen deities or heroes. Therefore if someone follows a demanding deity, then their actions and character will reflect a 'take' mentality.

Our present world situation of conflict, based on competition for resources, is the logical result of the purely naturalistic and atheistic view of the world. In that worldview, sheer chance is how we exist and fairness is random. Also random, is who has resources, and who does not; who has the power to take them and who is powerless.

Survival of the fittest is the end game, which really equates to 'might makes right'.

When it comes to putting an end to the self-centredness that gives birth to conflict, there is no deity better than the only actual deity, the God of the Bible. Indeed, God in Christ is the very embodiment of selflessness, the opposite of what we see around us.

As He is described in the Bible, God is the One who communes with us through His Holy Spirit. He has revealed Himself to be a Being of pure love.

If it is true that we imitate those we look up to, then when we commit ourselves to reflecting God's self giving nature, we must end that selfishness that brings conflict.

It has been argued that with socialism and communism, humanity has already tried this kind of social selflessness and failed. They do not succeed because they are fatally flawed in their fundamental assumptions. They both say that humanity, unaided by spiritual regeneration, can be trusted to overcome its selfishness and create its own utopia. It is also fatal for the State to enforce selflessness. Secular humanism, too, suffers from the flawed assumption that humanity is capable of natural selflessness.

All this proves that we are incapable of true selflessness apart from a Spirit dominated, regenerated nature that reflects the selflessness, not of creation, but of the Creator.

Ref: A.H. Murray

Becoming subversive

In a society which gives unthinking service to the consumer worldview, Christian conversion is the most subversive act possible. It involves a radical shift of worldview - a denial of the most basic creeds of consumerism. It is an upheaval of one's attitude to values, relationships, possessions and identity.

Conversion is not giving mental assent to a set of ideas, it is entering a relationship. It affirms that relationship is at the heart of all that is real; relationship with the Creator and with other people. Christ's summary of the old Testament Law, was to love God and others, and tack yourself on as an afterthought.

The Christian task is to overthrow those idols that take the place of the Creator. In themselves, these things may be quite worthy - money, sex, natural beauty, human reason, etc. But idolatry takes them and sets them as a goal or an end to themselves.

The main idol of the West is consumerism, an unbalanced, unhealthy obsession with money and the pleasures it can provide. Wealth becomes the goal of aspiration, the source of satisfaction. Little wonder that Christ described avarice as a dangerous rival for the worship due to God.

It is only in changing our materialistic worldview and 'losing' ourselves, that we can actually find our true identity. Those cultural idols of cash and consumption that demand our servitude keep us from a relationship with God, that sets us free.

The word 'radical' means getting to the very roots of an issue. True radicalism is not calling for the overthrow of governments or the remaking of society. The radical is the person who challenges the worldview of materialism and affirms that relationship is the base for our lives, that identity has a source beyond the shopping mall and that morality is solid and objective.

The radical is the lady, at the back of the church, who looks after her mother, gives herself to the service to others, prays to God, who gives her strength and identity and laughs at the ludicrous idea that money can buy happiness.

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, my friends, I implore you, by God's mercy to offer your very selves to Him; a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for His acceptance, the worship offered by mind and heart.*

Conform no longer to the pattern of this present world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Then you will be able to discern the will of God and to know what is good, acceptable and perfect.

Old fashioned values

It is common these days to hear people speak disparagingly of "old fashioned values" We have grown up now, they say, and science has given us the answers to the questions about life that people used to need faith or superstition to cope with. We want to run our lives without restrictions or interference.

Before the Enlightenment, morality in the western world had a firm basis- the Word of God as revealed in the Bible. The Ten Commandments were basic to most of their laws. The Enlightenment was an era when the scientists and philosophers developed a faith that science and reason would give them the answers to life's questions. The criteria of truth were "is it scientific? Can it be proved?" Of course when these tests were applied to God, the conclusion was - no.

So a dualism developed; there were facts which could be proved and there were values which were unprovable. As science became more trusted than faith and emotion, then moral values and religion were sidelined. Science now purports to account fully for such questions as: Where did we come from? Where are we headed? Since Darwin, it is hard to claim that mankind is in any real sense different from apes.

