

THE SABBATH SCOOP

VOLUME 29

NOVEMBER 2016

NUMBER 8

Who Are the German People?

God used the Assyrian people to take Israel captive in ancient times and will use them again in the end time!

By Gregory Dullum
Part 2

When the northern 10 tribes of Israel fell deeper and deeper into sin, God warned them to repent or He would send them into national captivity.

Assyria to Take Israel Captive

What nation did God say He would use to punish Israel? Through the prophet Isaiah, God said:

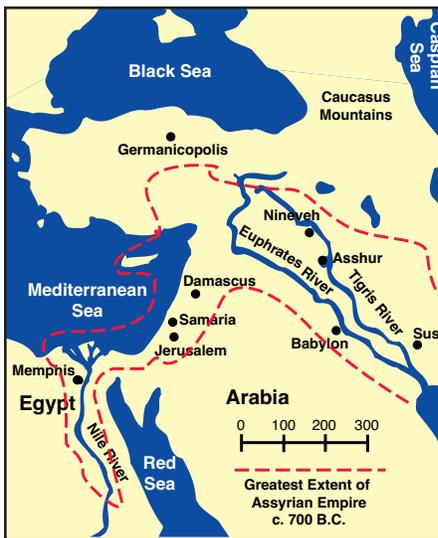
“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations” (Isa. 10:5-7).

Assyrians Must Repent First

The Assyrians were not selected by God because they were more righteous than the Israelites. In fact, they had become so wicked that God planned to destroy them if they didn't repent (Jonah 1:2)! God sent the prophet Jonah to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, with this message: “Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (Jonah 3:4).

When the Israelites were told to repent, they IGNORED the prophets! The Assyrians, however, had a different attitude:

“So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by decree of the



Map by Greg Dullum

The Assyrian Empire stretched from The Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf during the height of its power.

king and his nobles, saying,

“Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?” (vv. 5-9).

How did God react when the Assyrians repented and humbled themselves before Him?

“Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way, and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it” (v. 10).

This made Jonah very angry (Jonah 4:1). Why? Because Jonah knew the Assyrians would take Israel captive in the near future. He thought by running away

from his commission and NOT preaching in Nineveh, the Assyrians would be *destroyed* in their wickedness, and Israel would be *saved*. But now that he had preached repentance, the Assyrians had *heeded his warning!* Assyria was *saved* and Israel was *doomed*.

Israel Attacked by Assyria

Just a few years after Jonah preached in Nineveh, God began using Assyria to punish an unrepentant Israel.

In 747 B.C., Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser III came to power. His Babylonian name was Pul. In 743 he launched a western invasion that brought much of Syria and Palestine under his control (Footnote, *Nelson's NKJ Study Bible*, 1997, p. 637).

Tiglath-Pileser III forced Israel to pay a tribute: “Pul king of Assyria came to attack the land. Menahem [king of Israel] gave him about seventy-four thousand pounds of silver so Pul would support him and make his hold on the kingdom stronger. Menahem taxed Israel to pay about one and one-fourth pounds of silver to each soldier of the king of Assyria. So the king [Pul] left and did not stay in the land” (2 Kings 15:19-20 *New Century Version*).

Israel Forms Resistance

After several years, Israel and Syria grew tired of paying tribute to Assyria, so they formed a rebellious alliance. They wanted to force Judah to join them as well, to strengthen their resistance. To get Judah to join them, Israel and Syria needed to replace Judah's king Ahaz with a king who would be loyal to their alliance. So they attacked Jerusalem about 735 B.C. “Rezin king of Aram [Syria] and Pekah son of Ra-

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maliah, the king of Israel, came up to attack Jerusalem. They surrounded Ahaz but could not defeat him" (2 Kings 16:5).

Judah Asks Assyria for Help

Ahaz knew Judah's army could not beat the combined forces of Israel and Syria. He needed help. He decided to ask Tiglath-Pileser III for help. Isaiah was told by God to warn Ahaz against going to Assyria for help:

"Tell Ahaz, 'Be careful. Be calm and don't worry. Don't let those two men, Rezin and Pekah son of Remaliah, scare you. Don't be afraid of their anger or Aram's anger, because they are like two barely burning sticks that are ready to go out. They have made plans against you, saying, "Let's fight against Judah and tear it apart. We will divide the land for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel the new king of Judah." But I, the LORD God, say, "Their plan will not succeed; it will not happen, because Aram is led by the city of Damascus, and Damascus is led by its weak king, Rezin. Within sixty-five years Israel will no longer be a nation. Israel is led by the city of Samaria, and Samaria is led by its weak king, the son of Remaliah" ' " (Isa. 7:4-9 NCV).

"Against the protests of Isaiah (Isa. 7:4, 16-17; 8:4-8), Ahaz appealed to Tiglath-Pileser for assistance (2 Kings 16:7-9)" ("Assyria," *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, 2003, p. 135).

"Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, 'I am your servant and your friend. Come and save me from the king of Aram and the king of Israel, who are attacking me.' Ahaz took the silver and gold that was in the Temple of the LORD and in the treasures of the palace, and sent these as a gift to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria listened to Ahaz. He attacked

Damascus and captured it and sent all its people away to Kir. And he killed Rezin" (2 Kings 16:7-9 NCV).

Israelites Deported

In 733 and 732 B.C., Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul) moved his armies south along the Mediterranean coast all the way to Egypt. He made two invasions into Israel (Map, *Nelson's NKJV Study Bible*, 1997, p. 638).

Tiglath-Pileser reduced the size of Israel to the area of just around the city of Samaria, deporting the population (*Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, p. 135).

Israel's captial, Samaria, was allowed to remain, provided it paid tribute to Assyria. About a decade later, Israel's King Hoshea stopped paying tribute and the Assyrians responded by besieging Samaria (2 Kings 17:1-5).

"Little is known of the reign of Tiglath-Pileser's successor, Shalmaneser V (726-722 B.C.), except that he besieged Samaria for three years in response to Hoshea's failure to pay tribute (2 Kings 17:3-5). The city finally fell to Shalmaneser (2 Kings 17:6; 18:9-12), who apparently died the same year. His successor, Sargon II (722-705 B.C.), took credit in Assyrian royal inscriptions for deporting 27,290 inhabitants of Samaria" (ibid., p. 135).

The Israelites were removed from their land and taken as prisoners to Assyria.

"For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day" (1 Kings 17:22-23).

The Fall of Assyrian Empire

The Israelites lived among the Assyrians for about a hundred years until just before the Assyrian Empire fell to the Babylonians.

As the Babylonian Empire came to power, it fought with Assyria.

"War continued between Assyria and Babylon until, in 614 B.C., the old Assyrian capital of Asshur was sacked by the Medes. Then, in 612 B.C., Calah was destroyed. The combined armies of the Babylonians and the Medes laid siege to Nineveh. After two months the city fell" (*Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, p. 137).

Israelites, Many Assyrians Flee

Before Assyria fell, invading armies from central Asia forced the Israelites who had

been taken captive and many of the Assyrians to migrate north and west to the southern shores of the Black Sea.

"Their empire's power rapidly declined just before Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. During their decline, the Assyrians were forced to settle the southern shores of the Black Sea by a group of invading warriors from central Asia. Diodorus Siculus, a Greek historian who lived in the first century B.C., wrote in his work *The Library of History* that by these raiders, 'many of the conquered peoples were removed to other homes, and two of these became very great colonies: The one was composed of Assyrians and was removed to the land between Paphlagonia and Pontus' " ("The Remarkable Identity of the German People" by David Vejl, p. 3).

Just south of Pontus, and about 100 miles south of the Black Sea was a town in the Apostle Paul's day called "Germanicopolis" (Map: "The Missionary Journeys of Paul" by Broadman Supplies). Could this be one of the places settled by the Assyrians as they traveled from Mesopotamia to Europe?

By the fifth century B.C., there were so many Assyrians living south of the Black Sea that Greek geographers called the area Assyria.

