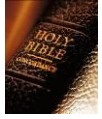


## The DEFENDER—January 2024



“. . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the  
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast  
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### FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK: Musings For The New Year

As we ponder the events that lie ahead of us in 2024, we who follow Christ will find benefit in watching it all unfold with a Christian worldview, through the lens of the Holy Scriptures. The next 12 months will be pivotal in determining the future of America, and by extension the world. The upcoming presidential election, as well as all the down ballots, will tell the story as to where we'll be in not only the next few years but perhaps far into the future as well. For the last three years, my prayer has been that for the sake of the righteous in the land, our Lord would be merciful to us. We can only pray that His mercy would continue in the new year. There are some things that will transpire in 2024 that will require our attention as well as our response.

We know that there are self-professing Christians who will vote for the Democrat nominee for president if Donald Trump wins the GOP primary. If you know people in this camp, separate yourself from them. The apostle Paul was clear in his message to the Corinthians to be separate from that which is unclean. The Democrat party is still the party of abortion, sodomy, open borders, legalized drug use, and Christian bashing, just to name a few. A lot of what the Democrats espouse is an affront to our Lord and a blatant act of rebellion against a holy and righteous God. Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). Do not deny the Lord, lest He deny you (2 Timothy 2:12). It's past time for Christians to speak up.

Another area where Christians need to be heard is in the discussion of UFO's (or UAP's-- unidentified aerial phenomena). Whereas UFO's are actual sightings of flying objects (which also may include debris which finds its way to earth), a UAP is not necessarily physical in nature, which opens wide the door to the spiritual world. How should we as believers respond to this? I've pondered that question ever since I first read Ephesians 6:12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. The Bible abounds with supernatural events and beings which go beyond natural explanations, making UAP's compatible with our biblical worldview. We know that demonic forces can create illusions or assume different appearances and that Satan himself is the master deceiver and father of lies. All of this to say, don't be so quick to buy into the theory of alien life on other planets. The government has already proven its capacity to deceive the populous for nefarious purposes.

While others get lulled into ecumenical thoughts, whether they be religious or political in nature, our calling is about preserving the sanctity of our faith and upholding God's unerring truth. May our Lord bless you all in this new year.

Rev. David Lewis

## Israel and End-Time Prophecies – Part III

### Israel: God's Time Clock

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

In all history only one sovereign nation, crushed with consummate cruelty, lost its national homeland and suffered its surviving population being forcibly scattered across the world for two millennia; yet endured and returned to reestablish a fully functioning sovereign national identity. This miracle entity can only be tiny Israel. Israel's rebirth not only had promising portentions for Jewish expatriates but also for Bible-believing scholars.

In the midst of answering His disciples' question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world? (Matt. 24:3) Jesus, having already prophesied the desecration and destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, further taught them, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree [a national symbol in Israel] when his branch is yet tender ... ye know that summer is nigh ... it is near, even at the doors.... This generation shall not pass ... till all be fulfilled (Matt. 24:32-34).

Jesus warned that from then until the end of the age, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would suffer greatly and Jerusalem would be "trodden down of the Gentiles" until the "times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24) and the "time of Jacob's trouble" begins (Jer. 30:7).

The "times of the Gentiles" actually began (political sovereignty lost to gentile overlords) when Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and took Judah captive (the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin) ending Israel's sovereignty and self-governance. Full independence only resumed for Israel as a self-governing nation in 1948, although not in all the land promised by God to Abraham.

Many Old Testament prophecies point to the great world-spanning dispersion of Israel but also to their miraculous regathering and return to the land promised to Abraham in perpetuity (Gen. 15:18, 17:8). Israel had endured three dispersions and two regatherings with a third regathering still underway in our time. The first was from Canaan into Egypt where Israel was afflicted 400 years (Gen. 15:13-16). The second was into Babylon where their captivity lasted 70 years (Jer. 25:8-12) but only a remnant returned home. The third banishment resulted when Israel's leadership reviled, rejected and by devilish inducements impelled the Romans to fulfill the prophecies regarding the crucifixion of the Lord's Christ (Ps. 22; Is. 53; Dan. 9:24-27; Zech. 12:9-10; Acts 2:22-24, 36). The Lord Jesus Christ foretold the destruction of the Temple and of Jerusalem that preceded the world-wide banishment of the Jews from the Promised Land by rapacious Roman invaders.

The Jews survived as a distinct people simply because God promised that they would. Moses recorded, "...the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people" (Deut. 7:6). Some ask, however, "Has God not finished with Israel because of her rejection of the Messiah and replaced her with Christ's Church?"