This is the essence of materialism. The universe is a great machine, which runs by fixed laws, observed by science. Mankind is just a cog in this machine. To exclude anything not scientifically provable is known as scientism- science elevated to the status of religion. The first problem for scientism is that it is based on false logic. They say that the only things true and valid, are those which can be scientifically proven. But how can they know whether what they observe is all there is? All they can say is that they *believe* that only things which can be proved are true. They use a statement of faith to claim that faith is not valid.

And, when they claim that mankind is progressing, they are making another statement of faith - which goes against the evidence, but is practically a modern creed.

Our legal system denies atheism, because how could we punish a criminal if he has no genuine free will? If he were 'programmed' then he cannot be blamed for his actions.

Many people, in this modern world live by personal choice, that is selecting aspects of traditional morality which suit them and ignoring the rest. The consequences of this are; if we decide our own values, who are you to criticize me? Another consequence of privatized morality is that areas beyond the immediate circle are of no concern to them. My neighbours wellbeing is not my business. Wider social evils continue unchecked.

When a society throws off Christian morality any abomination can result- Hitler, Stalin, Pol pot, etc. So, lets have no nonsense about the world being better off without religion. The view of man as being in the image of God, with dignity and a firm, comprehensive set of morals, are our only protection against anarchy and breakdown of society.

The Enlightenment threw out their Judeo-Christian heritage not because it was proved untrue or because it did not fit the facts, but because they wanted to be free of old traditions and by denying the existence of a Creator, they gave themselves a free hand to shape their civilization. Sadly, this experiment has resulted in ever increasing wars and crime with terrible social and personal tragedies.

God looks with favour on the humble

Isaiah 66:2

One of the greatest absurdities in this world, is human pride. We all live in the earth that God created, eat the food that He provides, and breathe His air. All provided for us by His sustaining power and love. Yet, people break God's Laws repeatedly. In our world, one of the few certainties is that each one of us will die. The Christian faith says that we all will then appear before our Creator for the evaluation of our lives. The incongruity of human pride is that it cannot tolerate this future, but invents scenarios such as total oblivion, or instant admission to heaven.

Pride focuses on human independence, self sufficiency, power and progress, not on the fragility of our health and the inevitability of death. Pride makes it easy to think we are good at heart and our failings were not our fault. It does not consider that the moral failings of the last 100 years, are the result of fallen human nature.

The Bible uses humour to deflate the proud person. Jesus used absurd images, like- logs in the eye, swallowing camels and blind guides. He used satire to demonstrate humility.

God's standard of excellence is so high that as we try to live up to it, we are faced with our inability to reach it. To try, is to be reminded again of our ultimate need for the mercy of God. We could think, as we strive toward a standard that we can never reach in this life, that frustration must result. But, in our inability to live completely Christ like lives, note two vital points; Firstly, the entire Christian faith hinges on the promise of God, through Jesus, to forgive those who come to Him in humility and faith. Without this promise, Christian faith would not exist. It means that true Christians need never fear that because of falling short, they will be rejected. Our attitude must be gratitude for having already forgiven us. This is not because we deserved it, but because of what Jesus did on our behalf and which we received by accepting salvation as a free gift.

Secondly, even though we inevitably fall short of the standard of Christlikeness, as we strive towards it, the more we become better humans and display to those around us the qualities of courage, forgiveness, humility and love.

Remember the incident in the Temple, where Jesus pointed out the widow, who had put all she had into the collection box. A humble person, without much, but Jesus wanted us to see her as a shining example of how we can use what we have to make a difference.

Reference; True Heroism, by D. Keyes.

Isaiah 29:19 Once more, the humble will rejoice in the Lord.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people humble themselves....then I will forgive them.

1 Peter 5:5 God shows favour to the humble.

Psalms 18:27 You save the humble, but humiliate the high and mighty.

Isaiah 2:12 The Lord has a day in store for the proud- they will be humbled.

Ecclesiasticus 7:17 Humble yourself to the uttermost, for the doom of the ungodly is fire and worms.

Zephaniah 2:3....seek righteousness, seek humility and it may be that you will find shelter on the day of the Lord's vengeance.

God's glory shared with humanity.

