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NNN

**Map Locations
And
People of the Bible**

(2017)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

NAAMAN

Naaman, was a great man, honourable and mighty in valour, but he was a leper, Elisha sent a messenger to Naaman, saying, go and wash in the Jordan and you shall be healed, Naaman obeyed and he was healed. Gehazi, sneaks of after Naaman, he lies and asks for a reward so Naaman gives Gehazi two talents of silver, when Elisha hears of it Gehazi lies again to Elisha. Elisha knows Gehazi is lying and transfers Naaman's leprosy onto Gehazi. Elisha says, the leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave to him (Gehazi) and to his seed for ever. Gehazi went out from Elisha's presence a leper as white as snow. This story shows that even the word of a prophet can transfer a sickness onto another (2 Kings 5:1-21).

NAARAH

Town on south east border of Ephraim between Ataroth and Jericho (Josh. 16:7) about two miles north west of Jericho, called Naaran in (1 Chron. 7:28) and said to be in Ephraim.

NADAB

To Aaron were born, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. Nadab and Abihu died when they offered unauthorised fire before the LORD.

NAHAL

Nahal (Besor Ravine) is west from the bottom of the Dead Sea.

NAHALAL

Nahalal (KJV has Nahallal in (Josh. 19:15), ASV, RSV correctly have Nahalal. All, have Nahalal in (Josh. 21:35) and Nahalol in (Judg. 1:30). The exact location is unknown, possibly in or just north of Jezreel valley. It is a town allotted to Zebulun and a Levitical city whose inhabitants were not driven out, but made to pay tributary.

NAHOR

Nahor comes from the Hebrew word (*Nachowr*), it literally means to snort as a snorting of the nostrils and carries the idea of panting during an earnest struggle. When Terah was seventy years old he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran. (Gen. 11:26-27) and Nahor took Milcah, the daughter of Haran for his wife. (Gen. 11:29). Nahor, Abram and Haran were all born and raised in the city of Ur, but when God directed Abram to leave their native land and go to the land of Canaan.

Terah his father gathered his family and they journeyed west to their destination. They followed the Euphrates River, with their herds, to the Paddan Aram region. This was about halfway along the fertile crescent between Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean in what is now southeastern Turkey. In this region, Nahor and his family settled except for his brother Haran, who had died sometime ago back in Ur. After Terah's death in

Haran Nahor continued his own journey and settled in the region of Aram Naharaim where he founded the town, Nahor, (Gen. 24:10) it was here he had eight sons to Milcah. (Gen. 22:19-23).

The city of Nahor: in Genesis, it is written, Abraham's servant took ten of his master's camels and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. (Gen. 24:9-10). The exact location of this city is unknown, but a town named Nahor near Habor river in north Syria is mentioned in other history books.

NAHUM

Nahum (the Elkoshite) means, compassionate, the name is a shortened form of Nehemiah. Very little is known of Nahum and his city of Elkosh outside of the book that bears his name. When Jonah preached repentance on the streets of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, the people responded and were spared. A century later (about 650 BC.). Nahum preached in a time when Nineveh would not repent. Nineveh, which had destroyed Israel's Northern Kingdom in 722 BC., would itself fall to Babylon in 612 BC., just a few years after Nahum's warning. The Assyrians were notorious for the brutality of their treatment of other nations. Nahum declared, however, that God is sovereign: He punishes who he will, and they are powerless to stop him. Much of Nahum's prophecy was directed to the people of Judah, who could rejoice at the good news of Nineveh's impending fall. (Nahum 1:15).

- Behold, I am against you (Nineveh), declares the LORD of hosts, and I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall no longer be heard. (Nah. 2:13).
- Behold, I am against you (Nineveh), declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame. (Nah. 3:5).