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul answered this very question, "Hast God cast away his people"? God forbid.... God hath NOT cast away his people which

he foreknew ... even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace (Rom. 11:1-5) and the rest were blinded (vs. 7-8) ... because of unbelief they were broken off ... (vs. 20) ... blindness is happened in part to Israel UNTIL the fullness of the Gentiles be come in, and so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob ... they are beloved for the father's sakes ... (vs. 25-28).

In a day yet future, Israel will be seen in mourning for that one "whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10, 13:6-9). While individual Jews have been and are still being saved, a future time will witness God's grace poured out on Jerusalem (Zech. 12:9-10) resulting in a glorious revival amongst God's chosen people.

The day is coming when national Israel will return to Jehovah (the Old Testament name of the one salvific Messiah) and become finally a "holy nation" and a "kingdom of priests." "The National Prodigal" returns to the Father (Jer. 31:7-11; Luke 15:11-32). God will fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (and to us all – Rom. 4:16) of everlasting safety (Ez. 34:11-13, 23-26) for Israel is the "apple of His eye."

The Apostle Paul wrote, "We have before proved both Jews and Gentiles ... are ALL under sin ..." (Rom 3:9). The unsaved Jews, like Gentiles are "...without God in the world" (Rom. 3:9-12; Ep. 2:2-3) yet Israel remains God's chosen and privileged nation.

Though Israel was overrun by armies and its people deported to foreign lands (Assyria, Babylon) Moses had prophesied a far wider scattering among, "ALL PEOPLE FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH UNTO THE OTHER ..." (Deut. 28:63-66). This only occurred when the leaders of Israel rejected their Messiah. This scattered them for nearly 2,000 years. Other Prophets so warned (Jer. 9:11-16; Hos. 9:17).

The "Times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24) was first prophesied in Daniel (chapter 2). God enlightened Daniel to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a massive image with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet part iron and part clay (vs. 31-33).

Nebuchadnezzar's vision then portrayed, "... that a Stone was cut out without hands [thus supernatural] which smote the image upon his feet ... and brake them ... like chaff ... the wind carried them" (vs. 34-35). Daniel's God ... "revealeth secrets" of "what shall be in the LATTER DAYS" (vs. 27-28). History revealed the head of Gold (Babylon) fell to the Medes and Persians (Silver) who in turn fell to Alexander the Great (Brass) whose Empire then crumbled before the Roman Legions (legs of Iron). The feet of iron and clay has been interpreted as a future reviving of the old Roman Empire. Some believe this is the now forming, "New World Order;" the "scarlet colored beast with seven heads and ten horns" of Revelation, chapter 17, verse 3. The seven heads are "seven mountains." Rome is the city of "seven hills" (vs. 9).

A Gentile kingdom will again exercise power over Jerusalem in the "latter days" and will again rule without a righteous acknowledgement of the only true and living God. At the closing of the "times of the Gentiles" comes the "Stone cut out, without hands" that at last destroys the evil power represented by the multi-metaled image. The Stone is the "King of

Kings” who destroys the armies of the Anti-Christ at the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16-19).

Our Lord cautioned, “Behold I come as a thief” (unannounced) and “Blessed is he that watcheth” so let no teacher tell us that Christ told His disciples His return is “none of your business.” The Babylonish spirit of those Gentile kingdoms will receive the fullness of God’s wrath at Armageddon. Christ the Creator (John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:2) will end forever the satanic governance of the evil “prince of the power of the air,” that “ruler of this present world” (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Ep. 2:2).

Daniel received the vision of “the ancient of days” who assumes mastery over the kingdoms of this present world (Dan. 7:9, 14) and His dominion will be everlasting (Dan. 2:44, 7:14; Luke 1:33; 2 Pet. 1:11; Rev. 11:15).

History records that the Roman Empire decayed rather than being destroyed in one fell swoop, but it is to revive, regaining World dominating power. The scriptures record that Christ will vanquish all His enemies including the Arch-fiend Satan once Daniel’s prophecies become “today’s news.”

God chose not to give any of His prophets the full details of the exact period of years from Christ’s first advent on earth until He walks again on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9-11; Zech. 14:1-4, 9). The Lord Jesus Christ expanded and enlarged the prophecies of the Old Testament that referenced His return to earth but likewise elected not to reveal the exact length of years between His first and second advents. He did point to signs of which to be aware (Luke 21).

