

THE CHOSEN

His name is Ahasuerus. He's a legend, a myth, a folktale. He is told in 120 stories from Spain to Finland, England to Sicily. He is called the 'Wandering Jew'. His story debuted in literature in 1602. He was a shoemaker; a Jew from Jerusalem in the days of Christ. The legend says he prevented Jesus from leaning on his house while carrying His cross and Ahasuerus was therefore condemned to wander eternally. He was impoverished . . . a beggar . . . homeless . . . appearing to men like Marley's Ghost warning men of unbelief. Ahasuerus was the new Cain; a wanderer in the earth. He personified the history of the Jewish people who killed their brother. Though a myth, he was created out of Europe's perception of the Jew:

- Punished for unbelief; long dead, a nation of ghosts
- Wandering . . . "never at rest" . . . older than other nations, outliving all nations
- But a beggar, a parasite on all . . . whose only hope of peace is extinction

We, those who attend Denton Bible, are pre-millennialists. We hold to a literal Kingdom of God; a literal interpretation of prophecy; and a literal nation of Israel in the last days. We believe God is not finished with Israel and there is a reason the nation has been preserved for 2000 years.

Most of us know about Rome in 70 A.D. *All* of us know of the Holocaust and maybe 1948 when the U.N. voted their independence. But other than these, most of us know little of what this nation – the Chosen nation—has endured for these 2000 years. Our light has been their darkness.

This is their story . . . the story of Palestine . . . of Israel . . . a nation universally scorned and often killed . . . but who would not die, and rose to live again and become the center of current events.

It begins in 66 A.D. 66 A.D. saw the nation of Israel rise up against their Roman masters. Jerusalem was laid siege to by Rome and in 70, it fell. In 73 the other holdout, the mountain fortress of Masada, fell as 900 Jews took their lives rather than be taken captive. Father's killed their children . . . then wives . . . then each other.

Jesus predicted this: "How often I wanted to gather you as a hen does her chicks, but you were not willing. Your house is left to you desolate . . . not one stone shall be unturned. When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, know that her time is at hand. You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord'." Desolation, deportation, darkness: all predicted by Jesus. "His blood be on us and our children." And it was.

But with the loss of the capitol, Jerusalem . . . the loss of corporate worship . . . the priesthood and the Sanhedrin, a great shift took place in Jewish life. The center of Jewish life now shifted from

Jerusalem to Jabneh, a city on the coast. With no priests, scholars arose. And the synagogue became the new temple. With no sacrifices, study became atonement. Though the people were scattered all authority was still centered in the remnant in Israel. That was soon to change - about 70 years later in another revolt and another destruction.

A new emperor arose, Hadrian, with great Jewish hopes. But they were disappointed. Hadrian did not rebuild Jerusalem, but on its rubble built a Roman city, Aelia Capitolina. One in which Jews were not allowed. Judea was renamed 'Palestine', a mocking play on "philistine". A temple to Jupiter was put in place of the site of the Temple of God and the land was settled with Romans. Rome was phasing out Israel.

In the wake of these defamations, there arose a deliverer named Simeon ben Kosiba, who was called bar Kokhba—"Son of the Star", who in 132 led another revolt against Rome. The nation was looking for such a military political messiah and bar Kokhba fit the bill. He collected weapons, prepared defenses and then struck at Roman installations. He was what Israel wanted Jesus to be. This was a Christ. The revolt lasted 3-1/2 years. Hundreds of thousands from each side were killed until the rebellion was put down. Mass immigration then began out of Palestine, which had lost its place of prestige. And now Rome, instead of toleration, began to crush the troublesome eastern religions—Judaism and Christianity—in their exclusive monotheism. *So much so, that the Jewish scholars soon developed the "Kedusha ha-Shem", the art of martyrdom. . . "How a Jew should die".*

And without the structure of religious life that surrounded the temple, the rabbis developed literature that gave the Jew a strict code of conduct. The Halakkah or 'oral law' regulated every step of a Jew's life. It remained unwritten for years. When it was written, it was called the Mishna...the commentary on it—the Talmud. It laid the foundation of Jewish culture for all generations to come. The Jew's distinctiveness was now written.

Because of this literary identity, the rabbis developed elementary schools to make certain that all Jewish children could read the Law and secondary schools for the gifted. Education became paramount to Israel and this would continue throughout its history.

But, in 313 great change came. Constantine, the emperor of Rome, became a Christian and moved the empire's capitol from Rome to Constantinople in the east. The Province of Palestine was now divided into 3 territories: Prima, Secunda, and Tertia—1, 2, and 3. Israel was *still* forbidden

independence. The Sanhedrin was dismissed and the Jews were ruled by singular older men of Tiberius, on the Sea of Galilee, called Patriarchs or Nissim. Palestine was now ruled by Christian Rome.

The effects of “Christian empire” were evident by the 6th century. One is that the majority of Palestine were *Christian* Gentiles; because many Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land simply stayed. (And also because many monasteries had sprung up around the Holy sites, thus making evangelization much easier.) Who made the Holy sites Holy sites? Helen: the mother of Constantine who toured Israel for that very reason. A second effect was the redefining of the legal status of the Jew. To lessen Jewish influence they were prohibited from marriage to Christians as well as commercial and social relationships. The Jewish communities could not punish those who became Christians or own Christian slaves. Nor could they freely build synagogues and the Patriarch of Tiberius was forbidden as he was considered a descendant of the house of David and thus served as a continuance of Jewish Messianic hopes...which was felt by the Church as an insufferable offense. The Jews were being phased out by Christianity, as well as, by Rome.

Such was the case for 300 years under Christian Rome until 634 A.D. and a change would come that would remain until 1918. Palestine fell under Muslim rule.

Israel was conquered by a new people – a unified Arab empire – and a new religion – Islam. Amazingly, Jerusalem became the 3rd holy city of Islam. The most prominent place in Jerusalem today is the Muslim Dome of the Rock, built during this time. But amazingly, the Jews received better treatment from the Muslims than they did from Christianity! They were allowed to live in Jerusalem again and were known as the “dhimmi” – a “protected people”.

The largest concentration of Jews was still in Iraq, or Babylon, and Egypt; and the Babylonian Jews established relationships with the caliphs – Islamic leaders. In Spain, the farthest western conquest of Islam, the Jews had been forbidden to raise their children as Jewish and their children were taken from them and given to Christians. Thus the Muslim was welcomed as saviors. Islam favored co-existence, Christianity favored elimination. Ironically, Jews who had fled from Christian Spain to Muslim North Africa now returned to the safety of a Muslim Spain.

And it was at this time that a peculiar change came. As a heavy tax was placed on Jewish landowners by their Muslim overlords many Jews abandoned agriculture, left their land, moved to cities and entered into “business” doing with money as they had done with seed. By the end of the 8th century the Jew was a fixed presence in all Muslim trade caravans.

They became the cultural agents of international trade as Islamic leaders capitalized on the Jews' relation to all other Jewish communities throughout the world. Thus, the need of Muslim leaders to establish investment sources, led to the emergence of the wealthy Jewish banker and financier . . . loaning at interest . . . who became indispensable to the courts of high Arab officials on financing military campaigns and maintaining a luxurious lifestyle. The financiers were dubbed "the corners of the congregation".

And in *Muslim* Jerusalem, a small community of Jews was formed after centuries of being banned by Catholicism. Even the Jewish center of authority, the Yeshiva, was moved from Tiberius in Galilee to Jerusalem. Pilgrimage by all Jews to Jerusalem was again allowed and immigration began. This prosperity under Islam continued for 300 years. Israel had now been ruled by all 3 of the monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

But, 800 A.D. marked a major change in European Judaism. The Jews of the East in North Africa and of Babylon among the Muslim had enjoyed a co-existence. There was virtually no area in the intellectual, spiritual, or artistic sphere which was not explored and revitalized by North African Jews. And both North African and Babylonian Jews had even established their own governing bodies – a kind of mobile Sanhedrin called the Yeshiva with designated leaders known as the Geonim. Thus the dispersed Jews had maintained their Jewish identity in the East.

But things changed in Europe as the "Holy Roman Empire" began in 800 A.D., a period where the popes attempted to resurrect the old political Roman Empire under the Pope and the Frankish kings as emperors—the first being Charlemagne. Christianity had become "Christendom", a political, military, and spiritual kingdom.

And as such, the church in Europe redefined its policy toward the Jew.

It came from an internal conflict. On one hand, the Jews were the People of the Book through whom the Church had received its faith. But their harsh living conditions were a testimony to God's wrath. Thus they were tolerated. But Talmudic Judaism was seen as a heresy. The Church did not condemn the Jew, but neither did it restrain anti-Semitic action toward those called "Christ killers". Jews were denied intermarriage with Christians as well as any master-servant, doctor-patient relationship which placed the Jew in power. And for the first time, the Jew had to wear a badge of identification.

The Jews were seen as the slave or serf of the national treasury or as "the child of the State." And thus, the rising nations of Europe felt justified in a special taxing of the Jew for their provided

protection. The nations also forbid the Jew to lend money at interest as usury was illegal in the church, thus lessening their wealth and usefulness. Thus in 1290 they were expelled from England; in 1306 From France; in 1492 from Spain. Shortly after, from Portugal and then.....

The Crusades began seeking the re-establishing of Christian rule in the Holy Land, freeing it from the Muslim. But the re-establishing of Christian rule was more harsh than Islam, as the Crusaders slaughtered Muslims *and* the Jews – burning the synagogues with Jews inside and selling Jewish prisoners to other Jewish communities for ransom; and once again the Jew was forbidden access to Jerusalem.

At the same time, the Black Death arrived in the West. The Plague. The Jews were blamed as poisoning the wells. They were expelled from Germany. In cities in Italy they were cordoned off in ghettos. In 1391 Spain produced the “anusim”, or forced conversions. To stay in Spain they had to convert but many of the “conversos” were doubted as being closet Jews. The remedy of the Spanish Inquisition was begun, using torture to exact the truth.

At the same time, the Muslim world of the East also began to adopt a new spiritual direction and thus a new policy toward the Jew. In North Africa, the Almohads, a more fundamental and fanatical form of Islam, felt that Islam’s years of leniency and co-existence were to be over and now all the world was to embrace Islam.

In Babylon, the Mongols had conquered the Arab and then adopted Islam. The Jewish community was delivered into the not so lenient mob of oppressors.

And in Egypt, the Mamalukes—a military aristocracy of former slaves—Spartacus-like—had risen to control and was resented by any Egyptian minority group that had risen in Islamic society....the Jew being one. By the 1500’s, things were dark. As God had said, “The sword will follow you. . .”

In response, the European Jews fled to Eastern Europe—to Poland—where they were known as the Ashkenazi from the land of Ashkenaz, or Germany. Poland needed the special financial talents of the Jew as Poland had become the thoroughfare for trade and commerce between the East and West. The German Jew also brought a unique German-Judeo dialect that became the common dialect of Polish Jews – Yiddish.

But by the late 1500’s a strange phenomena occurred. The providential mercy of God in the re-admission of the Jews back into Western Europe, to Germany, France, England *and* Spain. Why? The

rising ideology of capitalism. As Europe became more industrialized and urban, and commerce was becoming elevated beyond agriculture, the advocates of this new capitalism attributed to the Jews' collective virtues of diligence and thrift which they wished to see in all of society. Hence the Jew for the first time in Western society was seen as an advantage!! And as post-millennialism grew after the Reformation, the conversion of the Jew played a leading role in the expectation of the Kingdom age. Thus the need arose for integration of the Jew, *not* exclusion. The end of the 18th century would see their full legal emancipation in Western Europe.

As . . . the French Revolution issued its Declaration of the Rights of Man, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity", that implied Jewish equality. In 1791 France issued the first act of Jewish emancipation by a Christian state and it was perceived by the Jew as a historic turn toward a future of happiness. Wrote one Jew, "France is our Palestine, its mountains are our Zion, its rivers, our Jordan." Said Article X of the Declaration, "no man ought to be molested because of his opinion". The French Revolutionary armies exported this ideal to all of the countries they conquered, or as they would say, all they *liberated*. As modern government with its liberties crested by 1848, democratic forces everywhere had unified over the equality of the Jew. The West was slowly shedding its feudal policies and adopting the equality of all citizens.

But, the achievement would prove to be fragile and never would the Jew find *permanent* peace among Gentiles. One could almost predict what would happen. As the modern world grew more urban, productive and mercantile it was tailor made for a people who denied land had learned to flourish in business. The 1800's were a time of the cultural, artistic, educational, and financial flourishing of The Wandering Jew. But suspicion, envy and fear went with it.

