

# JESUS & ISRAEL

a parallel history

A prophecy regarding  
the impending  
Middle-East crisis,  
the spiritual restoration  
of Israel and world-  
wide revival



# Jesus & Israel, A parallel history

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the spiritual restoration of Israel and world-wide revival

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Author: A. v/d Bijgaart  
Translation: Sarah Bogaers  
Translation updates: Lee-Ann Vermeulen  
Cover design: Marcel de Boer

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## ***FOREWORD OF THE 3rd EDITION***

Since the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition on the internet (October 2000) and printed brochure (September 2001), I have through the grace of God been able to see still more parallels that I have added to this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. I have also corrected and moved some texts in places. I have made the content more readable by including references to Bible passages with a footnote at the end of each chapter, previously found within the text itself. Finally the bibliography has been extended and certain names and concepts from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War have been explained.

Arjan van den Bijgaart  
July 2007

## **INTRODUCTION**

My aim in this brochure is to give an orderly account of the revelation I have received from my heavenly Father. This revelation came to me in five parts. Sometimes step by step, but sometimes in moments of sudden inspiration the Lord God revealed to me how global history actually forms the backdrop to a future and unprecedented apocalyptic event.

The essence of this revelation is that the life of the Lord Jesus Christ points prophetically to the past, the present and the immediate future of Israel and the Jewish people. The Lord revealed the basic outline of this mystery to me in 1975. The details were filled in four subsequent phases. My own study of the Bible in the years following 1975 brought me to a greater and deeper understanding of the clear and striking parallel between the Lord Jesus and His people.

Then God suddenly revealed to me that in the near future there was to be a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit on Israel, followed by world-wide revival. In November 1988, equally suddenly, the Lord revealed a number of amazing details, most of which had to do with the suffering of the Jews during World War II.

In January 1989 I published a brochure entitled 'Jesus and Israel, a parallel history', detailing everything that the Lord had revealed to me up to that point in time. This brochure was distributed to a small number of people only. At the same time, the Lord also gave me the following word: *Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay*<sup>1</sup>.

Old Testament prophets were often required to prophesy about future events without knowing precisely when those events were to take place: *"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow*<sup>2</sup>. That process of searching, inquiring and investigating is all too familiar to me. In the late eighties in particular, I repeatedly asked the question: "So Lord, when will these things happen?" There were moments when, on the basis of certain events, I thought I had the answer, only to have to admit later to my shame that I had been mistaken.

Although I knew that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Israel must be imminent, I decided, following the initial publication of the brochure, to leave the revelation entirely in the Lord's hands. I said very little about it to others, but continued to treasure it in my heart.

However, in January 2000 the Lord spoke clearly to me: *"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber..."*<sup>3</sup>. I understood that the events in question were about to commence, and that they would be heralded by a major crisis in Israel and the Middle-East. I did not have to wait long for the initial confirmation: in September 2000 the fuse was lit in Jerusalem. In October 2000 the Spirit urged me to pass on all that had been revealed to me, via E-mail and the Ecovata website, which I did. Although I did receive a small number of heart-warming and affirmative mails, in general the response was one of unbelief and rejection. The very word 'crisis' filled many people with distrust. Many Christians react with extreme skepticism when they hear talk of apocalyptic scenarios, being of the opinion that such things is the stuff of science fiction novels, disaster movies or bad dreams. The catastrophe that struck the US on 11 September 2001 has surely proved such illusions to be ill-founded.

Once more I find myself prompted to publish this revelation, this time in the form of a brochure. Since the revelation speaks of events that are to take place in the immediate future, I must not delay. I am very grateful to the Lord that what He has revealed is neither vague nor elusive. It can be tested by anyone with a knowledge of the Scriptures who is willing to take even a relatively cursory look at the history of the Jewish people since 1933. Hence the extensive reference to passages taken from the Bible and the brief bibliography.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that this revelation will encourage us to reach out in love more fervently than ever towards the great Author and Perfector of our faith, who through his own blood has reconciled us with His heavenly Father. I also pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare our hearts for the moment when the Prince of Peace will enfold in His eternal embrace that other suffering servant of God, His own people Israel!

Arjan van den Bijgaart  
September 2001

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<sup>1</sup> Hab 2:2+3

<sup>2</sup> 1Pe 1:10 + 11

<sup>3</sup> Ro 13:11

## **PART 1: WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN ISRAEL?**

*"You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come<sup>1</sup>*

The purpose of part 1 is to explain what is about to happen in a very short time. I am in no doubt whatsoever as to the main events (the framework). When it comes to the details, of which I have received only an impression, I will make that absolutely clear. I am fully aware that personal desires and ideas can detract from the accuracy of a message, and have therefore kept what I write to the basic essentials. In part 2 my aim is to explain why these Old Testament prophecies are being fulfilled at this particular point in history. This second part is vital to our understanding both of the times we live in and, more importantly, of the relationship between Jesus and Israel.

### **A. There will be a major crisis in Israel and the Middle-East**

In the Middle-East, the fuse of a huge powder keg has been lighted, and nobody will be able to stamp out the fire. This will lead to highly dramatic events, the direct focus of which will be the city of Jerusalem. Recent reports from the Middle-East have made it clearer than ever that the current conflict centers around one thing only: the claims being laid by various parties on Jerusalem.

The prophet Zechariah has the following to say on the matter: *I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves<sup>2</sup>.*

I have the distinct impression that the battle that has now commenced will escalate to unprecedented proportions, bringing Israel under heavy oppression<sup>3</sup>.

### **B. God Himself will bring this crisis to an end in full view of all the nations and He will pour out His Spirit over the apple of His eye.**

The Old Testament prophets predict this intervention and the spiritual restoration of Israel time and again. Below are just a few examples:

*And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son<sup>4</sup>.*

*When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord<sup>5</sup>.*

See also Eze 36:22-29, Is 40:5, Zech 13:1 and Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (Eze 37)!! The prophet Isaiah was also shown awe-inspiring visions of Israel's spiritual restoration.

I have the strong impression that all these events and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be accompanied by extreme weather conditions and natural phenomena<sup>6</sup>.

This spiritual restoration of Israel will take place before the return of the Lord Jesus. Only then will all those things take place that the Lord revealed through His servants the prophets regarding the end times!

As soon as these events have taken place, the many dogmas and theologies thought up and written down over the centuries regarding the concept of the Church as the 'Spiritual Israel' can be relegated once and for all to the waste basket!

### **C. Immediately thereafter the Lord will bring about world-wide revival through His Spirit.**

The outpouring of God's Spirit on the first day of Pentecost, as described in Acts, was without doubt a great event. It set hearts on fire, it represented a major step in the spreading of the gospel world-wide and it provides us with a prophetic glimpse of what is to come. However, compared with what is about to happen, the first day of Pentecost was no more than a minor house fire.

I have received an impression of a number of things that will happen as part of this 'Great Revival':

- There will be a high degree of unity among true Christians: dividing walls will fall.
- There will be a great hunger for the Lord God and for His Word.
- Music will be used as a major means of praising the Lord and spreading His word (see my message to Christian musicians in the Netherlands and Belgium at the end of part 1).
- God's glory will be revealed, and this will lead to the thorough purification and cleansing of God's children. In Acts we read that following the outpouring of the Spirit there was '*much grace was upon them all*' and all the believers '*were one in heart and mind*'<sup>7</sup> God's glory was on the disciples. But this had huge implications for those who had not devoted themselves completely to the Lord. Read the story of Ananias and Saffira in Acts 5. I have to confess that I had never understood this chapter until the Lord showed me that these events occurred in the context of His revealed and almost tangible glory. Everything that has not been built on the Rock will fall down flat!
- God will use mighty signs and wonders to confirm the preaching of His Word. The Lord Jesus Himself speaks about this: *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father*<sup>8</sup>. Read also Joel: *And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.....I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth ...etc*<sup>9</sup>
- An immense spiritual battle will break out and the evil one will do all he can to win back lost ground: *But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short*<sup>10</sup>. The choice that then remains will be clear-cut: *Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy*<sup>11</sup>. It will become clearer than ever that the Holy Spirit is not a "luxury item", as some preachers would like us to believe. Being filled with the Spirit will be the only thing that will enable us to keep serving the One who purchased us with His own blood!



## **SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR ALL CHRISTIAN MUSICIANS IN THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM:**

I have a special message for all Christian musicians in the Netherlands and Belgium to whom God has given musical talent. Many years ago God showed me that He would bring about world-wide revival, and for several years now it has been my firm conviction that as part of this revival He wants to use Christian musicians from the Netherlands and Belgium to praise Him and to spread His Word.

Following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as described in Acts, we see how the apostles lost their timidity and became powerful servants of the Lord. One of them, the apostle Peter, was approached by a crippled beggar asking for money. Peter gave him the following answer: *Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk*<sup>12</sup>!

Unfortunately, the testimony of many Christians in the Netherlands and Belgium is the exact opposite: “Silver and gold I have in plenty, but power and vision from God I have lost!” Large portions of the church of Jesus Christ have fallen into a deep sleep, lying in a desert of powerlessness and blandness. As I have already said, God will soon wake them up out of that deep sleep. And when that happens, the words that apply to Israel will also apply to the Netherlands and Belgium: *The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; He will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing*<sup>13</sup>. Allow yourself to be used by the Lord as a living stone in the building of His house<sup>14</sup>. Be prepared!

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 102:13

<sup>2</sup> Zech 12:2+3

<sup>3</sup> See also Deut 32:36+43, Is 30:19 and Ho 3:5. Also the moving history of Joseph in Egypt, where Joseph is a precursor of the Lord Jesus, contains a strong prophetic reference to this situation: Joseph reveals himself to his brothers at a time they are under great oppression (Ge 44 and 45:1-15).

<sup>4</sup> Zech 12:10; just as Joseph reveals himself to his brothers (Ge 45:3), so shall the Lord Jesus reveal Himself through Gods Spirit to his people Israel: *when the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me (Jn 15:26).*

<sup>5</sup> Ezek 39:27-29

<sup>6</sup> Is 29:6

<sup>7</sup> Ac 4:32-35

<sup>8</sup> Jn 14:12

<sup>9</sup> Joel 2:28-32

<sup>10</sup> Rev 12:12b

<sup>11</sup> Rev 22:11

<sup>12</sup> Acts 3:6

<sup>13</sup> Is 51:3

<sup>14</sup> 1 Pe 2:5; see also Hag 1+2

## **PART 2: WHY ARE THESE EVENTS IMMINENT? HOW CAN I TEST THIS PROPHECY?**

As you read this brochure, you may well be thinking to yourself: 'It probably won't happen that quickly / It could take another 100 years / It won't happen in my lifetime / The man is talking complete rubbish'. After all, Jesus actually said to his disciples: *It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority...*<sup>1</sup>

The Bible teaches us clearly that it is our responsibility to test everything against the Scriptures. That should, then, also be applied to this revelation. I can well imagine that you find it difficult to test a message seemingly made up of a number of Bible passages lumped together. That is why, by His grace, I would like to show you something special that you can test against His Word. What I am about to share is essential not only to our understanding and testing of the above prophecy but, much more importantly, to our understanding of the great love the Lord Jesus has for His people Israel, and why His heart burns with the desire to reveal Himself to His people.

### **Parallels between the life of Jesus Christ and the history of the nation of Israel and the Jewish people.**

*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know*<sup>2</sup>

*For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way....*<sup>3</sup>

*..One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are...*<sup>4</sup>

*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity...*<sup>5</sup>

### **Birth and youth**

#### **1.**

**Jesus:** His birth is made possible by a miraculous intervention from God: His mother Mary becomes pregnant via the Holy Spirit<sup>6</sup>.

**Israel:** The birth of the nation of Israel is made possible by a miraculous intervention from God: Abraham and Sarah are both too old to conceive/give birth to children<sup>7</sup>. In addition, Sarah is actually barren<sup>8</sup>. Rebecca, Isaac's wife, is also barren<sup>9</sup>.

#### **2.**

**Jesus:** He is circumcised as a new-born child<sup>10</sup>.

**Israel:** Israel is circumcised at the point at which the nation is born<sup>11</sup>.

#### **3.**

**Jesus:** The devil tries to kill him: the killing of baby boys in Bethlehem<sup>12</sup>.

**Israel:** The devil tries to destroy the nation of Israel: the killing of baby boys in Egypt<sup>13</sup>.

**4.**

**Jesus:** He is called out of Egypt by the Lord. Joseph, Mary and the child Jesus had fled from Israel to Egypt<sup>14</sup>.

**Israel:** Israel is called out of Egypt by the Lord: the Exodus<sup>15</sup>!

**5.**

**Jesus:** In His early days, He is protected by the Lord in a very special way: God warns people through dreams (*Joseph, the wise men from the East*) to follow a certain route, in order to protect the life of Jesus<sup>16</sup>.

**Israel:** In the early days of its existence, Israel is protected by the Lord in a very special way: God warns people through dreams, plagues and by closing a mother's womb to follow a certain route, in order to safeguard the existence of what is to become the nation of Israel: *When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. He allowed no man to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.*<sup>17</sup>

**6.**

**Jesus:** He is the first-born and only-begotten Son of God<sup>18</sup> He is called the servant of God<sup>19</sup> and His name is Emmanuel<sup>20</sup>.

**Israel:** Is God's first-born son<sup>21</sup>. Israel is also called the servant of God<sup>22</sup> and its name is Emmanuel<sup>23</sup>.

**7.**

**Jesus:** He is born as an "alien and stranger" and will remain as such for the rest of his life. Jesus is King<sup>24</sup> but of a Heavenly Kingdom<sup>25</sup>. He leaves His place in heaven to live as a man on this earth for a time<sup>26</sup>. There is no room for him in the inn<sup>27</sup>. His parents have to flee with Him to Egypt<sup>28</sup>. After their return, Joseph is warned not to go to Judah<sup>29</sup>, the land where he actually wants to settle because he belongs to the house and lineage of David<sup>30</sup>. He settles instead in Nazareth in Galilee, a city and area not held in high regard by the Jews<sup>31</sup>. ....*the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head*<sup>32</sup>. *He was despised and rejected by men*<sup>33</sup>.

**Israel:** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the patriarchs of the people of Israel, are *aliens and strangers on earth*<sup>34</sup>. They are longing for their heavenly home<sup>35</sup>. Throughout the history of Israel, and to this very day, the Jews have been continuously confronted with their status as strangers. Read what David says about this in 1Ch 29:15. Those Jews caught up in the Diaspora (dispersion) through the ages can testify to the reality of this. Werner Keller's book "Diaspora: The Post-Biblical History of the Jews" traces the post-Biblical years of pain and suffering endured by the Jews as a result of persecution and isolation. The following words from Scripture are also applicable to the present State of Israel and its inhabitants: *I see a people who live apart and do not consider themselves one of the nations*<sup>36</sup>.

**Baptism and testing in the desert****8.**

**Jesus:** God's work through Jesus is introduced by the appearance of a prophet of the tribe of Levi, who is prepared for his task in the desert: John the Baptist<sup>37</sup>. But God does not allow him to actually see the works of the promised Savior. As soon as Jesus has truly embarked on His ministry, John the Baptist is thrown into jail and dies there<sup>38</sup>. Moreover, John the Baptist is the Elijah that is about to come<sup>39</sup>.

**Israel:** God's work through Israel is introduced by the appearance of a prophet of the tribe of Levi, who is prepared for his task in the desert: Moses<sup>40</sup>. God does not allow Moses to enter the

Promised Land; he is only allowed to see it from a distance. He dies in the desert<sup>41</sup>. For the relationship between Jesus, Moses and Elijah, see for example Luke 9:30-31.

## 9.

**Jesus:** He is baptized with water by John the Baptist in the river Jordan: immediately thereafter God's Spirit comes down on Him<sup>42</sup>.

**Israel:** The people of Israel are baptized 'in Moses' in the cloud (= *the Spirit*) and in the sea (= *water*)<sup>43</sup>.

Our attention is drawn emphatically in 1 Corinthians to the relationship between Jesus and Israel: *For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ*<sup>44</sup>.

## 10.

**Jesus:** After His baptism He is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert<sup>45</sup>.

**Israel:** Following its baptism into Moses, Israel is led by God's Spirit into the desert<sup>46</sup>. By day the people are led by a cloud and at night by a column of fire.

## 11.

**Jesus:** He remains in the desert for 40 days<sup>47</sup>, where He is tempted by Satan. See also Ezekiel 4:6 for the principle of a day for each year.

**Israel:** The people remain in the desert for 40 years, where they are tempted by the devil<sup>48</sup>.

## 12.

**Jesus:** After 40 days, Jesus becomes hungry<sup>49</sup> and is tempted by Satan to turn stones into bread. *If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.* Jesus answers: *It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God*<sup>50</sup>.

**Israel:** After 40 years, Israel develops a 'hunger' for the Promised Land: the tribes of Reuben and Gad ask Moses for permission to enter the part of the land promised to them without first crossing the river Jordan<sup>51</sup>. But God's instruction was that they must first take the land of Canaan<sup>52</sup>. Moses therefore refuses them permission, and warns them not to sin against God by disobeying Him<sup>53</sup>. Moses is thereby exhorting them to *not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord*.

## 13.

**Jesus:** He is tempted to force God into action by jumping from a rooftop<sup>54</sup>. *Do not put the Lord your God to the test*, Jesus answers.

**Israel:** Is tempted to force God into action by taking the Ark of the Covenant to the front in the battle against the Philistines, a battle they were losing because of their sins<sup>55</sup>.

## 14.

**Jesus:** He is tempted to worship the devil in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour<sup>56</sup>.

**Israel:** Israel is tempted to worship the devil throughout its Old Testament history<sup>57</sup>.

## Calling and fulfillment of task

**15.**

**Jesus:** He heals leprosy<sup>58</sup>, raises the *dead*<sup>59</sup> and multiplies food in a miraculous way<sup>60</sup>.

**Israel:** The prophets of Israel heal leprosy<sup>61</sup>, raise the dead<sup>62</sup>, and multiply food in a miraculous way<sup>63</sup>.

**16.**

**Jesus:** He has twelve disciples<sup>64</sup>. Jesus is called by God to be the High Priest<sup>65</sup> and one of his duties is to educate his disciples<sup>66</sup>.

**Israel:** Consists of twelve tribes<sup>67</sup>. The tribe of Levi is placed in charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony, before Gods face<sup>68</sup>; also from the tribe of Levi, Aaron and his sons serve as priests<sup>69</sup>. One of the duties of Levi is to educate<sup>70</sup> the other twelve (!) tribes<sup>71</sup>.

Scripture itself indicates that there is a clear relationship between the twelve apostles and the twelve tribes: Jesus says to his disciples: *'I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel'*<sup>72</sup>.

**17.**

**Jesus:** God dwells among His people in a sanctuary that is a copy of the original found in heaven. That sanctuary is Jesus Himself; He calls Himself a temple<sup>73</sup>. The author of Hebrews calls Jesus the imprint of God's being<sup>74</sup> and testifies that He is the image of the invisible God<sup>75</sup>. The epistle of John reports that He has dwelled<sup>76</sup> among His people. Jesus says this of Himself: *When he looks at Me, he sees the one who sent Me*<sup>77</sup>.

**Israel:** God dwells among His people in a sanctuary that is a copy of the original found in heaven. That sanctuary is the tabernacle with all of its contents that Moses had to make according to the pattern shown him on the mountain<sup>78</sup>. The author of Hebrews speaks in this context of copies of heavenly things<sup>79</sup>.

**18.**

**Jesus:** He establishes a blood covenant with his followers<sup>80</sup>. In His duty as High Priest He is called to bring a sacrifice for the redemption of the sins of the people. He does this by offering Himself once on the cross<sup>81</sup>. By offering his own blood for us *He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption*<sup>82</sup>.

**Israel:** Moses establishes a blood covenant with the nation of Israel<sup>83</sup>. The duty of the high priest from the tribe of Levi under the old covenant is to bring an annual sacrifice for the redemption of his own sins and the sins of his people<sup>84</sup>. He does this by sacrificing the blood of calves and goats in the holy place, the tabernacle that Moses was instructed to build<sup>85</sup>. However, these sacrifices must be brought time and again, and can not bring about perfect and everlasting redemption<sup>86</sup>.

**19.**

**Jesus:** He reveals His glory and performs many miracles before the eyes of His disciples and all of the people<sup>87</sup>. Only three of His disciples are witnesses on the mountain of a very special revelation of the heavenly glory of Jesus<sup>88</sup>.

**Israel:** God reveals Himself in many different ways to the entire nation of Israel through miracles, signs and wonders<sup>89</sup>. Only Moses, Aaron, their sons and seventy of the elders of Israel are allowed to be witnesses on the mountain of a unique revelation of the heavenly glory of God<sup>90</sup>.

**20.**

**Jesus:** Even after performing so many miracles and signs before the eyes of the people, they still do not believe in Him, they do not repent and turn to Him<sup>91</sup>.

**Israel:** Although God performs great miracles and signs through the acts of Moses, the people do not put their faith in Him by repenting and turning to Him<sup>92</sup>.

**21.**

**Jesus:** Before he offers Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, Jesus is anointed<sup>93</sup>.

**Israel:** Before the high priest is allowed to bring a sacrifice for the redemption of the sins of the people of Israel, he is anointed<sup>94</sup>.

**The passion, death and resurrection****22.**

**Jesus:** Shortly before His suffering, it seems as if the Biblical promises of His coming kingship are to be fulfilled right away<sup>95</sup>. He is led into Jerusalem and received as King by the crowds in Jerusalem<sup>96</sup>. Within no time the mood changes and it is clear that a humiliating and difficult path of suffering awaits him.

**Israel:** Shortly before the suffering of the Jewish people under the Nazi regime it seems that Biblical promises concerning the national and spiritual recovery of Israel are to be fulfilled: in November 1917 the British government through British minister Balfour in a written statement promises its co-operation in creating a Jewish national home in Palestine. This statement is known as the 'Balfour Declaration'. One month later Palestine is freed from Turkish power by the English. It is imminently clear that the Balfour Declaration would be an empty promise and there would first be a difficult and humiliating path of suffering.

**23.**

**Jesus:** The chief priests and Pharisees devise a crafty plan to catch Jesus out. Jesus is no longer able to move freely among the Jewish people<sup>97</sup>. His fear increases: *But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed*<sup>98</sup>.

**Israel:** In the period 1933-1938, all manner of restrictions, humiliations, boycotts and persecutions are used by the Nazi Reich to hamper the public life of the Jews. There is also plenty of evidence that Hitler intends to get rid of the Jewish people. Fear intensifies.

**24.**

**Jesus:** Just before his death the Lord Jesus is overwhelmed by a terrible fear regarding what is about to happen to Him, and He comes under severe attack from the darkness: the night in Gethsemane marks the start of the dreadful road to the cross for the Lord Jesus<sup>99</sup>.

**Israel:** Just before the Holocaust, in the night of 9-10 November 1938, the Jewish people are attacked by the darkness: Goebbels gives the order to carry out a nation-wide pogrom against the Jews during the 'Kristall Nacht' (Crystal Night): 91 Jews are killed, hundreds are wounded, almost all synagogues in Germany are demolished, Jewish shops and homes are vandalized and thousands of Jews are transported to concentration camps. In the words of a Jewish rabbi: 'A night that was the overture of a long period of absolute darkness'. This marks the start of hideous and intense persecution of the Jews.

**25.**

**Jesus:** Is handed over by Judas to the chief priests and the elders: the disciples forsake Him<sup>100</sup>.

**Israel:** Great Britain shuts the borders of Palestine to the vast majority of the Jews, in accordance with regulations laid down in a 1939 White Paper<sup>101</sup>. Almost no Jewish refugees are granted entry into the United States, Australia or European countries (the Evian-conference!)<sup>102</sup>. The outside world looks on with indifference. The Nazis now have an open field: in July 1939, preparations commence for the 'Endlösung' (Final Solution) to the Jewish problem<sup>103</sup>.

## 26.

**Jesus:** He has to drink the cup of suffering<sup>104</sup>.

**Israel:** The Jewish people now have to drink the same cup. Jesus tells two of his disciples, James and John, that they will drink the same cup as He drinks, and be baptized with the same baptism as the baptism He received<sup>105</sup>. Later it becomes clear that this also applies to Peter<sup>106</sup>.

Elsewhere in Scripture Jesus says that it is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master<sup>107</sup>. Jesus does not imply here that there is a link between the suffering his disciples are to undergo and any sin of which they may be guilty. They are to suffer for Jesus' sake. Surely in the light of this it is highly dangerous to explain the scattering and suffering of the Jewish people purely and simply as a consequence of their disobedience to the Lord<sup>108</sup>. The apostle Paul speaks in this context of the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God, and how unsearchable his judgments are<sup>109</sup>. This man of God is given insight into the past, present and future of the Jewish people: *Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all of Israel will be saved*<sup>110</sup>. For a better understanding of this matter, see chapters 9, 10 and 11 of the letter to the Romans.

## 27.

**Jesus:** He is mocked and humiliated as 'King of the Jews': as an outward symbol of their mockery they place a crown of thorns on His head, clothe Him in a purple robe and put a staff in His right hand<sup>111</sup>. And when Jesus is crucified they place a sign above his head: *This is Jesus, the King of the Jews*<sup>112</sup>.

**Israel:** The Jewish people are mocked and humiliated as 'Jews': as an outward sign the Jews are obliged to carry a yellow star with the word 'Jew' (in German: 'Jude') written on it. They are driven into ghettos, and the teasing of Jews by German soldiers becomes a popular past-time.

## 28.

**Jesus:** Jesus is sentenced to death by crucifixion by the Romans and is handed over to his torturers<sup>113</sup> after false evidence has been brought against Him<sup>114</sup>.

**Israel:** The Jewish people are sentenced to death by the German Government on 20 January 1942 during the Wannsee conference<sup>115</sup>, and are handed over to their torturers. Their sentence is based on dark lies: demonic, anti-Semitic propaganda fuelled by blind hatred, perverse racist theories and, regrettably, corrupt theology developed by church leaders over the ages.

## 29.

**Jesus:** His clothes, including a precious undergarment (seamless, woven in one piece) are taken from Him at the crucifixion and divided among the soldiers<sup>116</sup>.

**Israel:** The Jews are stripped naked before they are shot dead or led to the gas chambers. They are also robbed of their precious possessions, before and after death. Hundreds of thousands of people profit from these plunderings.

## 30.

**Jesus:** He suffers outside Jerusalem<sup>117</sup>, or, as described in Heb 13:12, 'outside the city gate'<sup>118</sup>.

**Israel:** The Jewish people suffer 'outside the city gate' of the land of Israel: in Europe.

**31.**

**Jesus:** Just before He dies, he cries out: *My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me*<sup>119</sup>?

**Israel:** For the Jews, the tragedy of World War II raises time and again the burning question: 'Where was God in Auschwitz'? This very painful crisis of faith is also referred to as "The hidden God in Auschwitz". *For a brief moment I abandoned you...*<sup>120</sup>.

**32.**

**Jesus:** He is crucified and dies<sup>121</sup>.

**Israel:** Six million Jews die during World War II as a result of executions, gassings, maltreatment and starvation. The darkest period of these horrible massacres lies between 1942 and 1945, when the Nazis carry out their plans relentlessly according to the 'Final Solution'. The immense suffering of the Jews throughout history is foretold by the Psalmist in Psalm 44.

**33.**

**Jesus:** Following His death, He remains in the grave for 3 days<sup>122</sup>.

**Israel:** The Jewish people remain in the grave for three years, from the end of the war in Europe (7 May 1945) until 14 May 1948.

**34.**

**Jesus:** After three days, Jesus rises from the grave<sup>123</sup>.

**Israel:** After three years, on May 15 1948, Israel rises from the grave: the State of Israel is established<sup>124</sup>.

**35.**

**Jesus:** Lies are used to deny the resurrection of Jesus<sup>125</sup>.

**Israel:** Lies are used to deny the suffering of the Jews during the Holocaust. There have been and still are various groups and individuals who deny that Auschwitz and the Holocaust ever happened.

**36.**

**Jesus:** The primary perpetrators of the murder of Jesus deny any and all responsibility for their crime: Judas, Jesus' betrayer, has remorse but kills himself<sup>126</sup>; Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified<sup>127</sup> but washes his hands of any guilt<sup>128</sup>. The high priests of the Council deny any accusations of murder of the Lord Jesus<sup>129</sup>.

**Israel:** The masterminds of the Holocaust deny any and all responsibility for their crimes; Hitler, Himmler<sup>130</sup>, Goebbels<sup>131</sup> and Goring<sup>132</sup> all commit suicide. During the Neurenberg Trials<sup>133</sup> Nazi leaders declare their innocence by claiming they knew nothing of the concentration camps<sup>134</sup>. Eichmann<sup>135</sup>, the organizer of the Holocaust, attests that he has only done his duty in loyalty to his office (befehl ist befehl) and is therefore innocent.

**37.**

**Jesus:** After His resurrection, the suffering of Jesus does not end. When He appears to Saul that is persecuting Christians, Jesus asks him: *Why are you persecuting Me*<sup>136</sup>? Every spiritual and bodily form of aggression against the church, the Body of Christ<sup>137</sup>, is a personal attack on the Lord Jesus Himself.

**Israel:** After the foundation of the state of Israel, the suffering of the Jewish people does not end. Wars, terrorist attacks and acts of anti-Semitism endeavor to destroy Israel and the Jewish people.



**38.**

**Jesus:** At the end of His life on earth one disciple falls away and dies: Judas<sup>138</sup>. His position must be filled by someone else. The apostles leave the choice between Joseph and Matthew to God, and select Matthias by casting lots<sup>139</sup>.

**Israel:** In the end-time one tribe is missing from the list of tribes of the children of Israel: the tribe of Dan<sup>140</sup>. Dan's position is filled by another tribe: Manasseh.

**39.**

**Jesus:** After the resurrection of Jesus the following events take place:

- His resurrected body is visible for 40 days<sup>141</sup>. During this period He promises His disciples that 'not many days from now' they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit<sup>142</sup>.
- Then Jesus is exalted and, out of sight from the world, He receives the promise of the Holy Spirit. Literally, Acts 2:33 says: *Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear*<sup>143</sup>. See also Eph 1:13 for the term 'the promised Holy Spirit'<sup>144</sup>.
- On the day of Pentecost (= 50 days after Easter and 10 days after His ascension), Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit on his disciples and those who are with them, around 120 people<sup>145</sup>. This outpouring is heard (*a sound like the blowing of a violent wind*) but also seen by the inhabitants of Jerusalem (*they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire...*) and results in a mighty revival, first among the Jews and then among the Gentiles.

**Israel:** After the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the following events take place:

- Israel remains in existence, despite various wars waged against the inhabitants of the new state.
- From around 1988 (40 years later) onwards, there is an explosive growth in the number of Messianic Jews both within Israel and beyond its borders. This growth is facilitated in part by the fall of communism, a process also set in motion in the late eighties.
- Almost unnoticed by the world, this nevertheless represents a first move of the Holy Spirit, the preface to a marvelous event that will happen 'not many years from now' and therefore very soon, namely, a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, first on the people of Israel and then world-wide.
- This will be audible and visible to all people, and will bring about a mighty revival. The apostle Paul says of these events: *But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!*<sup>146</sup>, and *For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*<sup>147</sup>. Almost all the Old Testament prophets foretell this outpouring of the Spirit!!<sup>148</sup>.

Also highly relevant in this context is the 'vision of the dry bones' received by the prophet Ezekiel<sup>149</sup>. This servant of the Most High God saw an overview of what has been described here in detail from point 21 onwards:

- He sees a valley of dry bones (= Israel) - *Our hope is gone, we are cut off*
- Then the bones come to life: the bodily resurrection of Israel; but: *there was no breath in them*
- And then comes an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual recovery of Israel.

**40.**

**Jesus:** His life and works are foretold in detail in the Old Testament (see, for example, the first five books of Moses, the Psalms and the prophets, plus the many quotations from these books in the New Testament).

**Israel:** Future events surrounding Israel and the Jewish people are foretold in detail in both the Old and New Testament<sup>150</sup>. In our time, then, we can gain insight from God's Word into God's dealings with Israel, and prepare ourselves for what is to happen.

I do not know the day and the hour set by Almighty God. But on the basis of the above, I do believe that we are standing on the very threshold of a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, first on Israel, then on the Gentiles, the effects of which will be felt world-wide!

<sup>1</sup> Ac 1:7

<sup>2</sup> Jer 33:3

<sup>3</sup> Heb 2:17

<sup>4</sup> Heb 4:15

<sup>5</sup> Heb 2:14

<sup>6</sup> Mt 1:18, Lk 1:35

<sup>7</sup> Ro 4:19, Ge 17:17, 21:2

<sup>8</sup> Ge 11:30

<sup>9</sup> Ge 25:21

<sup>10</sup> Lk 2:21

<sup>11</sup> Ge 17:10, 17:24; about the 'young' Israel, see Deut 10:22

<sup>12</sup> Mt 2:16-18

<sup>13</sup> Ex 1:22, Ac 7:19

<sup>14</sup> Mat 2:15, this is a quote from Hosea!

<sup>15</sup> Ho 11:1 ...*and from Egypt I have called my son*

<sup>16</sup> Mt 1:18-2:23

<sup>17</sup> 1 Chr 16:19-22; see also Ge 12:12-20, 20:1-18, 26:7-11, 28:10-22

<sup>18</sup> See Jn 1:18 (New revised standard version), 3:16 and Ro 8:29

<sup>19</sup> Mt 12:18, Ac 3:13, Ac 3:26

<sup>20</sup> Is 7:14, Mt 1:23

<sup>21</sup> Ex 4:22; see also Jer 31:9

<sup>22</sup> Lk 1:54, Is 41:8+9, 43:10, 44:1+2, 44:21, 49:3

<sup>23</sup> Is 8:8

<sup>24</sup> Lk 1:32+33

<sup>25</sup> Jn 18:36, 2Tim 4:18

<sup>26</sup> Jn 1:1+2, 17:5, Ph 2:5-8

<sup>27</sup> Lk 2:7

<sup>28</sup> Mt 2:13

<sup>29</sup> Mt 2:19-23

<sup>30</sup> Lk 2:4

<sup>31</sup> Jn 1:46+47, Mk 14:67, Jn 7:41+52, Mt 4:15

<sup>32</sup> Mat 8:20

<sup>33</sup> Is 53:3

<sup>34</sup> Heb.11:13

<sup>35</sup> Heb 11:16

<sup>36</sup> Num 23:9b

<sup>37</sup> Lk 1:80, 3:2, Marc 1:1-8

<sup>38</sup> Mt 14:1-12, Marc 6:14-29; John's disappointment: Mt 11:2-6, Lk 7:18-23

<sup>39</sup> Mt 11:14

<sup>40</sup> Ex 2:1, Ho 12:14, Ac 7:29+30

<sup>41</sup> Deut 34:1-8; see also Num 27:12-14 and Deut 32:48-52

<sup>42</sup> Mt 3:13-16, Marc 1:9+10

<sup>43</sup> 1 Cor 10:2

<sup>44</sup> 1 Cor 10:1-4; see also Ex 14:22

<sup>45</sup> Mt 4:1

<sup>46</sup> Neh 9:12+20, Haggai 2:6, Ex.13:21

<sup>47</sup> ex. Mk 1:13, Lk 4:2

<sup>48</sup> Deut 8:2+16; see also Heb 3:8+9: in this text the expression 'temptation in the desert' is used

<sup>49</sup> Mt 4:2-4

<sup>50</sup> Mt 4:4, He quotes Deut 8:1-3; Jesus also says: My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work (Jn 4:34).