As of our day, we have seen partial fulfillment of prophecies regarding God’s chosen nation and their appointed return to the Promised Land (1948 and on). We see the very extensive preparations, including the stockpiling of building materials for the erection of the Third Temple, yet national blindness remains upon the hearts of God’s people. This will be miraculously removed when Christ returns (Jer. 24:6-7) and reestablishes David’s throne (Is. 9:7; Jer. 23:5; John 1:49; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14, 19:16). Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

Main Source:

Author:

Publisher:

Those Irrepressible Jews

David C. Enger

Radio Bible Class (1983)

Grand Rapids, MI 49555



## The Mind of Christ – Humility

By Nancy Long

Psalm 42:1 – *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.”*

2 Cor. 5:17 – *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

Phil. 2:5 – *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

Phil.4:8 – *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

New Year’s Eve is more than likely the only day of the year in which almost everyone’s thoughts and attentions are focused on the exact same thing. Some, are even fixated on counting down the hours ..... then, the minutes ..... and even, the seconds, as the old year slips away, passing into history, never to be seen again.

As you are reading this month’s Defender, we’ve already moved into a fresh new year, 2024. Yes, 2024 .... can you believe just how quickly we people continue to move through this thing known as “time?!?” We say it often, but there are certain periods, more than others, when hearts and minds grab onto this truth, ***“life is like a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”*** (James 4:14). Our days here on this earth are in fact short, and man is indeed extremely fragile!!

There’s a certain sense of anticipation and excitement at the birth of a new year ..... a fresh start, a chance to start over, perhaps ..... a clean slate. Resolutions, promises, and good intentions are made in abundance!

The Lord has brought us through yet another year, and has graciously gifted us with the beginning of a new one, for which each one of us ought to be grateful! Realizing though, that no one has been promised another complete year of life, or even one more minute, for that matter, it’s incumbent upon us all to ***“set our affections on things above”*** (Col.3:2), to think about, and dwell on, spiritual matters, and to prepare and lay up in store for that which is to come (Matt.6:20 & 1 Peter 1:4).

***“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”***, exhorts the apostle Paul! To me, the mind of Christ is characterized by His humility. ***“..... walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called .... with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love”*** (Eph. 4:1-2). ***This*** is the mind of Christ!! You and I, my friends, cannot do this on our own. It is not our human inclination to be humble! It is not our

tendency to submit. In fact, I believe that most, if not all of us, strongly resist. Until our hardened hearts have been changed by the new birth ..... until ***“all things are become new”*** ..... until we listen to the still small voice of God the Holy Spirit, who resides within every believer ..... until we cooperate with His urgings ..... until our souls literally pant after God’s will to be done in our lives, then, and only then, can we begin in some small way, to take on the ***“mind of Christ”***.

I, myself, will not make any resolutions this year that’s just begun ..... although, I rarely do! **My** promises, **My** resolves, are fallible and unreliable ..... and really, so are yours. Pray for me, please, and I’ll pray for you as well, that each of us is able to **submit** more, to **trust** more, and to **accept** more of what our sovereign, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God has for us. God has a “bigger picture” planned for us, and ***“all things”*** in that “bigger picture” ***“work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”*** (Romans 8:28).

There are many uncertainties in this world in which we live, and ever so many situations that could be unsettling, but what really matters the most, stands forever ..... and never, never, ever changes! ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever”*** (Hebrews 13:8). ***“The Word of our Lord shall stand forever”*** (Isaiah 40:8b).

I leave you, my friends, with this quote from Charles Haddon Spurgeon:

***“I wish, my brothers and sisters, that during this new year you may live nearer to Christ than you have ever done before. Depend upon Him. It is when we think much of Christ that we think little of ourselves .... little of our troubles ..... little of the doubts and fears that surround us.”***



## Winter

By Hank Arthur, Defender

Winter is here, and the snow has covered all of the scars and ruts.  
Squirrels chatter and scamper about, retrieving their buried nuts.  
A hawk overhead detects a movement, folds his wings, and begins to dive.  
Birds in a holly tree are singing, just happy to be alive.

The fox in the meadow stands to stretch and sniffs the gentle breeze,  
Then lays back down, feeling secure in his bed of fallen leaves.  
The clouds in the sky, like little lambs, cavorting in a field of blue,  
Looking down on a world unchanged, yet, looking strangely new.

The brook softly gurgles a song, slowly going some other place.  
Soon melting snow and spring showers will turn it into a race.  
Then, new life will burst into sight, while blossoms adorn the tree.  
God, in His infinite love and wisdom, makes everything beautiful for  
you and me.

## Isaiah 43:18-20

***“Do not remember the former things,  
Nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I will do a new thing,  
Now it shall spring forth;  
Shall you not know it?***

***I will even make a road in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert.  
The beast of the field will honor Me,  
The jackals and the ostriches,  
Because I give waters in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert,  
To give drink to My people, My chosen.”***

*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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#### **WRITE TO US!**

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#### **Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm