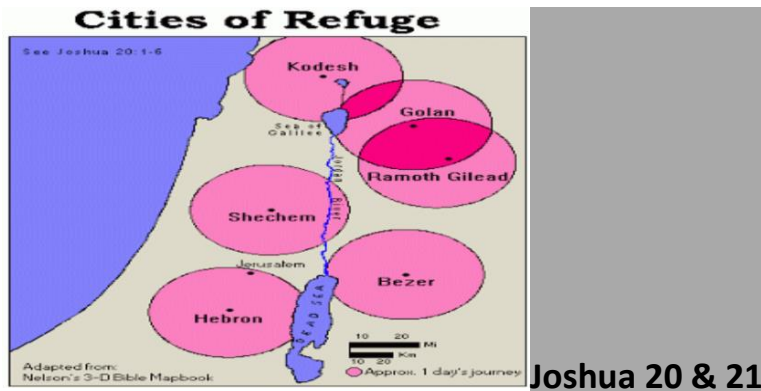


Greetings, today our manna is Joshua 20 & 21; Acts 1; Jeremiah 10; Matthew 24.

July 14- Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: **For teaching purposes only**, underlines, bold font, and highlight emphasis have been used in PDFs.]

Scripture Source: e-Sword TS2009 unless otherwise noted: <https://www.e-sword.net/>



Joshua 20 & 21

The Cities of Refuge

Jos 20:1 And יהוה spoke to Yehoshua, saying,

Jos 20:2 “Speak to the children of Yisra’el, saying, ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Mosheh,

Jos 20:3 for **the man-slayer who strikes any being mistakenly, unknowingly, to flee there. And they shall be your refuge from the revenger of blood.**

Jos 20:4 And he shall flee to one of those cities, and stand at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declare his case in the hearing of the elders of that city. And they shall take him into the city as one of them, and give him a place, and he shall dwell among them.

Jos 20:5 And when the **revenger of blood** pursues him, they do not give the man-slayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unknowingly, and did not hate him beforehand.

Jos 20:6 And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for right-ruling, and until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then let the man-slayer return and come to his own city and his own house, to the city from which he fled.’ ”

Jos 20:7 So they set apart **Qedesh in Galil**, in the mountains of Naphtali, and **Shekem** in the mountains of Ephrayim, and **Qiryath Arba**, that is **Hebron**, in the mountains of Yehudah.

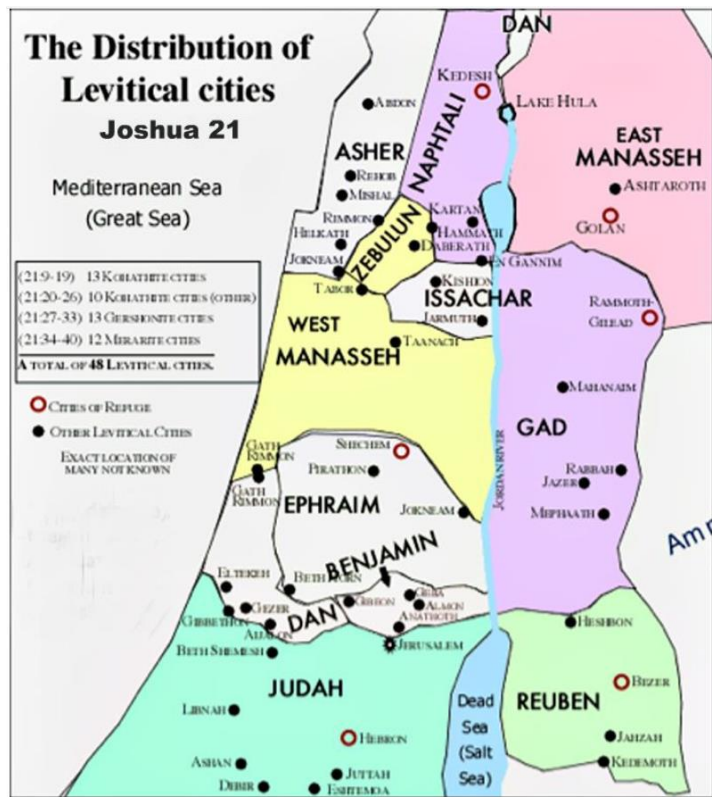
Jos 20:8 And **beyond the Yardēn, by Yeriho eastward**, they appointed **Betser** in the wilderness on the plain, from the tribe of Re’ubēn, and **Ramoth** in Gil’ad, from the tribe of Gad, and **Golan** in Bashan, from the tribe of Menashsheh.