<sup>51</sup> Num 32:1-34, Deut 3:18-21, Joz 1:12-15, Deut 29:7+8

<sup>52</sup> Num 33:50-56

<sup>53</sup> Num 32:23

<sup>54</sup> Mt 4:5-7

<sup>55</sup> 1 Sam 4:1-11

<sup>56</sup> Mt 4:8-10

<sup>57</sup> Read Jer 44 and 2 Kings 17:7-20

<sup>58</sup> Mt 8:1-4, Lk 17:11-19

<sup>59</sup> Mt 9:18-26, Jn 11:1-44

<sup>60</sup> Mt 14:14-21 + Jn 2:1-10

<sup>61</sup> 2 Kings 5:1-14

<sup>62</sup> 2 Kings 4:8-37, 1 Kings 17:17-24, 2 Kings 8:5, Heb 11:35a

<sup>63</sup> 2 Kings 4:1-7, 4:42-44, 1 Kings 17:7-16

<sup>64</sup> Lk 6:13-16

<sup>65</sup> Heb 4:14 to 5:10

<sup>66</sup> Jn 6:59, 8:20, Ac 1:1, Mk 4:1+2, 6:2+34, 14:49

<sup>67</sup> Ge 49:28

<sup>68</sup> Num 1:49-54, 3:6-8

<sup>69</sup> Ex 28:1, Num 18:7

<sup>70</sup> Mal 2:5-7, Deut 33:10, Lev 10:11, 2Ch 17:8+9

<sup>71</sup> In various places in the Old Testament a total of twelve tribes are listed by name, not including the tribe of Levi. In these cases the tribe of Joseph is split into Manasseh and Ephraim. One example is the occasion when the land of Canaan is shared out, and Levi does not receive a portion (Jos 14:1-4). Also in the case of the twelve spies (Num 13:1-16) Levi is missing, although Moses clearly speaks of twelve men, a man from every tribe (Dt 1:23). See also Nu 1:1-54, 2:1-29, 13:1-16, 26:5-57, 34:13-29).

<sup>72</sup> Mt 19:27+28 en Lk 22:30; read also Rev 21:9-14

<sup>73</sup> Jn 2:19-21; see also 1 Cor 3:16

<sup>74</sup> Heb 1:3

<sup>75</sup> Col 1:15

<sup>76</sup> Jn 1:14

<sup>77</sup> Jn 12:45; see also Jn 14:9b

<sup>78</sup> Ex 25:8-9, Heb 8:5

<sup>79</sup> Heb 9:23

<sup>80</sup> See Mt 26:28

<sup>81</sup> Heb 7:27, 9:26+28

<sup>82</sup> Heb 9:11+12

<sup>83</sup> Ex 24:8, Heb 9:19-20

<sup>84</sup> Lev 16, Heb 9:7, 8:3

<sup>85</sup> Heb 9:12, Heb 8:5

<sup>86</sup> Heb 10:1-18

<sup>87</sup> See Mt 9:33, Lk 19:37 and Ac 2:22

<sup>88</sup> Mt 17:1-13, Marc 9:2-13, Lk 9:28-36; see also 2 Pt 1:16-18

<sup>89</sup> See Deut 4:33-37, 7:17-19 and 34:10-12

<sup>90</sup> Ex 24:9-11

<sup>91</sup> Jn 12:37-40; Jn 12:42 en 2:23

<sup>92</sup> See footnote 89, Num 14:11 and Ps 78:12, 22, 32-37, 42+43 and 56+57

<sup>93</sup> Mt 26:6-12, Mk 14:3-8

<sup>94</sup> Lev 16:32, Ex 29:4-9

<sup>95</sup> See also Lk 1:32-33

<sup>96</sup> Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-10, Lk 19:28-44, Jn 12:12-19

<sup>97</sup> Mt 26:1-5, Mk 14:1+2, Jn 11:53+54+57, 7:1

<sup>98</sup> Lk 12:50

<sup>99</sup> Mt 26:36-46

<sup>100</sup> Mt 26:47-56

<sup>101</sup> In the infamous White Paper of 1939, Chamberlain and the British government moved to restrict Jewish immigration to former Palestine to 75.000 Jews for the following five years. After five years only Jews given permission from the Arab authorities were allowed to immigrate to Palestine. Because of the White Paper, it also became more difficult for Jewish immigrants to purchase land in Palestine. Because of the White Paper the Balfour Declaration was nullified and the threat of Nazi Germany set aside.

<sup>102</sup> This conference was held in Evian-les-Bains, at Lake Geneva, organized at the suggestion of American president Roosevelt to discuss the fugitive problem in Nazi Germany. The 32 participating countries have to deal with an increase of Jewish immigrants. The conference fails because it turns out that the Jews are not welcome anywhere anymore. Hitler considers the failure of the Evian conference as a victory. He had sent representatives to the conference who communicated to him the following after the conference ended: 'You can do whatever you want with the Jews, no one wants them'.

<sup>103</sup> The German phrase 'Endlösung der Judenfrage' means 'final solution of the Jewish problem'. This 'solution' consisted of the systematic destruction of the Jewish race in Germany and the occupied territories. During the Wannsee Conference of 20 January 1942 the decision was made final for the destruction of 11 million European Jews.

<sup>104</sup> Mt 26:42

<sup>105</sup> Mk 10: 35-39

<sup>106</sup> Jn 21:18+19

<sup>107</sup> Mt 10:25

<sup>108</sup> See Deut 4:27, 31:16-21, Eze 39:23+24

<sup>109</sup> Ro 11:33

<sup>110</sup> Ro 11:25+26

<sup>111</sup> Jn 19:1-5, Mt 27:26-31

<sup>112</sup> Mt 27:37

<sup>113</sup> Jn 19:6-16

<sup>114</sup> Mt 26:59-66, Mk 14:55-64

<sup>115</sup> Conference held on January 20 in Wannsee, near Berlin. The conference was about the organizational problems of the total extermination of the Jews. Those present were informed that within the 'Final Solution of the Jewish problem' it had been decided to 'evacuate' 11 million European Jews to the East. 'Evacuation' meant deportation and systematic extermination.