Moving North of Black Sea

The Assyrians helped the Persian King Xerxes I fight against the Greeks. After Xerxes' disastrous campaign, the Assyrians migrated from the southern shore to the northern shore of the Black Sea. They became lumped together by historians with other "Scythian" occupants.

"To Greek and Roman authors, Scythia was the land beyond the civilized world. The land, consisting of mainly steppes, stretched eastward from eastern Europe

Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenninger

1. Who wrote Lamentations?
2. How many times did Moses go up the mountain to get the 10 commandments?
3. Who baptized Jesus?
4. Did Judas get gold or silver for betraying Jesus?
5. What is another name for God's Spirit?

(Answers on page 5)

The SABBATH SCOOP

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Circulation Managers:

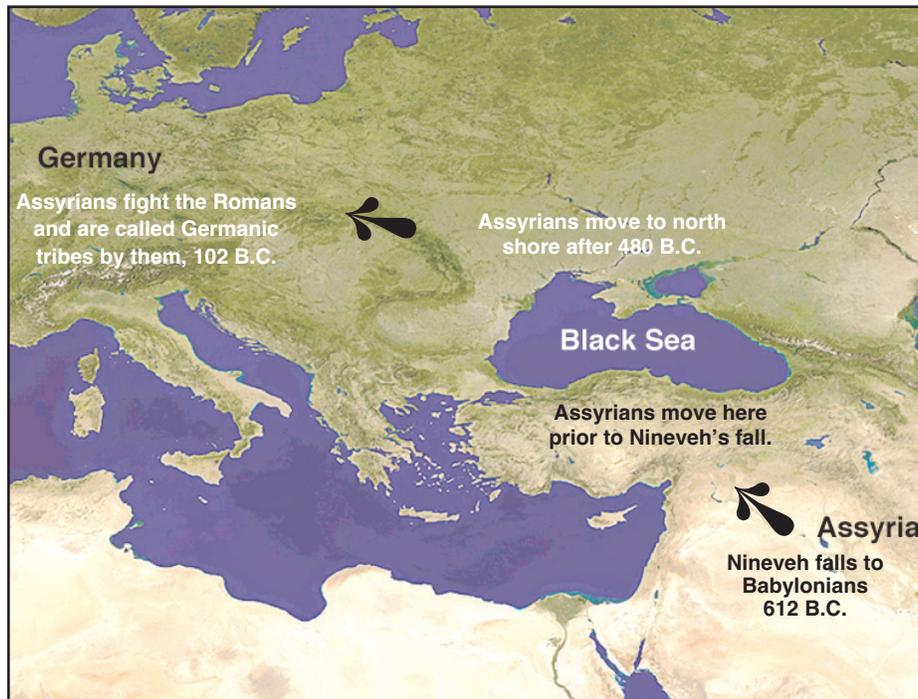
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PRINT CIRCULATION: 77 • COST PER ISSUE: FREE
<http://sabbathcoop.myfreesites.net>

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Map by Greg Dullum

The Assyrians migrated from Assyria prior to the fall of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire. They settled first on the south shore of the Black Sea, then the north shore, and finally in Europe, where Germany is today.

all the way past the Urals and from the Baltic Sea south to the Black Sea. All the many different people who lived in the territory were labeled Scythians” (Vejil, p. 3).

“The same tribes that Greek historian Herodotus of the fifth century B.C. called *Scythians*, Pliny, Tacitus and Strabo of the first century A.D. called *Germanians*” (Vejil, p. 5).

From Black Sea into Europe

“As the ancient Babylonian kingdom gained ascendancy, the wandering peoples of Assyria and the ten-tribed captives among them were pushed ever northward, and westward. The leading tribe of the Assyrians was called the ‘Halmanni.’ The Latins called the land of Germany ‘Alemannia.’ Today, Mexicans and Spaniards call Germany ‘Aleman.’ A German is ‘Un Aleman.’ ” (*Europe and America in Prophecy* by Garner Ted Armstrong, p. 45).

The Assyrians migrated to the present location of Germany. At the same time, the “lost 10 tribes” of Israel migrated into northwestern Europe as well, and settled in the lands that they now occupy (France, Denmark, Ireland, Britain, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland).