Jos 20:9 **These were the cities** appointed for all the children of Yisra’el and for the stranger who sojourned in their midst, for anyone striking any being unknowingly, to flee there, and not die by the hand of the revenger of blood until he stood before the congregation.

Cities and Pasturelands Allotted to Levi

Jos 21:1 And the heads of the fathers of the Lēwites came near to El’azar the priest, to

Yehoshua son of Nun, and to the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Yisra'ël.



Sample chart only.

Jos 21:2 And they spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Kena'an, saying, “יהוה commanded through Mosheh to give us cities to dwell in, with their open land for our livestock.”

Jos 21:3 So the children of Yisra'ël gave to the Lēwites from their inheritance, at the mouth of יהוה, these cities and their open land:

Jos 21:4 And the lot came out for the clans of the Qehathites. And the children of Aharon the priest, who were of the Lēwites, had thirteen cities by lot from the tribe of Yehudah, from the tribe of Shim'on, and from the tribe of Binyamin.

Jos 21:5 And the rest of the children of Qehath had ten cities by lot from the clans of the tribe of Ephrayim, from the tribe of Dan, and from the half-tribe of Menashsheh.

Jos 21:6 And the children of Gershon had thirteen cities by lot from the clans of the tribe of Yissaskar, from the tribe of Ashēr, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the half-tribe of Menashsheh in Bashan.

Jos 21:7 The children of Merari for their clans had twelve cities from the tribe of Re'ubēn, and from the tribe of Gad, and from the tribe of Zebulun.

Jos 21:8 Thus the children of Yisra'ël gave these cities with their open land by lot to the Lēwites, as יהוה had commanded by the hand of Mosheh.

Jos 21:9 So from the tribe of the children of Yehudah and from the tribe of the children of Shim'on they gave these cities which are mentioned by name,

Jos 21:10 and they were for the children of Aharon, one of the clans of the Qehathites, who were of the children of Lēwi, for the lot was theirs first.

Jos 21:11 And they gave them Qiryath Arba, that is Hebron – Arba was the father of Anaq – in the mountains of Yehudah, with the open land surrounding it.

Jos 21:12 And the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Kalēb son of Yephunneh as his possession.

Jos 21:13 But to the children of Aharon the priest they gave Hebron with its open land – a city of refuge for the man-slayer – and Libnah with its open land,

Jos 21:14 and Yattir with its open land, and Eshtemoa with its open land,

Jos 21:15 and Holon with its open land, and Debir with its open land,

Jos 21:16 and Ayin with its open land, and Yuttah with its open land, and Bēyth Shemesh with its open land – **nine cities from those two tribes.**

Jos 21:17 And **from the tribe of Binyamin,** Gib'on with its open land, Geba with its open land,

Jos 21:18 Anathoth with its open land, and Almon with its open land – **four cities.**

Jos 21:19 **All the cities of the children of Aharon, the priests,** were **thirteen cities** with their open lands.

Jos 21:20 And the clans of **the children of Qehath, the Lēwites, the rest of the children of Qehath,** even they had the cities of their lot from the tribe of Ephrayim.

Jos 21:21 And they gave them Shekem with its open land in the mountains of Ephrayim as a city of refuge for the man-slayer, and Gezer with its open land,

Jos 21:22 and Qibtsayim with its open land, and Bēyth Horon with its open land – **four cities.**

Jos 21:23 And from the tribe of Dan, Elteqēh with its open land, Gibbethon with its open land,

Jos 21:24 Ayalon with its open land, and Gath Rimmon with its open land – **four cities.**

Jos 21:25 And from the half-tribe of Menashsheh, Ta'nak with its open land, and Gath Rimmon with its open land – **two cities.**

Jos 21:26 **All the ten cities** with their open lands **were for the rest of the clans of the children of Qehath.**

Jos 21:27 And to the **children of Gērshon, of the clans of the Lēwites,** from the other half-tribe of Menashsheh, they gave Golan in Bashan with its open land as a city of refuge for the man-slayer, and Be'eshterah with its open land – **two cities.**