If the God of the Christian faith is true, it means that there is not a random process behind the order and beauty of the universe. It means, that at the highest level there is not indifference to the human condition. There is actually the intelligent mind of a Creator, who is the source of all life and cares for what He has made. In His Word, given to us, we are told that we are made in His image and each human has a special destiny. We are glorious creations of God, but through choosing to live independently, in self sufficiency and rebellion against Him, we are separated from His ultimate plan for humankind. Thank God, because He is a God of mercy, He has opened a door to forgiveness and reconciliation and a renewal of life through the life and death of Jesus, the Messiah. This means that we can, in spite of living in a fallen world, still reflect something of God's character. This is true human greatness, or heroism. One does not need to be a Mother Teresa or an evangelist. Heroism is compatible with an ordinary life, lived well. If the Creator Himself is mindful of us, then our goal is that He will eventually say of our life- "Well done, you good and faithful servant". The meaning of life is found in our relationship to this mindful God.

Psalm 8:5-6 *Yet, You have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of Your hands, you have put all things under their feet.*

The idea of dominion implies a free agency to mankind. That is, we are actors, not robots in this cosmic production. The mindfulness of a personal and absolute God and the task of dominion is the starting point for our heroism. As we look at this task, we are brought back to its core, which is imaging the character of God. We must reflect the values of our Creator, having been made 'a little lower than Him'. Jesus Christ was the perfect example for us, so that we can learn what glory and honour means in our world. The virtues that He displayed are good for us, as they reflect the character of the God who created us to do them.

Sin is not only violating moral rules. It is described by Paul- Rom 3:23; as falling short of the glory of God. For example, Ahab was King in Israel and to satisfy his greed and his wife, he murdered one of his subjects and took over his land. Elijah met him there and told him; You have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord. He had broken God's laws, and in so doing, he violated the character and glory of God, by making himself into a misshapen image of his Creator. Therefore he had 'sold himself'.

The Bible is largely a story of God dealing with the human race. The story takes us from Creation and Fall, through the dramas of Israel, to the incarnation of Christ- His life, death and resurrection. God's Spirit came to build the Church and spread the Gospel of the redemption of His people. Eventually, Christ will Return, this time as a King.

We are part of that story. By the way we live, we can help or hinder the work of bringing the world back to that righteous state that God intended.

Each person has the opportunity to play a unique part in this cosmic drama, and it is written that we "*shall stand before Him*" - to survive that examination, to please our Creator, that is true heroism and glory.

Ref: True Heroism, by D. Keyes

Hear this, Foolish people

Jeremiah 5:21

The fool is not someone who is either uneducated or lacking in mental capacity. Basically, their problem is a lack of humility. Sooner or later, this makes them a loser. The Bible says '*fools despise wisdom and instruction*', and so '*they set an ambush for their own lives*'. Proverbs 1:7&18. Although this is the common pattern of folly, there are many variations on it. Just as the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, so folly begins with a denial of God and His authority.

Psalm 14:1 *The fool says in his heart "There is no God".* What matters most is what people believe in their heart. The greatest fool is he whose mouth is full of God talk, but in his heart, he believes none of it.

Psalm 94:7 *The Lord does not see, the God of Jacob does not perceive.* In other words, we can do as we please- if we deny the existence of a God, who knows what we do, and has power and authority to do something about it, or even cares about His creation.

Psalm 94:8-11 *Understand, O dullest of people- fools, when will you be wise?*

He who made the ear and eye, does He not hear and see?

Does He who disciplines nations, not punish? He teaches men knowledge.

The Lord knows the thoughts of man, He knows that they are futile.

God knows our thoughts, words and actions. Only a fool would think that the One who created our intricate bodies, would be deaf or blind.

The fool is one who thinks they have beaten the system, outwitted any god, in order to have a life of purely their own choices. Those who count on God's non existence for their freedom and lifestyle, are themselves lacking the common sense that they were born with. The writings of the prophets have much to say about the self destroying folly of those who reject God and have gods of their own making. Even atheism is a kind of religion. Isaiah talks about the deception that comes with idolatry, making it impossible to recognise folly for what it is. He told of a man, who cuts down a tree, use half for firewood and makes a god out of the rest.