Their economic rise was coupled with their instinctive separatism, giving rise to conspiratorial fears not unlike Pharaoh in Exodus. "They are mightier than we and they may join with our enemies. Let us act wisely and persecute them."

Here is how Europe saw the Jew in the 1800's. The Jewish financier Rothschild financing both sides of the Napoleonic wars, pulling the strings of society. Rothschild swallowing the world. The Jewish swindling merchant. The Jewish hogs of business. By the late 1800's suspicion had grown into a new ideology. A word was coined in 1874 by Wilhelm Marr, a German political agitator who wrote "The Victory of Judaism Over Germany". The new word was "anti-Semitism". Hatred was no longer *misguided tradition* but *political and racial astuteness*; a patriotic protection of one's own country from Jewish takeover. Another word was coined in Russia - one more ominous. The Russian word for "thunderstorm" - "pogrom" - to describe *concerted* attacks on Jews. The Jew came to be the lightning

rod for *any* of the problems arising in a modern Europe. In France the secret police of Paris produced a celebrated forgery called “The Protocols of The Elders of Zion”. The supposed strategy of the Jew to conquer Europe from within.

But as persecution began to be seen in Europe as nationally expedient, a country arose across the sea which urged the “wretched huddled masses” to come and find freedom, peace, liberty and freedom of expression. A huge continent of a country far from Europe, offering land and commerce. A country that was not a reconstituted European country but was a *novus ordo seclorum*, a “new order of the ages” on another side of the world. A boat ride away. The U.S.A.!! Spanish Jews, German Jews, Polish Jews, Russian Jews—all came by 1880. Out of an American population of 250,000 Jews, one out of six was of Eastern Europe. Forty years later, there were 4 million Jews in the United States; 5 out of 6 were Eastern European. Another word had been coined: the “immigrant”. A third of Eastern European Jews had left their lands. 90% to the U.S. Some of its people would become the classic Americans. Many would become the foundations of America—a providentially arising country made for the Jew, who advanced continually in every field. America became the greatest and safest haven of the Jew in 18 centuries of sojourn. A Jewish mapmaker “guided” Columbus; a Spanish Jew helped finance the Revolutionary War; and our most American piece of clothing? Levis from Levi Strauss. Business, banking, the arts, jewelry, sports, clothiers, furs, education, science, law, politics, motion pictures, philosophy . . . even organized crime, with Bugsy Siegal and Meyer Lansky as they developed Las Vegas.

But as all this happened in Europe and America. What was happening in Palestine? The Turks had conquered the Mamalukes of Egypt and Palestine became a Turkish possession. The conditions in Palestine plummeted. Palestine was a world to itself far removed from the Turkish capitol. Modern improvements through Western ideas were scorned by the Muslim world as Western corruption. But 19th century missionaries brought Christianity and modern western technologies to Palestine.

But, after 1700, Jews *from Europe* had begun to come to Palestine with nowhere else to go. By the end of the 1800’s, Palestine’s Jewish population had doubled. Why? Because another movement was taking place - the reaction of the Jew against anti-Semitism. “Zionism.” The longing for the unimaginable - an independent nation of Israel! Its major proponent was Theodor Herzl, a Jewish lawyer, playwright, and journalist from Vienna who wrote, “Der Judenstaat” – “The Jewish State” in 1896 and championed the idea of a Jewish nation until his death in 1904...even though he was an atheist.

After 18 centuries the Jew finally realized they could *not* look to the nations for equitable treatment. The original idea was to find a neutral site. Britain suggested Uganda. In all, there were 31 sites considered. But it came down to their land of origin. Palestine. A pamphlet was printed, soon read by every Jew . . . putting in print what few had dreamed of - for the Jew to control his own destiny. The pamphlet was entitled "Auto-emancipation". But Palestine was no easy country to return to. Mark Twain wrote after touring Palestine, "a desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given wholly to weeds...a silent mournful expanse...a desolation...we never saw a human being on the whole route...hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus...those fast friends of a worthless soil, has almost deserted the country." Land was bought from Arab landowners and malarial swamps became fertile plains. In 1909 the first communal settlement was begun on the Sea of Galilee called a Kibbutz, making a town where there was no town. For the first time since 70 A.D. Palestine began to attract immigrants, Jews *and* Arabs as mercantile 'interests' increased. In WWI, Palestine wisely declared neutrality.