Historical Names for Germans

When reading about the ancient history of Germany, we seldom find its occupants referred to as Assyrians. Instead, we see them called “Scythians” (or Cimbric) or “Teutons,” names given to the Assyrian migrants by the Romans (because Roman history has survived). Notice this account from *The World Book Encyclopedia*:

“The first written account of the people of early Germany appeared after they made war against the soldiers of the Roman Republic. A German tribe known as the *Teutones* was defeated by the armies of the Roman general Marius in 102 B.C. Julius Caesar led his armies against German tribes in Switzerland (*Helvetia*) and against Germans along the Rhine.

“The Roman emperor, Augustus, tried to conquer all Germany. His armies, under Varus, were defeated by the German warriors led by Arminius, in the year A.D. 9. After this defeat, the Romans contented themselves with holding the river lines of the Rhine and the Danube against the raids of various Teutonic tribes, such as the Alemanni, Franks, Goths, Vandals, and Lombards” (“Germany,” *The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1956, vol. 7, p. 2970).

The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia (2004) adds: “The Romans called the tribes Germani, though that

was the name of only one tribe. Other tribes included the Cimbric, Franks, Goths, and Vandals. The Romans called the land of the tribes Germania” (“Germany”).

“‘Teuton’ merely means ‘spear warrior’; a name given to the Germanic peoples by the Romans. ‘Deutschland’ is the Germanic pronunciation of ‘Teuton,’ and has no ethnological origins, but refers, instead, to the ancient names applied to warlike peoples encountered by the Romans in northern and central Europe” (Garner Ted Armstrong, p. 45).

Germans Are Modern Assyrians

“The ancient Assyrians migrated from their ancient land south of the Caspian Sea, northwest—and settled in Germany! The Germans of today are the same people—the very descendants—of the ancient Assyrians. So when you read about Assyria in prophecies pertaining to now, they refer to Germany!” (*The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* by Herbert W. Armstrong, 1967, p.199).

Duality in Bible Prophecy

There often is duality in Bible prophecy. There is a small initial fulfillment and a later, bigger, end-time fulfillment. For example, there was the first coming of Jesus Christ as God in the flesh in 4 B.C. and the second coming of Jesus Christ as a spirit being—the conquering King of Kings at the last trumpet.

The rescue of the ancient Israelites from Egyptian slavery under Moses cannot be compared to the rescue of end-time Israelites from captivity in Egypt, Assyria (the land of the north), and other parts of the world (Jer. 16:14-15).

A prophecy in Daniel says a man will take away the daily sacrifices of the Jews (Dan. 8:11-12). This was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes in 170 B.C. Another man will take away daily sacrifices 1,290 days before the return of Christ in an end-time fulfillment (Dan. 12:11).

Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery by his brothers. In the end time, it is likely that descendants of Joseph’s brothers will be complicit in sending the descendants of Joseph into slavery again.

Ancient Israel was taken captive by the ancient Assyrians. Bible prophecy indicates that history will repeat itself at the end time! The descendants of Assyria (Germany) will again take captive the descendants of Israel, particularly the tribes

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Light vs. Darkness

There are lessons we can learn from light and darkness as we enter the dark months of the year.

By Gregory Dullum

This month we gained an hour as we turned our clocks back one hour and went off Daylight Savings Time. In the northern hemisphere, our evenings will get darker earlier. We're entering the darkest time of the year.

If there is a battle between light and darkness, it seems RIGHT NOW that *darkness is winning*—both *in nature* and, spiritually speaking, *in society*.

In John 1:4-5, Jesus Christ is called the LIGHT of the world. Satan and his demons are called the “rulers of darkness” in Ephesians 6:12. Where do WE fit between light and darkness?

Where We Fit

“For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ... And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them” (Eph. 5:8, 11).

The apostle Peter wrote that we are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people ... of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9).

Light and darkness are opposites and they describe the *two ways of life*: the way of God, which is loving and giving; and the way of Satan, which is selfish and getting.

We can look at nature and draw spiritual lessons from the physical attributes of light and darkness. Notice these four physical properties of light.

