

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## PREDESTINATION

RLJ-1221

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### PART 13: THE END OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

#### **THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM – 344 YEARS**

The Southern Kingdom of Israel lasted 344 years and was ruled by 20 kings. It was made up of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. There were a few kings that tried to bring the nation back to God. Hezekiah (716-687 B.C.) was one of them.

**2 Kings 18:1-8**

Josiah (640-609 B.C.) was another king that had a heart for God and turned the kingdom around. **2 Kings 22:1-2; 10-20; 23:1-22**

But most of the kings and the people did not have a heart for God until the day came that God destroyed the Southern Kingdom by the hand of the King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 587 B.C.

The Israeli era of a political kingdom was over and God moved the majority of the people in Judah to Babylon.

God is not sentimental; the people in Judah had trusted in the temple and thought that it didn't matter how much they sinned because God would never allow His temple to be defiled and destroyed. They were wrong and God had it all destroyed. **2 Kings 25:1-12**

**The prophet Isaiah worked as a prophet between 740 to around 700 B.C. in Jerusalem. The prophet Jeremiah began his work in 626 B.C. and continued until sometimes after 587 B.C., when he was stoned by the Jews.**

**The prophet Joel (around 800 B.C.) worked in Judah.**

**Micah operated in Judah between 740-687 B.C.**

**Habakkuk lived in Judah and was active around 620-597 B.C.**

**Zephaniah also lived in Judah and worked from around 630-608 B.C.**

#### **THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY – 70 YEARS**

God pronounced a judgment upon the people of Israel at the time of Moses and sentenced them to 40 years in the wilderness. **Numbers 14:26-35**

Some 983 years after this judgment, God sentenced the remnants of Judah and Benjamin to 70 years of punishment in Babylon. **Jeremiah 29:4-14**

God told them to accept the judgment and continue life in Babylon by marrying, having children and securing homes and income.

**FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY, GOD DECLARED THAT HE WAS ONLY GOING TO WORK WITH THE REMNANT OF JUDAH**



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**AND BENJAMIN THAT WENT TO BABYLON. THE REST OF ISRAEL WERE TO BE DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE PROMISED LAND AND BECOME A CURSE UPON THEMSELVES. Jeremiah 29:15-23**

God added three more books to the Bible during the Babylonian captivity: the Book of Daniel, the Book of Ezekiel and the Book of Jeremiah.

## **THE RETURN FROM BABYLON**

It was God's will to bring back all the people from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, which were commonly referred to as "Jews." We can again see the sinfulness of man as only a small fraction of the more than half a million Jews living in Babylon opted to return. **Ezra 1:1-8**

A total of 42,360 Jews returned along with their servants which numbered 7,337. Among them was a large choir of 200 men and women. **Ezra 2:64-65**

**The majority of the Jews in Babylon decided they were not interested in being part of the Abrahamic covenant.**

## **THE ASSIGNMENT FROM GOD**

1. Rebuild the temple of God. **Ezra 3:8**
2. Repopulate the land of Judah and be pure. **Ezra 9:10-15; 10:1-17**
3. Submit to the Gentile rulers of the Promised Land. **Nehemiah 2:1-9**
4. Obey God, keep preserving the Word of God and wait for the Messiah. **Ezra 6:21-22**

## **LAST PERIOD OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT – 565 YEARS**

We know from history that the return from Babylon took place around 539 B.C. and the birth of Jesus took place around 7 B.C.<sup>1</sup> Jesus was about 33.5 years old when He was crucified. Thus this time period is about 565 years. The Promised Land suffered much violence during these years.

King Cyrus of Persia took Babylon in 539 B.C. and was used by God to release the Jews. The Persian kingdom lasted until 331 B.C., when it was conquered by Alexander the Great from Greece. This powerful Greek Empire only lasted until Alexander's death at the age of 33. It was then divided up into four parts, and a war broke out between the Ptolemaic kingdom of Egypt and the Seleucid Empire in the east; the wars from this period washed over the Promised Land and the rule of the land went from one kingdom to the other.

During this last period of the Abrahamic covenant, the rest of the Old Testament books were added and Malachi was the last prophet God sent to His people around 455 B.C.

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<sup>1</sup> After Christianity had become a state religion in Rome, the government set the year Jesus was born to zero. Centuries later it was found that due to calendar differences, the date was off by seven years. So to be true, Jesus was born in 7 B.C. See sermon [RLJ-688](#) for more information.