Isaiah 44:20 *He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him, he cannot save himself, or say: Is there not a lie in my right hand?*

Self confidence is a powerfully seductive virtue, displacing painful self doubt and uncertainty. It is therefore, desirable, in today's world to be sure of yourself, a person of action and confidence. The best thing for anyone's life, is to be sure of and follow the right path, as set out for us in the Bible.

The writers of the wisdom literature in the Bible give many examples of the types of foolish behaviour and their consequences.

Isaiah 55:2 *Why do you spend your money on that which is not bread and your labour for that which does not satisfy?*

The answer to this last question, the only thing that does finally satisfy is both priceless and free - the mercy and love of Almighty God.

Ref; D Keyes

The Kingdom of God

Jesus defines sin as departure from the Kingdom in act and thought. The old law said: do not commit murder, but Jesus made the murderous thought the sin - before the act. Adultery, the act - He sets back into the lustful look. Failure to fulfil an oath - to the abolition of all swearing of oaths. From limits on revenge - (an eye for an eye, etc) to turning the other cheek.

Matthew 5:38-39 Your forefathers were told: Love your neighbour, but hate your enemy, I tell you: love your enemies - do good to those who hate you.

In this discourse, Jesus was describing how life will be in His Kingdom. People say that Jesus and His Kingdom are impractical idealism, it won't work, impossible. But the fact is that every departure from these laws, principles and attitudes of the Kingdom, had turned out badly and will always turn out badly. The problems of our modern world are caused, in most part, by breaking these Kingdom Laws.

Life is designed to be lived in one way and one way only, in God's Kingdom way. So Jesus is telling it like it is, leaving it to people to find out by trial and error to see that Jesus was right. Break these Laws and principles and you become broken, sin against God and you hurt yourself.

Take the six things that Jesus mentions: He sets murder back from the deed to the attitude - hate. Hate makes the hater abhorrent to himself and to others. The adulterer succumbs to temptation and causes families to break up. Oath taking produces more lies, a really truthful person does not need an oath, an untruthful person will not heed an oath. Does revenge mean avenge? Can two wrongs make a right? Can Satan cast out Satan? Can anyone, by acting like the devil, get the devil out of people?

The only way to get rid of evil, is to overcome with good and love overcomes hate.

The way of the Kingdom is difficult, but the other way is disaster and spiritual death.

The Righteous Christian wins, because being a Christian is the victory. He is in the Unshakeable Kingdom and that is the victory.

Hebrews 12:26-29 ...now He has promised 'Once again I will shake the earth and the heavens [Haggai 2:21-22 : a description of the coming Lord's Day of vengeance and wrath] The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken, that is: created things, so that what cannot be shaken, may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and worship God with reverence and awe, for the Lord is a consuming fire.

God has two hands - the hand of Grace and the hand of Judgement. If you refuse His Grace, then you must take the Judgement. You may rebel, wriggle and try to evade it by denying that there is a God and saying there is nothing after death, but we are His creation, He will reward and punish as He decides.

Matthew 5:48 There must be no limit to your goodness, as your Heavenly father's goodness knows no bounds.

Reference: The Unshakeable Kingdom, Stanley Jones.

The Fig tree breaks into Leaf

The ultimate and final Yom Kippur for the new nation of Beulah [Isaiah 62:4] will be on the last day of the seventieth week, as prophesied by Daniel and described in Revelation, a 'week' of seven prophetic years, exactly 2520 days. Then, five days later the final Sukkot will occur, after His people have made 'atonement for their iniquity', and then seventy five days after Yom Kippur, a fully restored and forgiven Israel will celebrate the final Hanukkah. This fits exactly with the additional days given by Daniel 12:11-12 ...thirty days plus forty five days equals seventy five.

At His Return, Christ will fulfil these Autumn festivals, exactly as he did with the Spring festivals during His first advent.

Matthew 24:32-34 - Christ tells us to learn from the fig tree, when it breaks into leaf, we can know that the end is near and this present generation will live to see it all.

Obviously, it was not that generation who heard His prophecy, but He means the last generation before these things take place. They 'will live to see it all', means within a lifetime, that is three score and ten = seventy years. The prophecy in:

Ezekiel 12:25-28it will be put off no longer, you rebellious people [the Jewish people, symbolised by the fig tree] in your lifetime, I will do what I have planned.....these prophecies are for a time far off.....Y'hovah says: there will be no more delays, it will be done.

.....tells us that within 'your lifetime', when the fig tree 'breaks into leaf', that is when Judah again has control of the Land, the Lord will act once more in His creation. Therefore within seventy years of May 1948 - before May 2018, we can expect the commencement of the many prophecies about the end times.

Many of the Scriptures that I point out and explain, will be at odds with some traditional doctrines and theology. Because of the seriousness of these issues and the probable direct consequences these events will have on you and your family, each reader must draw their own conclusions. Read the prophecies that describe future happenings, carefully comparing the different interpretations as given by various Bible scholars. But, the only real test of truth is God's infallible Word, read literally (excepting the obvious allegories) From what I have read, most writers on end times subjects, simply ignore a lot of scripture, especially in the Old Testament, and my experience is; that when asked about this, they just do not reply.

Actually, disbelief and being ignored is what I expect when I point out the prophetic scriptures. After all, that was the general reaction to the prophets themselves. I will continue my task of trying to bring understanding to you and whoever cares to listen.

As Ezekiel was told in Ezekiel 33:7, it was his job to warn people, so if they refuse to listen, just can't see it, don't want to know, doesn't suit their preconceived notions, or simply do not care - that is their concern, but I will not be responsible and will have saved myself.

Acts 13:40-41 Beware lest you bring down upon yourselves the doom prophesied. See this, you scoffers, marvel and begone, for I am doing a deed in your days, a deed that you will never believe when you are told of it. Ref. REB abridged.

Do Not Assume that I have Come to Bring Peace

It is natural and quite right that Christians should engage in debate over what the Bible says about the last days and the Return of Jesus. After all, the Bible has a lot to tell us about these issues. Regardless of one's worldview or faith, the Bible is an ancient and very important book that has shaped the course of history and will continue to in the future.

But how can it be that there are so many differing opinions as to what will take place. The fact is, all agree on the most essential point - that is, Jesus will physically Return to earth. It is in the timing of His Return and who exactly is the nation, Israel, that He Returns to, that there is disagreement.

Jesus said; Don't assume that I have come to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. Matthew 10:34-36

Jesus makes a statement that contradicts today's picture of Him as a gentle pacifist and seems to differ from what the angels announced at His birth, but it isn't; they told of the beginning of the end of this age of enmity between God and humanity and the coming of final reconciliation. Until that happens, we are still in that age of enmity and God must impose consequences on both our good and evil choices. We have free will, mostly so that we can freely love Him, because only freely chosen love is true love. Thus, if God only rewarded the good but left the evil unpunished, He would act arbitrarily, against His just nature and our free choices become meaningless.

From Isaiah 63:1-6...*I resolved on a Day of vengeance...* we have a graphic description of the Lord carrying out His just retribution against His enemies. Many other passages tell of this terrible Day of the Lord's wrath. This cannot be at the same time as the Return of Jesus, as the Day of the Lord is a worldwide event, whereas at His return, Jesus disposes of the Beast, the False Prophet and the armies attacking Jerusalem.

The fact that the Lord's garments become blood stained during His Day of vengeance, then - at His Return, it states that He "*is robed in a garment dyed in blood*", this shows that the Day of the Lord is some time before His Return.

Isaiah 66:15-16 See; the Lord is coming in fire, His chariots like a whirlwind, bringing retribution in His furious anger. The Lord will judge with fire - by His sword He will test all mankind. Many will be slain by Him.

Many people today, combine prophecies like Isaiah 63 & 66, with the Return of Jesus. To do this requires that you allegorize either these verses or the vivid descriptions of His Return in Rev 19, Zech 14:3-5 and Matthew 24:30

Psalm 50:1-6 The Lord God has spoken and summoned the world. He shines from Zion, in His glory. He will not remain silent, a consuming fire goes before Him and storms rage around Him. The heavens and the earth look on at the judging of His people. Gather to Me, My loyal servants, those, who by sacrifice have made a covenant with Me. The heavens will proclaim His justice, for God Himself is judge.

The Lord's loyal servants, judged and gathered into Zion, the Promised Land. Then, it isn't until the Tribulation is over, that Jesus Returns and reigns for 1000 years.

Therefore, the next event on the prophetic calendar is the Lord's Day of vengeance.