1. Light Gives Life

Light gives life. Without light, our planet would be dead. Take a healthy house plant, put it in a dark closet and leave it there. What will happen to it? It'll die. Plants need sunlight to live. If there were no light, there would be no plants for the animals to eat, so there would be no animals. If there were no plants or animals, there would soon be no humans. Besides being a source of food, plants also provide oxygen. We all need oxygen to live. In these two ways, light gives life.

God is the life-giver in three ways!

1. He created physical life in Genesis and told it to multiply.

2. He also will give eternal life to those who repent, get baptized, and receive God's holy spirit.

3. God gives us a way of life that is worth living; it's a full life; full of blessings. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Physical light gives physical life. God gives life physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Does darkness give life? No. It ultimately gives death, physically and spiritually and emotionally. Satan's way of life is sin. James 1:15 says: “sin, when it is finished, bring[s] forth death” (KJV).

Satan doesn't create life. He is a destroyer, not a creator (1 Cor. 5:5, 1 Pet. 5:8). Living his way will keep us out of the kingdom, so there is no hope for eternal life. And his way of life makes mankind miserable. The further we get from God's way and the more we align our way of life to Satan, the more life becomes unbearable.

2. Light Gives Sight

Light makes it possible to see. Everything that we see, we see because light strikes that object and reflects into our eyes. If there were no light, we could see nothing. In dim light, we can see a little, in bright light we can see better.

Spiritually speaking, God gives us vision to understand the world around us, to know why things happen the way they do, to see a bright future ahead of us, to understand principles that make life work.

The Bible, the Word of God, is a light to our path (Ps. 119:105). It shows us how to live; where to walk. The right way to live is to love—love God and neighbor.

“Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes” (1 John 2:8-11).

How does darkness affect our vision? It makes it hard to see. The Bible speaks of people living Satan's way as blind men stumbling in the darkness (Mat. 15:14).

3. Light Gives Energy

Light gives us energy. Direct sunlight can be converted into solar energy. Oil, natural gas and coal come from prehistoric plants that needed light to grow. The plants stored up the energy, died, became buried, and were converted to oil, natural gas, and coal. When we burn oil, coal and natural gas today, we release that energy.

Spiritually speaking, it is only through living God's way, and becoming children of the light, that we have access to real energy: the holy spirit of God.

Darkness provides no energy. Satan has no energizing spirit. He is called the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). He can broadcast certain moods, but what Satan broadcasts isn't positive and energizing. His broadcasts are negative and depressing.

4. Light Is Energy

Light not only *provides* energy, it *is* energy. Light consists of light rays and light particles called photons.

What is darkness? Darkness is defined as *the absence of light*. It is NOTHING of ITSELF; it must be defined *in relationship to light*. It is NOT an equal power. It is not the case that there is some invisible *Star Wars* “force” and light is on one side and darkness on the other side. Light exists. Darkness does not exist as something of its own right—it ONLY exists *where light isn't shining*.

Because darkness is not something tangible, darkness can NEVER *stop* light. It can NEVER *overpower* light. Turn on a light and it will shine where it will. Darkness can't stop it.

Think about how black outer space is. The stars that twinkle in our night sky are billions and billions of miles away—light years away. And yet, the light from those stars reaches Earth, and the darkness between that star and Earth can't stop the light from getting here. Why? Because light is energy. It exists. Darkness is only the absence of light.

In the same way, Satan's way of living is NOTHING compared to God's way. When we live in a darkened world, surrounded by darkness, the dark seems powerful and all encompassing. But it's

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of Ephraim and Manasseh, upon whom the name "Israel" was placed. These nations today are the U.S. and British Commonwealth!

Modern Israel to Be Enslaved

How do we know that modern-day Israel (U.S. and British Commonwealth) will go into captivity? Here are three clues:

1. We can read the blessings and cursings chapters, Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. In these chapters, God promises to bless his people if they obey Him and curse them if they disobey.

The U.S. and Britain have received the blessings outlined in these chapters! However, these two nations have been turning their backs on God and now, we see these curses appearing. The last curse mentioned is national captivity (Lev. 26:31-35, Deut. 28:62-68).