Jos 21:28 And from the tribe of Yissaskar, Qishyon with its open land, Daberath with its open land,

Jos 21:29 Yarmuth with its open land, and Ĕn Gannim with its open land – **four cities.**

Jos 21:30 And from the tribe of Ashēr, Mish'al with its open land, Abdon with its open land,

Jos 21:31 Helqath with its open land, and Reḥob with its open land – **four cities.**

Jos 21:32 And from the tribe of Naphtali, Qedesh in Galil with its open land as a city of refuge for the man-slayer, and Hammoth Dor with its open land, and Qartan with its open land – **three cities.**

Jos 21:33 All the **cities of the Gērshonites for their clans** were **thirteen cities** with their open land.

Jos 21:34 And to the **clans of the children of Merari, the rest of the Lēwites,** from the tribe of Zebulun, Yoqne'am with its open land, Qartah with its open land,

Jos 21:35 Dimnah with its open land, Nahalal with its open land – **four cities**.

Jos 21:36 And from the tribe of Re'ubēn, Betser with its open land, Yahtsah with its open land,

Jos 21:37 Qedēmoth with its open land, and Mēpha'ath with its open land – **four cities**.

Jos 21:38 And from the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gil'ad with its open land as a city of refuge for the man-slayer, and Maḥanayim with its open land,

Jos 21:39 Heshbon with its open land, Ya'zēr with its open land – **four cities** in all.

Jos 21:40 All the **cities for the children of Merari for their clans, the rest of the clans of the Lēwites**, were by their lot **twelve cities**.

Jos 21:41 All the cities of the Lēwites within the possession of the children of Yisra'ēl were **forty-eight cities** with their open lands.

Jos 21:42 Each of these cities had its open land surrounding it. So it was with all these cities.

Jos 21:43 Thus יהוה gave to Yisra'ēl all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it, and dwelt in it.

Jos 21:44 And יהוה **gave them rest** all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them, **יהוה gave all their enemies into their hand**.

Jos 21:45 Not a word failed of any good word which יהוה had spoken to the house of Yisra'ēl – all came in.

Acts Introduction

Acts is one of my most favorite books of the Bible. It wasn't always that way. It became my favorite, once I understood more about who we are as His kingdom of priests of the Melchizedek order. For that reason, I'm not going to share a traditional introduction to Acts, since there are plenty of 'Book Commentaries' available that cover those details.

What I want us to experience as we go through the Book of Acts is:

- A beautifully close relationship to YHWH
- A beautifully close relationship to one another
- The joy of gathering on Shabbat, not Sunday, to meet with Him as we read and study His Word together
- The simplicity of sitting at His feet; and knowing His great love for us
- The confidence He had in us while we were yet sinners
- The direct handoff of the 'kingdom baton' to the taught ones gathered, to Peter, Stephen, to His chosen vessel Paul; and to all of us that have followed.
- To see the challenges then and now of spreading the Covenant Confirming Gospel Message.
- To see YHWH's promise to Abraham come to life as we, His 'living stones' are gathered into the 'one new man'; Israel.
- To see the purity and simplicity of His proposal; before man complicated, watered-down, or distorted His message
- To see how the enemy has fought against His people from taking their rightful place in His kingdom; and as His bride.

- The Book of Acts shows the beginning of our new glorious walk with Him as our High Priest of the Melchizedek order
- We see the initial igniting through the Ruach HaKodesh of the 1st century believers. They joyously are thrust into their faith filled roles' as His kingdom of priests, a holy nation, a set-apart people to Himself
- We once again are knowing who we are and walk in our Covenant fidelity relationship with Him
- We have learned about all the things 'not to do' as we have seen the 'pit falls' and 'stumbling blocks' of previous generations.
- We have learned from Hebrews 7:11-13 about whenever there was a change in priesthood; came a change in law.
- The Book of Acts is living out Hebrews 7:12. Our Savior and High Priest of the Melchizedek Order is Yahusha; and the change in law is through the New Covenant; therefore we abide in Covenant Torah and are connected to YHWH's original promise to Abraham.
- These are the things we should look for as we walk through the book of Acts; the account of the 1st generation of believers; the accounts of the major roles play be Peter and Paul; and the story of these accounts recorded by Luke.
- I see the Book of Acts as the emergence of His Melchizedek Priesthood as they follow Covenant Torah and mature as His true bride. I see us, still living out... the Book of Acts!

... that is exciting; that is explosive; that is so worth knowing; that is worth understanding; and that is the narrow path that leads to Life with Him.

We are saved by grace through faith, and the Book of Acts dynamically displays 100-fold 'kingdom faith'; which moves a person far beyond the 30-60-fold of 'saving faith.'

Acts 1

Act 1:1 The **first account** I made, O Theophilos,^a of all that יהושע began both to do and to teach, Footnote: ^aCompare [Luk 1:1-3](#). It appears that Luqas was the author of both accounts.

Act 1:2 until the day when He was taken up, after giving instructions through the Set-apart Spirit to the emissaries whom He had chosen,

Act 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, **being seen by them for forty days, speaking concerning the reign of Elohim.**

The Book of Acts is sometimes referred to as the 'second' Luke. The reason being is that Luke wrote both Luke and the Book of Acts. The subject of both books is about Yahusha; what he began to do and to teach. Both letters are addressed to Theophilos.

Theophilos in general terms means 'a friend of Yah'. In Luke 1:3, Luke addresses him as most excellent Theophilos. "**Most excellent**" Theophilos is a title generally used of a Roman official – like a Roman governor.

We know before the Book of Acts is over, Paul is about to be flogged in **Acts 22**. He ends up appealing to Caesar, but an appeal always had to precede the person's arrival. For this reason, some believe these letters (Luke & Acts) were to aid Theophilus in writing that appeal. That is the perspective I lean toward.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Act 1:4 And meeting with them, He commanded them not to leave Yerushalayim, but to wait for the Promise of the Father,^b “which you have heard from Me – Footnote: ^b [Luk 24:49](#), [Joh 14:16](#) and [Joh 14:26](#).

Act 1:5 because Yohanan truly immersed in water, but you shall be immersed in the Set-apart Spirit not many days from now.”

Yahusha appeared to many for 40 days prior to His ascension. Before ascending, He instructs His apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father, the Ruach HaKodesh. Through this ‘Promise’; His kingdom of priests would grow exponentially and begin to be gathered from all the places His people had been scattered.

The time had come to walk as a kingdom of priests; and no longer as a nation with a priest. Yahusha now reigns as our Melchizedek High Priest and they were to walk in Covenant Torah. He had fulfilled the Book of the Law [Ex. 24:12 – Deut. 31:26], the tutor UNTIL Yahusha would come. The Book of the Law was a parable [Heb. 9:9] that was a type and shadow of all that He would accomplish, represent, and fulfill. The Book of the Law teaches us a great deal about Yahusha.

The Ascension

Act 1:6 So when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Master, would You at this time restore the reign to Yisra’el?”^C Footnote: ^CAlso see [Luk 1:33](#).

Act 1:7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

The apostles were not the only ones confused as to when Yahusha would come into His kingly reign. It is very possible that this was the same reason that John the Immerser, while in prison, had sent his taught ones to ask Yahusha if He was the One or should they expect another. Yahusha confirmed He was the one by many miracles.

Likewise, the apostles are asking Yahusha straight forward. They had witnessed so much. They had daily walked and talked with Him; they had seen Him on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen the miracles; they had seen His crucifixion, death, burial, and now His resurrection; and so they asked, ‘Master, would You at this time restore the reign to Yisra’el?’

Only YHWH knows the day and the hour; but we do know that YHWH functions by His prophetic calendar of His appointed times, His moedim. In just 10 more days, they would experience one of the greatest ‘Festival of Weeks’ or ‘Pentecost’ ever! They would receive the Comforter; the Ruach HaKodesh!

Act 1:8 **“But you shall receive power when the Set-apart Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Yerushalayim, and in all Yehudah and Shomeron, and to the end of the earth.”**

Act 1:9 And having said this, while they were looking on, He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

Act 1:10 And as they were gazing into the heaven as He went up, see, two men stood by them dressed in white,

Act 1:11 who also said, “Men of Galil, why do you stand looking up into the heaven? This same **יהושע**, who was taken up from you into the heaven, shall come in the same way^d as you saw Him go into the heaven.” Footnote: ^dSee Zec 14:4. Note: these men were standing on the Mount of Olives (v. 12).