Jacob I loved and Esau I hated

Romans 9:13....*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*

Romans 9:14-15 *What shall we say to that? Is God to be charged with injustice? Certainly not! He says to Moses; I will have mercy on those to whom I show mercy and pity on those to whom I give pity.*

Romans 9:16-18 *Thus, it does not depend on human will or effort, but on God's will. Cyrus and Pharaoh were raised up in order to carry out His plans.*

Romans 9:19-21 *Then how is it that God judges error, if no one can resist His will? We are all as pots in the hand of the Potter, we cannot argue with our Maker.[Isa. 64:8]*

Romans 9:22-23 *But if it is indeed God's purpose to display His justice and make His power known, can it be that He has with great patience tolerated vessels that were objects of retribution destined for destruction? This is in order to show the extent of His power and glory to those other vessels prepared for His mercy and honour.*

Romans 9:24-26 *We are those vessels of mercy, whom He has called from among Jews and Gentiles alike, as He says in Hosea; Those who were not My people, I will call My people and the unloved, I will call loved. They will be called Children of God.*

Romans 9:27-29 *Isaiah says; Though the Israelites be a vast number, only a remnant shall be saved. The Lord's sentence on the Land is final, but Jacobs descendants will not die out.[a vast number'? must refer to all 12 tribes, not just Judah]*

Romans 9:30-31 *This is truth; The Gentiles [Christians] achieved righteousness based on their faith, whereas the Jews made great efforts to keep a Law of righteousness, but never attained to it.*

Romans 9:32-33 *Why was this? Because their efforts were not based on faith, but, mistakenly, on deeds. They tripped over the "stone" mentioned in scripture: Here I lay in Zion, a stone to stumble against, but he who has faith in it will not be put to shame. [Isaiah 8:14-15 -Again, referring to the two Houses of Israel]*

Romans 10:4 *For Jesus Christ is the end of the Law and brings righteousness to everyone who has faith in Him.*

Romans 10:10-13 *Faith in your heart leads to righteousness and confession on your lips leads to salvation. Everyone who calls on the name of Y'hovah will be saved. In this there is no distinction between Jew or Gentile, for the same Lord is Lord of all and has riches enough for all who call on Him.*

Romans 11:25 *There is a Divine secret here; this partial hardening has come on Israel [the Jews] only until the Gentiles have been admitted in full strength, once that has happened, the whole (12 tribes) of Israel will be saved.*

Romans 12:11-12 *With unflagging zeal, aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Let hope keep you joyful, in trouble stand firm and persist in prayer. V21 Do not let evil conquer you, but use good to conquer evil.*

Romans 13:14 *Let Jesus Himself be the armour that you wear and give your unspiritual nature no opportunity to satisfy its desires.*

Ref: REB. Some verses abridged.

Lead me in the Everlasting Way

Psalm 139:1-3 *Lord, You have examined me. You know me in rest and in action. You discern my thoughts from afar. You track my travels and all the paths I take.*

Psalm 139:4 *For there is not a word that I speak, but You, Lord know all about it.*

Psalm 139:5 *You keep close guard behind and before me and place Your hand upon me.*

Psalm 139:6 *Knowledge so wonderful is beyond my grasp; it is so lofty I cannot reach it.*

Psalm 139:23-24 *Examine me, God, and know my mind. Test me and understand my anxious thoughts. Watch lest I follow any path that grieves You, lead me in the everlasting Way.*

Psalm 145:18-19 *The Lord is near to all who call to Him in sincerity. He fulfils the desire of those who fear Him, He hears their cry for help and saves them.*

Psalm 145:20 *The Lord watches over all who love Him, but the wicked, He will utterly destroy.*

Psalm 145:21 *My tongue will declare the praises of the Lord and all people will bless His holy Name for ever and ever.*

Isaiah 66:5 *Hear the word of the Lord; you that revere His word. Your fellow countrymen who are hostile to you and spurn you because you bear My name. They ridicule you, but they themselves will be put to shame.*

Psalm 126:1-3 *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like a people renewed in health. Our mouths were full of laughter and we sang aloud for joy. Then, among the nations, it was said; The Lord has done great things for them. Great things, indeed, the Lord did for us and we rejoiced!*

Ref; REB. Some verses abridged