2. The end-time captivity of Israel will be WORSE than the slavery in Egypt or the captivity in Assyria. It will be a time LIKE NO OTHER! The prophet Jeremiah wrote of this time:

"For thus says the LORD: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For the day is great, so that NONE IS LIKE IT; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it'" (Jer. 30:5-7, emphasis added).

What *kind of trouble* will the descendants of Jacob be in? "Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob," says the LORD, 'nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. ... For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished'" (vv. 10-11). God will punish the end-time descendants of Jacob (U.S. and Britain in particular) with national captivity!

We know this is an *end-time* captivity because it is a time *like no other in history*. Jesus Christ tells us that this time "like no other" will occur *just prior to his return* (Mat. 24:3): "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been seen since the beginning of the world until this time, no nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh will be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (vv. 21-22).

We also know it is an *end-time prophecy* because the nations that take the U.S. and Britain captive *will be crushed* (Jer. 30:11). When Christ returns, He will bring God's government to the earth and crush all of man's governments (Dan. 2:44-45).

3. One of the *first things* Jesus Christ will do *after He returns* is FREE modern-day Israelites FROM CAPTIVITY and bring them back to their lands.

"For behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave their fathers, and they shall possess it'" (Jer. 30:3). How do we know this prophecy is for a time after Christ's return? Read a few verses later: "For it shall come to pass in that day," says the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them'" (vv. 8-9). This can ONLY happen *after Christ returns!* They will be ruled by a resurrected King David!

Isaiah also foretold Christ's return and his rescuing Israel from captivity:

"It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea" (Isa. 11:11).

For end-time Israel (U.S. and British Commonwealth nations) to be rescued from captivity *shortly after* Christ returns, they *must go into captivity* in the last days *prior to his return!*

Assyrians to Take Israel Captive

Who will God use *in the end time* to take the U.S. and British Commonwealth people captive? God calls Assyria "the rod of My anger" to punish an ungodly people (Isa. 10:5). He used the ancient Assyrians to take Israel captive in 723-721 B.C.

We can expect history to repeat itself! It seems likely, based upon events of the last century, that the modern-day Assyrians (today's Germans) will once again be the nation used by God to take Israel (U.S. and British Commonwealth) captive!

What else does the Bible reveal about the future of Germany? We'll examine that next month!

(To be continued!)

Know Your Bible Answers

1) Jeremiah. 2) Two. 3) John the Baptist. 4) Silver. 5) Power.

Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS. In addition to French, Many residents of Brittany, the northwest section of France, speak Breton, which is related to Welsh.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle, Farrar, Straus and Company, 1962, pp. 88-89.

Battle of Light & Dark

"And we're not alone, you know, children," came Mrs. Whatsit, the comforter. "All through the universe it's been fought, all through the cosmos, and my, it's a grand and exciting battle. ... You think about that, and maybe it won't seem so strange to you that some of our very best fighters have come right from your own planet, and it's a little planet, dears, out on the edge of a little galaxy. You can be proud that it's done so well."

"Who have our fighters been?" Calvin asked.

"Oh, you must know them dear," Mrs. Whatsit said.

"Mrs. Who's spectacles shone out at them triumphantly, 'And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.'"

"Jesus!" Charles Wallace said. ...

"Of course!" Mrs. Whatsit said. "... There were others. All your great artists. They've been lights for us ..."

Rev. 12:7-8, John 1:5, Mat.. 5:14-16

Quotable Quotes

"The historian is a prophet in reverse." —Friedrich von Schlegel

Memory Scripture

"No one has seen God at any time." —John 1:18

Light vs. Darkness

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really not. Once the light shines, the darkness will vanish. Satan and his way have *absolutely* NO CHANCE of winning against God and his way of life!

Notice this description of the preincarnate Jesus Christ: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it” (John 1:1-5).

My Bible margin says the word “comprehend” can also mean “apprehend.” The *Phillips* translation says, “The light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.” The *New Century Version* says, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.” The *Amplified Bible* says, “the light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it—put it out, or has not absorbed it, has not appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it.” *The Message* paraphrases it this way: “The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.”