Zec 14:4 And in that day His feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives, which faces Yerushalayim on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, a very great valley, and half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

To this day, through the power of the Ruach HaKodesh, we ARE His witnesses. For this reason, the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation 11, could be represented by the two houses [the two olive trees] or the two assemblies the lampstands of [Smyrna and Philadelphia].

In the end of days, the whole earth will be witnessed to through the two witnesses for 3 ½ years; this could be depicted by the statement referring to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Yes, we are witnesses now, but in the end of days, there will be a greater outpouring of the Ruach HaKodesh for a great awakening. Yahusha will return in the clouds, just as He ascended before His apostles.

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

Act 1:12 Then they went back to Yerushalayim from the Mount of Olives, which is near Yerushalayim, a Sabbath day's journey.

Act 1:13 And when they came in, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: both Kēpha and Ya'aqob and Yoḥanan and Andri, Philip and T'oma, Bartholomi and Mattithyahu, Ya'aqob the *son of* Alphai and Shim'on the Zealot, and Yehudāh the *son of* Ya'aqob.

Act 1:14 All these were continuing with one mind in prayer and supplication, with the women and Miryam the mother of יהושע, and with His brothers.

In Him, we become like-minded. This is accomplished by staying in His Word; and He is the Word. We abide in Him and Him in us. We follow His Covenant commands that keep us in step with Him and with each other.

Act 1:15 And in those days Kēpha, standing up in the midst of the taught ones – and there was a gathering of about a hundred and twenty – said,

Act 1:16 “Men and brothers, this Scripture had to be filled which the Set-apart Spirit spoke before by the mouth of Dawid concerning Yehudāh, who became a guide to those who seized יהושע,

Act 1:17 because he was numbered with us and did receive his share in this service.”

Act 1:18 (This one, therefore, purchased a field with the wages of unrighteousness, and falling forward, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

Act 1:19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Yerushalayim, so that in their own language that field was called, Ḥaqal Dema, that is, Field of Blood).

Act 1:20 “For it has been written in the Book of Tehillim, ‘Let his dwelling lie waste, and let no one live in it,’ [Psa 69:25](#) and, ‘Let another take his office.’ [Psa 109:8](#).

Act 1:21 “It is therefore necessary that of the men who have been with us all the time that the Master יהושע went in and out among us,

Act 1:22 beginning from the immersion of Yoḥanan to that day when He was taken up from us, that one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

Act 1:23 And they put forward two: Yosēph called Barsabba, who was also called **Justus**, and **Mattithyahu** [Matthias].

Act 1:24 And praying they said, “You, יהוה, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two You have chosen

Act 1:25 to receive the share in this service and office of the emissary from which Yehudāh by transgression fell, to go to his own place.”

Act 1:26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on **Mattithyahu**. And he was numbered with

the eleven emissaries.

Peter addresses the 120 gathered. He shares that Judas of Iscariot fulfilled the prophecy written in Psalm 69:25. Peter goes on to state that Psalm 109:8 records that another should take his office. They pray and ask YHWH to show them which one, Justus or Matthias, should fill that office. Matthias is then selected by lot and was numbered with the eleven. They chose someone that had been with them from the beginning with John the Immerser to the day of Yahusha's ascension.

Jeremiah 10**Idols and the Living Elohim**

Jer 10:1 Hear the word which יהוה speaks to you, O house of Yisra'ël.

Jer 10:2 Thus said יהוה,

- “Do not learn the way of the nations,^a and do not be awed by the signs of the heavens, for the nations are awed by them.^b Footnotes: ^a [Lev 18:3](#), [Deu 12:30](#) and [Deu 18:9](#), [Eze 11:12](#) and [Eze 20:32](#), [Eph 4:17](#), [1Pe 4:3](#). ^b [Deu 4:19](#) and [Deu 17:3](#).
- **Jer 10:3** “For the laws of these peoples are worthless, for one cuts a tree from the forest, work for the hands of a craftsman with a cutting tool.
 - **Jer 10:4** “They beautify it with silver and gold, they strengthen it with nails and hammers so that it does not topple.
 - **Jer 10:5** “They are like a rounded post, and they do not speak. They have to be carried, because they do not walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they do no evil, nor is it in them to do any good.”

