

## THE RE-ESTABLISHING OF GOD'S REPUTATION

We currently live in the Church Age. The Church is a forever-family of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ consisting of both Jew and Gentile from all over the world (cf. Acts 15:14, Gal. 3:28).

Christ promised to build His Church (cf. Matt. 16:18). It began suddenly and signlessly on the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2. It will be completed suddenly and signlessly as seen in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

The Church is not told to look for signs. Rather, we are to be preoccupied with being Christ's witnesses (cf. Acts 1:7-8). The sudden removal of the Church (the Rapture) is always IMMEDIATE (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13-17), meaning that it could happen at any time. "PERHAPS TODAY"!

During the Church Age, Israel has been temporarily set aside. However, following the completion of the Church, God will again resume and complete His program with Israel (cf. Rom. 11:25-27). God's covenant promises, (INCLUDING ALL HIS LAND PROMISES) to Israel will be fulfilled! This is as certain as God's covenant Name is YHWH (cf. Ex. 3:13-15, 6:1-8, Jer. 31:31-37, Rom. 11:29).

The "Last Days" in relation to the Church are not to be confused with the "Last Days" in reference to Israel. The Last Days of the Church Age will be marked by apostasy (cf. 2 Tim. 3:1-5), which will set the stage for Israel's Last Days (cf. 1 Jn. 2:18-19). The "Last Days", in reference to Israel, consistently denotes the 70th week of Daniel, which is a seven-year period of time involving great distress for Israel, followed by her deliverance (cf. Deut. 4:30, Dan. 9:27, Jer. 30:7).

God's program for the Church and God's program for Israel are different and distinct.

Through the prophets, God has told us of **two** great end-time wars in reference to Israel in the Last Days. During the course of the Church Age, God's face has been hidden from Israel. He has providentially protected and preserved her as a people, but His **direct SUPERNATURAL intervention** on behalf of Israel has been hidden (cf. Ezek. 39:23-24).

However, with the removal of the Church, God will then go about to re-establish His reputation as the covenant God of Israel in the Last Days during the "Day of the Lord".

This MAJOR Last Days' revealing of the God of Israel initially takes place in conjunction with the war of Gog and Magog. Ezekiel 38-39 speaks of a war that will take place in "the latter years" (cf. 38:8) or "the latter days" (cf. 38:16). This war targets Israel after she has once again been restored to the land.

There is more said about this war in terms of detail than any other war mentioned in the Scriptures. The emphasis here is HUGE.

The emphasis here is comparable to what happened with Pharaoh in the book of Exodus. On that occasion, God supernaturally worked so that His fame might be known throughout the entire world (cf. Ex. 9:16; Rom. 9:17). In the same way, God in the Last Days is going to supernaturally intervene on behalf of His people Israel in the matter of Gog and Magog to the end that He will be glorified through the entire world (cf. Ezekiel 38:16, 23, 39:7, 21, 27).

### **Ezekiel 38:23 (NKJV)**

**23** Thus I will magnify **Myself** and sanctify **Myself**, and I will be **known** in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall **know** that I am the LORD."

The name LORD here is "YHWH," meaning the covenant God of Israel. Then the world will realize God's sovereign intervening hand on behalf of Israel is because He is their covenant God! God is still the God of Israel. The world is about to see, as even now, the stage is being set!

Stay tuned! The GOD OF ISRAEL is about to act!