## **ESTABLISHING A JEWISH KINGDOM WITH THE SWORD**

From the years 164 B.C. to 63 B.C., a period of 101 years, the Jews were able to shake off the political rule of the Greek rulers, but there was a constant war as the Greeks tried to retake Jerusalem and Judah. Strict temple worship took place during this time, which is also known as the time of the Maccabees and Hasmonean dynasty.

In 63 B.C., the armies of Rome crushed the remaining Greek forces in the region, and from that day on, the Promised Land became a Roman colony.

**The battle by Jews to establish a kingdom with Jerusalem as the capitol is not a new concept. When God smashed the kingdom of Israel, the Jews tried several times to resurrect it, first during the time 164-63 B.C., then in 67 A.D., and the last one against the Romans in 132 A.D. under the leadership of Simon Bar Kochba.**

**In 1948, the Zionist World Federation established the current state of Israel with much bloodshed and for 62 years Israel has been maintained by military power, suppression of Palestinians and the financial support by the United States. The question remains, how much longer will God allow this attempt of the Jews to bypass God's Messiah, Jesus Christ, and continue their rebellion?**

## **THE MESSIAH COMES**

Was Jesus the Messiah? Christianity stands or falls on this question; there can be no middle ground or compromise.

The four Gospels, which are the foundation of the New Testament, all bear the same message that Jesus is the Son of God, He is the Jewish Messiah and He came to pay for our sins and reconcile us to God. **Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 1:1-10; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-14**

## **CULMINATION OF GOD'S MASTER PLAN**

Some 2,231 years after the birth of Terah, when God started His master plan to save the human race from eternal damnation, God sent His Son to be born into a human body on this earth.

God announced it to the political leadership in Jerusalem. **Matthew 2:1-15**

The political leader rejected the Messiah. **Matthew 2:16-18**

God put on a tremendous power display for the people. **Luke 2:7-14**

The people accepted the Messiah. **verses 15-20**

God announced it to the Jewish spiritual leadership and they accepted it. **Luke 2:22-38**

However, the religious Jewish leadership rejected the Messiah from the first day of Jesus' ministry. **Matthew 12:10-15; 21:45-46; 26:3-5, 14-16, 47-57, 62-67; 27:1-2, 11-25**

**The religious Jewish leadership rejected God's Messiah because they didn't like Jesus and plotted to kill Him since He didn't fit into their plans. Matthew 21:33-45**

## **THE RESURRECTED MESSIAH IS REJECTED**

It was bad enough to reject the living Messiah, but it became fatal for the Jewish leadership when they rejected the resurrected Messiah and persuaded the majority of the Jews to reject Him too. **Matthew 28:1-4, 11-15**

Not even miracles from God could persuade the Jewish leadership that they had made a mistake in rejecting Jesus. They were set in their minds and did not care what God had said or done because this Messiah was unacceptable to them. ***God was told to take Jesus back and send someone whom the Jewish leadership could approve and live with. Acts 4:1-21***

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE JEWS**

It is nothing short of blasphemy for a Christian to believe that God is going to do something special for the Jews since they did not like and rejected the Son of God. God's plan for the redemption of mankind did not take into account that His Messiah would be acceptable to the Jews. When God sent His only begotten Son, the only option was to take it or leave it.

Jesus has pronounced the sentence on the Jews and we better accept and take heed to what Jesus said. **Matthew 21:37-46**

## **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE**

You cannot be a Christian Zionist if you are going to be true to the New Testament. **It is not God who rejected the Jews but the Jews who rejected God! Abraham's covenant with God doesn't exist anymore. Hebrews 8:1-13**

The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed some 37 years after the resurrection of Jesus. There are no more sacrifices.

The Jews are waiting for their messiah (Antichrist) to come but he will not be sent by God but by the Devil. **Revelation 13:1-9**

***Are you going to line up with God and his Messiah (Jesus) or are you going to line up with the Devil and his messiah (Antichrist)? Matthew 6:24***

The Jewish people who created the current political state of Israel are not doing God's work but are in rebellion against God. God has rejected Jews as a nation but He still wants to save individual Jews and bring them into the second covenant.

**All unsaved Jews living in Israel are trespassing and any Jews supporting them from other parts of the world are guilty in their trespass.  
All Christians who support the political state of Israel have turned from God and are walking with the Devil.**

***Let's not be part of the worst rejection and insult of God since Adam and Eve by agreeing with the people who rejected the Son of God, manipulated the Romans to crucify Him and then damned themselves by rejecting the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. Matthew 12:30-32***

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**