This clearly depicts what is known today as a ‘Christmas’ Tree. It is a ritual, a pagan holiday, of the nations that we are NOT meant to learn. December 25th is actually the birthdate of Tammuz. When we were of the world and didn't know better; we would do these things; but that is no longer the case. When a believer enters Covenant with Yahusha we observe His appointed times, His annual rehearsals.

We turn away from and destroy those former objects used in pagan practices. We don't participate nor worship wood and stone; they are lifeless things. These have no power, nor do they speak, and they most certainly do NOT save.

It doesn't matter what these man-made traditions ‘means to you’; it matters what they mean to Him! To Him these things are an abomination.

Jer 10:6 There is none like You, O יהוה. You are great, and great is Your Name in might.

Jer 10:7 Who would not fear You, O Sovereign of the nations? For this is Your due, for among

all the wise men of the nations, and in all their reigns, there is none like You.

We should do Bible things, Bible ways. We are to worship Him as He desires to be worshipped. Only He is worthy of worship. Only He should be feared. There is none like Him.

Jer 10:8 They are both brutish and foolish, **an instruction of worthlessness is the tree.**

Jer 10:9 Silver is beaten into plates; it is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the smith; draped in blue and purple; all of them are the work of skilled ones.

Jer 10:10 **But יהוה is truly Elohim. He is the living Elohim and the everlasting Sovereign.** At His wrath the earth shakes, and nations are unable to stand His displeasure.

Jer 10:11 Say to them this, “The elah^C that did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.” Footnote: ^CElah - Aramaic for mighty one - See Explanatory notes under El, Eloah etc.

All these little ‘g’ gods will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.

Jer 10:12 **He has made the earth by His power,**

- He has established the world by His wisdom, and
- has stretched out the heavens by His understanding.
-

Jer 10:13 **When He makes His voice heard,**

- there is a roaring of waters in the heavens. And
- He makes vapours rise from the ends of the earth.
- The lightnings for rain He has made, and
- brings wind from His treasures.

Idols are worthless and every smith will be put to shame!

Jer 10:14 Everyone is brutish in knowledge;

- every smith is put to shame by his idol.
- For his molded image is falsehood, and
- there is no spirit in them.
- Jer 10:15 They are worthless,
- a work of mockery.
- In the time of their punishment they perish.

Jer 10:16 **The Portion of Ya'aqob is not like these, for He is the Maker of all, and Yisra'el is the tribe of His inheritance – יהוה of hosts is His Name.**

Jer 10:17 Gather up your bundle from the ground, you who live under siege!

Jer 10:18 For thus said יהוה, “See, at this time I am hurling out the inhabitants of the land, and shall distress them, so that they feel it.”

YHWH's wound is grievous, His children have gone from Him... He says there is no one to pitch His tent as it was in the days in the wilderness nor hang his curtains. Just reading this makes my heart break.

Jer 10:19 Woe to me for my breaking! My wound is grievous, but I say, "This is my sickness, and I bear it.

Jer 10:20 "My tent has been ravaged, and all my cords have been broken. My children have gone from me, and they are no more. There is no one to pitch my tent any more, or to set up my curtains.

Jeremiah sadly foretells what is to come and pleads to YHWH.

Jer 10:21 **For the shepherds have become brutish, and they have not sought** יהוה.

Therefore they did not understand, and all their flock scattered.^d Footnote: ^dSee [Jer 2:8](#), [Jer 12:10-11](#), [Jer 50:6-7](#), [Eze 34:1-23](#), [2Ti 4:3-4](#), [2Pe 2:1-22](#).

Jer 10:22 See, it has come, the voice of a report, and a great shaking out of the land of the north, to make the cities of Yehudah a waste, a habitation of jackals.

Jer 10:23 O יהוה, I know the way of man is not in himself, it is not for man who walks to direct his own steps.

Jer 10:24 O יהוה, chastise me, but with right-ruling – not in Your displeasure, lest You bring me to naught.

Jer 10:25 Pour out Your wrath on the nations who do not know You, and on the tribes who do not call on Your Name. For they have eaten up Ya'aqob, devoured him and consumed him, and laid waste his home.^e Footnote: ^e [Psa 79:6](#), [Mic 4:5](#).