After WWI, in 1918, Palestine was freed from Turkish dominion; Turkey having been an ally of a defeated Germany. And Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, that it favored a Jewish State. The new League of Nations thus established the British Mandate giving Britain the responsibility of ruling Palestine until its independence could be established. At the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, an agreement was signed between the Arab leader of Palestine and the Zionist leader of Palestine, confirming the objective of two independent states in Palestine, Arab and Jew, living in peace.

But 1920 saw the rising of the Arab extremist – Haj Amin al-Husseini, and his pressing the point that Jewish independence must be resisted by any means – even armed conflict. The British arrested him to soften him and then released him as an expression of good will. But in the year that followed, Al-Husseini obtained the position as the Arab head of Jerusalem and head of the Supreme Council of Palestine. The peace ended.

So . . . in 1922, the British partitioned Palestine into Arab and Jew to keep them separate. The greater part of Palestine east of the Jordan was to become an Arab state, closed to Jewish settlement. Less than ¼ of Palestine belonged to the new State of Israel.

Between the wars I & II, immigration continued primarily from Russian and East European Jews. But after Hitler's rise to power in 1932, *German* Jews came. [Fleeing the Holocaust, The Complete

Burning, The Final Solution to Hitler's propaganda of Jewish conspiracy. Jews would be imprisoned, worked, starved, shot, gassed and burned or buried in mass graves. 6 million of them. 1.5 million children. One third of the worldwide population of Jews. Israel's worst hour.] They came. Kibbutzim formed, agriculture and industry and capital came with the immigrants, but so also did Arab attacks on Jewish settlements. From this came the Haganah, a group for defense that would become The Jewish Defense Force.

Arab nationalism arose against Jewish immigration and staged anti-Jewish riots wanting Britain to limit immigration, which they did. But as the Holocaust began against European Jews, Jewish immigrants came *illegally* into the country and the Jewish underground began anti-British activity. The situation grew tense.

So in 1947 the British gave up their mandate and turned Palestine over to the U.N. A re-partitioning occurred by the U.N. of western Palestine into two independent states. On May 14, 1948 the last British soldier left Palestine and the independent State of Israel was proclaimed by a vote of the U.N. For the first time since 586 B.C., Israel was FREE. The desert had bloomed!!!

The U.N. partition was the latest of a number of attempts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The problem was always Jerusalem. Who would control it? The U.N. partition said it would be under International control. The Jews accepted it because it gave Israel what it had not had since Babylon— independent control. For that reason, the Arabs rejected it → ***The day after*** the British evacuation in May of '48 the armies of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq invaded Israel to crush the one day old Jewish State in its infancy.

Israel with an extreme shortage of equipment lost 6000—dead—1/10th of their population. But they not only held their own but *won* additional territories not included in the U.N. Partition. An armistice was signed in 1949 and a new division of land occurred. Israel and the Arabs each receiving 3 areas west of Jordan...Jerusalem under International control.

600,000 Arabs lived in the lands given to Israel. They fled to Arab held lands and were not absorbed but were put in refugee camps....used for propaganda against Israel.

156,000 Arabs heeded a Jewish call to remain in the country and live in peace. The Arab population has since grown to 864,000 in Jewish held lands.

What followed was the "Aliyah," or "the return."

After WWII, there were thousands of Jews whose homeland had been destroyed. Thousands had come out of the concentration camps and were held in refugee camps. Once released where did they go? Their country saw them as Pariahs. Many thousands went to the **one place** that wanted them. To Israel. The British government had limited immigration to 2000 per month. But in 1948 the gates were flung open. Within 3 years 700,000 had immigrated, more than half from Europe, doubling the Jewish population. Half of the surviving Eastern European Jews had left Europe for Israel. But the Aliyah was even greater in Muslim held countries, as the Palestinian controversy awakened hostility to the Jewish communities. Homes and property were frequently confiscated so that these refugees arrived destitute.