That’s because light IS ENERGY and has POWER to *vanquish* darkness, but darkness is ONLY the *absence of light*; it has NO POWER over light. Darkness can NEVER extinguish light.

The Only Way Our Lights Go Out

We are part of the light. In Mat. 5:14-16, Christ called us the light of this world. Satan, his society and his way of life are POWERLESS to stop our light from shining!

The only thing Satan can do is discourage us, so that we either BURN OUT or we QUIT and TURN OFF THE LIGHT. Darkness can win *in our personal lives* if we allow our lights to go out. Let’s NOT let that happen! Let’s *stay close* to God, PLUGGED IN through prayer, study, meditation, singing, fellowship and fasting.

Light Will Triumph

With or without us, light will TRIUMPH over darkness!

In the end, only God’s way—the way of love—will exist. Satan’s way—the way of selfishness, pictured by darkness—will cease to exist. God’s way is the only way of life that works.

That’s why we read in Rev. 21:23-25 of a future time when there will be NO NIGHT—*no darkness*—just the perpetual light of God *shining* FOREVER!



Murder Rates Rise in the United States

“Murder rates rose significantly in the nation’s 100 largest cities last year, according to an analysis by the *New York Times* of new data compiled from individual police departments.

“The findings confirm a trend that was tracked recently in a study published by the National Institute of Justice. ‘The homicide increase in the nation’s large cities was real and nearly unprecedented,’ wrote the study’s author, Richard Rosenfeld, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who explored homicide data in 56 large American cities.

“In the *Times* analysis, half of the increase came from just seven cities—Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Milwaukee, Nashville and Washington.

“Chicago had the most homicides—488 in 2015—far more than the 352 in New York City, which has three times as many people. Baltimore had the largest increase—133 more than 2014—and the second-highest rate in 2015, after St. Louis, which had 59 homicides per 100,000 residents.

“The number of cities where rates rose significantly was the largest since the height of violent crime in the early 1990s” (“Murder Rates Rose in a Quarter of the Nation’s 100 Largest Cities” by Haeyoun Park and Josh Katz, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Sept. 9, 2016, pp. 1-3).

“The country’s murder rate jumped more last year than it had in nearly half a century, newly released federal crime data showed, although the number of homicides remained far below the levels of the 1980s and ’90s.

“The data, part of an annual report released on Monday [Sept. 26] by the F.B.I., showed that the murder rate rose 10.8 percent across the United States in 2015, part of a nearly 4 percent increase in violent crime.

“Fueling the surge in murders was street violence in a handful of major cities, notably Baltimore, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., and Milwaukee ...

“Police officials and criminologists

say there is no single explanation for the increase nationally, but point to disputes that more often end in gun violence and turf battles over a growing, and highly profitable, heroin trade.

“‘It’s too early to call this an end to the crime drop, but we are facing a one-year rise in murders that is quite substantial—the largest in about half a century,’ said Richard Rosenfeld, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, an authority on crime trends” (“U.S. Murders Surged in 2015, F.B.I. Finds” by Timothy Williams and Monica Davey, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Sept. 26, 2016, p. 1).

Christ said about the end time, “And because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold” (Mat. 24:12). The Apostle Paul wrote, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good” (2 Tim. 3:1-3).

N. Korea Tests Warhead

“North Korea conducted its fifth underground nuclear test on Friday [Sept. 9], its government said ... The latest test, according to South Korean officials, produced a more powerful explosive yield than the North’s previous detonations, indicating that the country was making progress in its efforts to build a functional nuclear warhead” (“North Korea Claims Success in Latest Nuclear Test” by Choe Sang-Hung and Jane Perlez, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Sept. 8, 2016, p. 1).

A *New York Times* article the next day reported that military experts think that North Korea may have up to 100 reliable intercontinental ballistic missiles topped with nuclear warheads by the year 2020.

A nuclear armed North Korea could be part of the prophesied “kings from the east” that will attack the king of the North (Europe) when it occupies the Holy Land at Christ’s return (Dan. 11:40-44, Rev. 9:13-16, 16:12-16).