Matthew 24

From one destruction to the next ~

We have just read about the impending destruction and exile of Judah to Babylon [597 BCE for the first, with others dated at 587/586 BCE, and 582/581 BCE respectively]; now Yahusha foretells of the destruction once again, this time to their rebuilt temple modified by Herod. This was the 2nd temple that was rebuilt by Ezra and Nehemiah and those that had returned from Babylon. The destruction of this second temple would take place in approximately 68-70 A.D.

Yahusha Foretells Destruction of the Temple

Mat 24:1 And going out, יהושע went away from the Set-apart Place, and His taught ones came near to point out to Him the buildings of the Set-apart Place.

Mat 24:2 And יהושע said to them, "Do you not see all these? Truly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, at all, which shall not be thrown down."

Yahusha's taught ones inquire about the sign of His coming and the end of the age.

Signs of the End of the Age

Mat 24:3 And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the taught ones came to Him separately, saying, "Say to us, when shall this be, and what is the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Mat 24:4 **And יהושע answering, said to them,** "Take heed that no one leads you astray.

- **Mat 24:5** "For many shall come in My Name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they shall lead many astray.
- **Mat 24:6** "And you shall begin to hear of fightings and reports of **fightings**. See that you are not troubled, for these have to take place, but the end is not yet.
- **Mat 24:7** "For nation shall rise against nation, and reign against reign. And there shall be **scarcities of food, and deadly diseases, and earthquakes in places.**
- **Mat 24:8** "And all these are the beginning of birth pains.
- **Mat 24:9** "Then they shall deliver you up to affliction and kill you, and you shall be hated by all nations for My Name's sake.
- **Mat 24:10** "And **then many shall stumble,** and they shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another.
- **Mat 24:11** "And **many false prophets** shall rise up and lead many astray.
- **Mat 24:12** "And because of the **increase in lawlessness, the love of many shall become cold.**

Mat 24:13 "But he who shall have endured to the end shall be saved.^a Footnote: ^aSee **Mat 10:22.**

Mat 24:14 "And this Good News of the reign shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.

The Abomination of Desolation

Mat 24:15 "So when you see the '**abomination that lays waste,**^b **Dan 11:31** spoken of by Dani'el the prophet, set up in the set-apart place" – he who reads, let him understand – Footnote: ^bSee also **Dan 9:27** and *Abomination that lays waste* in Explanatory Notes.

Mat 24:16 "then let those who are in Yehudah flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 "Let him who is on the house-top not come down to take whatever out of his house.

Mat 24:18 "And let him who is in the field not turn back to get his garments.

Mat 24:19 "And woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing children in those days!

Mat 24:20 "And pray that your flight does not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Mat 24:21 "For then there shall be **great distress,**^c such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. Footnote: ^cOr *great pressure, or great affliction.*

Mat 24:22 "And if those days were not shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the sake of the chosen ones those days shall be shortened.

There have been many opinions as to what the abomination of desolation being set up in the Set-apart Place will be. During the Maccabean time period, it is said that a statue of Zeus was set-up in the set-apart place. As we have discussed, prophecies usually are fulfilled 2-3 times. Therefore, yet once more, an abomination that is despicable will be set-up in the Set-apart place.

- It could be the Anti-messiah, taking His seat in the man-driven '3rd Temple' not ordained by YHWH. This is the so called '3rd Temple' that we hear the current Sanhedrin; Temple Institute; and others speak of.
- It could be a pagan statue being set-up in the man-driven 3rd Temple.
- Since we actually are the Temple; it could refer to those submitting to the 'mark of the beast' which could alter their DNA to make them no longer human but a beast.

Mat 24:23 "If anyone then says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or 'There!' do not believe.

- Mat 24:24 "For false messiahs and false prophets shall arise, and
- they shall show great signs and wonders, so as
- to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones.

Mat 24:25 "See, I have forewarned you.

Mat 24:26 "So if they say to you,

- 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or
- 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe.

The false messiah(s) may very well come depicted as the 12th Imam. Many middle east leaders own white stallions to be viewed as such. The middle east consists of the desert lands and like many countries, have underground facilities which could be referred to as 'inner rooms.'