In the autumn of 1949 the entire 98,000 Jewish community of Yemen was airlifted to Israel in "Operation Eagle's Wings". In 1950-51 ninety percent of Iraq's Jewish population, 114,000 Jews, arrived in "Operation Ezra and Nehemiah." So it was in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria.

The Sinai Campaign erupted in the wake of the Aliyah as hostilities at Israeli borders in the form of the "fidayun" or terrorist squads that took a steady toll on Jewish lives. In October of 1956 things came to a head between Israel and her Moslem neighbors of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as Egypt's ruler, Abdul Nasser, equipped with Soviet arms, again moved his forces into Sinai for an attack.

Israel was outnumbered, out-armed, and surrounded. What did she do? She struck first. The entire Egyptian army was defeated and Sinai was possessed by Israelite forces.

The U.S. and Russia compelled Israel to withdraw from Sinai and U.N. forces were stationed on the Israeli / Egyptian border.

11 years passed.

In May of 1967 Abdul-Nasser of Egypt made an alliance with King Hussein of Jordan and amassed their forces in Sinai with the avowed intention of destroying Israel. Israel made an appeal to the nations of the U.N., who had pledged to protect the peace, to renew their pledge. Having failed, war broke out with Egypt for the 3rd time in June of 1967.

Israel, again surrounded and alone, struck first and knocked out the entire Egyptian Air Force in one stroke as it sat on the ground, thus gaining a mastery of the skies. Jordanian forces took over U.N. headquarters in the neutral zone and began shelling Jerusalem. Israel retaliated in a swift offensive and in 6 days—hence The Six Day War—they captured the whole of Judea and Samaria—the West Bank—along with the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. The Western Wall or Wailing Wall as well as the Temple Mount were now Jewish spoils of war. For the first time in 2000 years, the Mount became open to unobstructed worship and Israel's borders were open to any Arab or

Jew who desired to come for trade, tourism, or employment.

Until October 6, 1973. On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, Egypt *again*, for the 4th time, attacked on the south. Syria on the north. Israel drove Syria north to within 25 miles of Damascus and encircled the 3rd Army of Egypt. On October 22 the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 242 calling for an immediate cease fire and reintroduced troops between Israel and Egypt.

The conflict continues.

In 1982 in Lebanon, war with the Palestine Liberation Organization of Yassar Arafat in Beirut over PLO rocket attacks.

In the Gulf War of 1991, as Saddam Hussein in his war with the U.S. over Kuwait fired missiles into Israel hoping to draw Arab nations into the conflict. Israel was asked by the U.S. not to retaliate and passed out 5 million gas masks in preparation for chemical warfare.

The hero of the war? Patriot missiles of the U.S. In 2006, outbreaks with Syria. Today, outbreaks with Gaza and the shelling of Tel Aviv.

Today, Israel is the center of world activity. The Middle East is the hornet's nest between Islam and Israel, East and West. As no other nation, their annihilation has been sought and yet they still survive.

No nation has fostered such enmity. No nation has contributed so much to mankind. All that makes up Western civilization with its biblical view of human freedom and dignity. With its view of nature, science, progress, and history – all are the result of the biblical worldview. Bestowed by God through the Jewish Bible and the Jewish Messiah.

Indeed, did Jesus say, "Salvation is of the Jew."

Why are they still here when history has seemed so often to pass them by? Because God's ancient promises to them have not been fulfilled. The promise of the Davidic King, the Messiah of God, ruling over the earth from Jerusalem over a repentant, reborn nation of Israel.

As history continues in moral decline, as the world becomes more secular and, inversely, less appreciative of Israel, as Israel embraces more and more the secularism of the Gentile world, as Islamic nations proliferate and breathe forth violence and, as historically, Christian nations forget their roots and forget Israel, and as even Christians replace Israel with the church, the time approaches of the real possibility of their making a forbidden covenant with a European union . . . to protect them and give them the support to establish the one thing unseen since 70 A.D.—the temple of God . . . the completion of their independence.

- And when the restrainer of the church is removed at the rapture. . . and the age of the church ended,
- and *one man* assumes control,
- and asserts his authority upon the Middle East,
- and grants Israel its temple,

The Day of the Lord shall begin,

as prophesied . . . but, still they live . . . still they are “The Chosen” as “the calling and the gifts of God are irrevocable.”