<sup>116</sup> Jn 19:23+24

<sup>117</sup> Jn 19:20

<sup>118</sup> Heb 13:12

<sup>119</sup> Mt 27:46, Ps 22:2

<sup>120</sup> Is 54:6-8

<sup>121</sup> Mt 27:33-50

<sup>122</sup> Mt 12:40, Mk 8:31

<sup>123</sup> Mt 16:21, Lk 24:6+7, 24:46, 1Cor 15:4

<sup>124</sup> Ho 6:2, Eze 37:1-13

<sup>125</sup> Mt 27:62-66, 28:11-15

<sup>126</sup> Mt 27:3-5

<sup>127</sup> Jn 19:6, Mt 27:26

<sup>128</sup> Mt 27:24

<sup>129</sup> Ac 5:28, Ac 7:51-59

<sup>130</sup> Heinrich Himmler (1900-1945) was a German national-socialist politician. As 'Reichsführer SS and Chief of the German Police' Himmler was second in power to Hitler in the Nazi regime. During WW II he presided over Germany and occupied Europe a regime of terror. Together with Hitler and Heydrich he was the most responsible for the concentration camps and the mass murders that took place there. In April of 1945 when the downfall of the Hitler regime was unavoidable, he tried unsuccessfully to bargain with the Allied Forces. On these grounds Hitler expelled him from the party as a traitor. After his arrest by the English he committed suicide.

<sup>131</sup> Joseph Goebbels (1887-1945) was a German national-socialist politician. Shortly after Hitler's assumption of power in 1933 he became the Third Reich's minister of Public Information and Propaganda. After Hitler's suicide on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1945 Goebbels took the lives of his children and wife before killing himself on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1945.

<sup>132</sup> Hermann Göring (1893-1946) was a German national-socialist politician. He was a commander of the German Air Force (Luftwaffe) and on September 1 1939 Hitler appointed him as his successor in the event of his death. After the fall of France he received the title of General of the Army. Because of the failure of the 'Luftwaffe' at critical moments during the war, Göring gradually lost the trust of Hitler. When the regime collapsed, he fled to Beieren, where he surrendered to the Americans in May 1945. At the Neurenberg trials he was sentenced to hanging. Within hours of the sentence he committed suicide.

<sup>133</sup> Tribunal in 1945-1946 in the city of Neurenberg, where 22 German Nazi leaders were sentenced as chief offenders of war crimes.

<sup>134</sup> Proverbs 24:11+12 warns not to shut your eyes or ears to those that are staggering towards slaughter. It is striking that in verse 12 is the explanation 'See, we did not know'; in the German Lutheran bible (1984 translation) reads: "wir haben's nicht gewußt". Directly after WWII this excuse for the Holocaust was literally used by many people!

<sup>135</sup> Adolf Eichmann (1906-1962) was a German public servant and war criminal. After the Wannsee conference of January 1942 he was involved in the deportation and systematic annihilation of the Jews, first in organization, later personally active, especially in Hungary. After the war he succeeded in escaping to Argentina where Simon Wiesenthal tracked him down. On May 11<sup>th</sup> 1960 he was captured by the Israeli Secret Service and deported to Israel. After a long and involved court process he was sentenced to death by a Jerusalem court.

<sup>136</sup> Ac 9:4, 22:7 en 26:14

<sup>137</sup> Eph 1:22, Col 1:24

<sup>138</sup> Jn 17:12, 6:70+71, 13:2+27, Mt 26:21-25, 27:3-5

<sup>139</sup> Ac 1:16-26; this all happened before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Who had not yet fully revealed the truth (Jn 16:12+13). The apostles likely went to work on their own accord. I personally believe that God had intended another replacement for Judas: the apostle Paul, 'one abnormally born' (1Cor 15:8).

<sup>140</sup> Rev 7:4-8

<sup>141</sup> Ac 1:3

<sup>142</sup> Ac 1:5

<sup>143</sup> Ac 2:33

<sup>144</sup> Eph 1:13

<sup>145</sup> Ac 2:1-4, Ac 1:15

<sup>146</sup> Ro 11:12

<sup>147</sup> Ro 11:15

<sup>148</sup> also Eze 37:1-14, Eze 36:27, 39:29, Is 4:4, 32:15, 44:3, Joel 2:28+29, Zach 12:10; see also 1Cor 15:44

<sup>149</sup> Eze 37:1-13  
<sup>150</sup> Read also Ro 9-11

## **EPILOGUE FROM THE AUTHOR**

I am very much aware that the suffering of the Jewish people under the Nazi regime is an extremely sensitive subject that raises many burning questions among Jews and Christians alike: "Where was God in Auschwitz?" "In the wake of a catastrophe of this magnitude, can we still believe in an Almighty God?" This suffering, so acute that it literally defies description, has nonetheless moved many a writer to reach for his pen. Accounts have been written, based on the experiences of survivors of the Holocaust, of what happens when civilized, right-thinking people turn into savage and unbridled beasts, ruthlessly following the instructions of a satanic leader.

The question 'Why?' remains unanswered. The Bible simply does not reveal to us what the essential purpose of suffering is (see also my comment on this under item 24 of this document). The Word of God, does, however, show us Jesus, who was crucified and raised from the dead and who has been tempted in every way just as we are. He is the One who accompanied Israel through the Exodus from Egypt<sup>1</sup>. In all their distress He too was distressed<sup>2</sup> and in the deep-felt absence of God at the time of the Holocaust, He was there.

If there is one message God wants to speak through this series of parallels, I think it is this: the heart of the Lord Jesus is burning with an intense desire to reveal Himself to the apple of His eye, the Jewish people, and to embrace them in His immeasurable love, but now in might and majesty and before the eyes of the whole world. Jesus and Israel, inextricably bound up with one another. They may never be separated!

Much has been written by Christians on the significance of the State of Israel and the position of the Jewish people within Christianity. Far more important for us as non-Jews is that we consider what it means for us within the context of God's plan for Israel to have been 'called among the Gentiles'. The apostle Paul is clear about this: *You (= Gentiles) do not support the root, but the root (= Israel) supports you*<sup>3</sup>. Heirs together with Israel, members together of one body and sharers together in the promise in Jesus Christ<sup>4</sup>. This is the place God has given to us Gentiles!

Much more could be said about this matter, but that would fall outside the scope of this brochure. Several of the parallels could be treated in greater depth, too, but I have restricted the amount of information for the sake of clarity. It falls to the reader now to test what has been written against those Scripture passages that have not been quoted. Should you wish, for whatever reason, to respond to what you have read in this brochure, I warmly invite you to do so.

<sup>1</sup> 1Cor 10:4, Heb 11:26

<sup>2</sup> Is 63:9

<sup>3</sup> Ro 11:18b

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Stichting Ecovata  
Postbus 343  
5060 AH Oisterwijk

info@ecovata.nl  
www.ecovata.nl