When the True Messiah comes, Yahusha HaMashiach, there will be no need to go anywhere to view Him for He will be seen by all as lightning comes from the east and shines to the west.

Mat 24:27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines to the west, so also shall the coming of the Son of Adam be.

Mat 24:28 "For wherever the dead body is, there the vultures^d shall be gathered together.

Footnote: ^d [Luk 17:37](#).

The Coming of the Son of Man

Mat 24:29 "And immediately after the distress^e of those days the

- sun shall be darkened, and

- **the moon shall not give its light, and**
- **the stars shall fall from the heaven,**^f [Isa 13:10](#); [Isa 24:23](#), [Eze 32:7-8](#), [Joe 2:10](#), [Joe 2:31](#), [Joe 3:15](#) and
- **the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.**^g [Hag 2:6](#), [Hag 2:21](#) Footnotes: ^eOr *pressure*. ^fAlso see [Amo 5:20](#), [Amo 8:9](#). ^gAlso see [Isa 34:4](#).

Mat 24:30 **“And then** the sign of the Son of Ađam shall appear in the heaven,

- and then **all the tribes of the earth shall mourn,** [Zec 12:10](#), [Zec 12:14](#)
- and they shall see the **Son of Ađam coming on the clouds** [Dan 7:13](#) of the heaven with power and much esteem.^h Footnote: ^hAlso see [Dan 7:14](#).

A great sound of a trumpet...

Mat 24:31 **“And He shall send His messengers**

- with a **great sound of a trumpet,** [Isa 27:13](#) and
- they shall gather together His chosen ones from **the four winds,** [Dan 7:2](#) **from one end of the heavens to the other.** [Deu 4:32](#).

Personally, I see us in the birth pangs period before the tribulation begins. The fig tree is starting to show signs and His return is drawing near.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Mat 24:32 “And learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that the summer is near.

Mat 24:33 “So you also, when you see all these, **know that He is near, at the doors.**

Mat 24:34 **“Truly, I say to you, this generation shall by no means pass away until all this takes place.**

Mat 24:35 **“The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My words shall by no means pass away.**

No One Knows That Day and Hour

Mat 24:36 **“But concerning that day and the hour no one knows,** not even the messengers of the heavens, **but My Father only.**^h Footnote: ^h [Mar 13:32](#)

- Mat 24:37 “And **as the days of Noah,** so also shall the coming of the Son of Ađam be.
 - Mat 24:38 “For as they were in the days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that **Noah entered into the ark,** [Gen 7:7](#).
 - Mat 24:39 and they did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also shall the coming of the Son of Ađam be.

Mat 24:40 **“Then**

- twoⁱ shall be in the field, the one is taken and the one is left. Footnote: ⁱA masculine plural can refer to either gender; feminine plural refers to females only.
- Mat 24:41 “Two womenⁱ shall be grinding at the mill, one is taken and one is left. Footnote: ⁱA masculine plural can refer to either gender; feminine plural refers to females only.

Some have thought the ones taken are those being taken in the catching away or the ‘rapture.’ However, we have read in Matthew 13:30 the following:

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I shall say to the reapers, **“First gather the darnel** and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my granary.” ’ ’ ”

Mat 24:42 **“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Master is coming.**

Mat 24:43 “And know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Mat 24:44 **“Because of this, be ready too, for the Son of Adam is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.**

Mat 24:45 “Who then is a trustworthy and wise servant, whom his master set over his household, to give them food in season?

Mat 24:46 **“Blessed is that servant whom his master, having come, shall find so doing.**

Mat 24:47 “Truly, I say to you that he shall set him over all his possessions.

We are to watch and wait. We are to stay in His Word; study and show ourselves approved; work out our own salvation with fear and trembling; meaning with respect and awe we are to abide in Him; keep His Sabbath’s holy; keep His prophetic Moedim knowing He functions according to His rehearsal patterns; walk in Covenant.

Mat 24:48 **“But if that evil servant says in his heart,**

- ‘My master is delaying his coming,’
- Mat 24:49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and
- to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Mat 24:50 **the master of that servant shall**

- **come on a day when he does not expect it, and**
- **at an hour he does not know,**
- **Mat 24:51 and shall cut him in two and**
- **appoint him his portion with the hypocrites –**
- **there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

~ *Shalom* ~ *Libby*

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>