The book of Nahum: the short book of Nahum is largely a poem, a literary masterpiece, predicting the downfall of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. Nineveh was conquered by the Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians in 612 BC. Nahum declares that Nineveh will fall as did. The book was written sometime between 663 BC. and 612 BC. These were turbulent times. In 633 BC., Assurbanipal, the last great king of Assyria died. Soon Babylon rebelled and the Assyrian power rapidly dwindled. In Judah, the wicked Manasseh reigned until about 641 BC., followed by Amon's two-year reign and then the long reign of the good king Josiah. (639-608 BC.). It may have been during Josiah's days that Nahum prophesied the over-throw of the mighty nation of Nineveh that had so oppressed the Jews, especially since it was during Josiah's time that Zephaniah prophesied the overthrow of Nineveh. (Zeph. 1:1) (Zeph. 2:13). The book of Nahum is in two parts first a poem concerning the greatness of God (Nah. 1:2-15), then another and longer poem detailing the overthrow of Nineveh (Nah. 2:1) to (Nah. 3:19). The passionate expressions of Nahum can be better understood when we remember how Assyria had overthrown the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC., and had later taken forty cities of Judah captive and deported the people to Assyria. (2 Kings 18:13).

The cruelty of the Assyrians is almost beyond belief. Their policy seems to have been one of calculated terror. Their own pictures show captives staked to the ground and being skinned alive! No wonder Nahum was passionate when prophesying the overthrow of the strong, proud, rich, cruel Empire of Assyria. Some modern critics today feel that Nahum's use of such vengeful expressions is far removed from the spirit of the Gospel, but such views are based on a one-sided focus of the New Testament teaching. Certainly, God is merciful, but as the book of revelation shows He is also a God of justice and judgment. The following verses show that Nahum understood both the mercy of God and the wrath of God.

- The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. (Nahum 1:3).
- The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. (Nahum 1:7).

A century and a quarter earlier, Nineveh had repented at the preaching of Jonah, but their repentance was temporary and now after a hundred years of savage cruelty and oppression of God's people the cup of iniquity was full and because of the pride of Tiglath-pileser, Sargon, Sennacherib, and Assurbanipal, they brought God's judgment upon themselves. The poem of Nineveh's doom (Nah. 2:1) to (Nah. 3:19) is amazing, the speeches are bold and quick, rapid and brief blows of war are given. The fierceness of the attack and the war horses and flashing swords suddenly ending in an innumerable number of corpses that marking Nineveh's defeat. (Nah. 3:2-3).

If it was wrong for Nahum to rejoice at Nineveh's fall, what shall be said of the heavenly throng of (Revelation 19:1-6)? The continual practice of brutal, ruthless and cruel sin will at the last bring judgment, condemnation and punishment to all who oppose God, His people and the Gospel.

NAIN

Nain means, a home, house or habitation, figuratively a pasture or pleasant place. It is a city in Galilee in Palestine, Jesus restored to life a widow's son here. (Luke 7:11).

NAPHATH

Naphath (also called Naphoth) is mentioned in, connection with Manasseh's tribal allotment, possibly referring to Dor, which is third in the list (Josh. 17:11). (Also see Naphoth Dor)

Naphath Dor: a possible translation maybe, a forest in the plain of Dor, being descriptive of the area around the coastal city of Dor, a narrow coastal strip east of Dor, between the Mediterranean and Mount Carmel. Here Joshua fought against a king (Josh. 11:2) (Josh. 12:23).

NAPHTALI

Naphtali was a son of Jacob, the name is a play on the Hebrew word (*pathal*) meaning fight, wrestle and struggle. He was the second son of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid and one of the patriarchs himself. Though he had four sons (Gen. 46:24) practically nothing is known of him. Jacob's blessing for this son Naphtali is brief and noncommittal (Gen. 49:21). Naphali while lying exposed in the north, was conquered by Ben-hadad (1 Kings 15:20) and was later deported after the first invasion of Tiglathpileser about (733 BC.), (2 Kings 15:29), who settled Gentiles in the territory.

This event is mentioned in the following verse with a prediction of a glorious way coming to the same area.

- There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. (Isaiah 9:1).

In the book of Matthew, we see that this glorious way was the Lord Jesus Christ bringing light to the Gentiles.

- The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned. (Matthew 4:15-16).

NARCISSUS

Narcissus (*Greek Narkissos*) means a flower of the same name (as a narcotic) and is the name of a Roman

NATHANAEL

Nathanael of Cana in Galilee was an Israelite who becomes a disciple of Jesus (John 1:45-49) (John 21:2).

NAZARETH

Joseph and Mary dwelt at Nazareth it is a small insignificant town in Palestine in lower Galilee where Gabriel appeared to Mary. Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem (Luke 2:4) where Jesus was born and later after fleeing into Egypt, they returned to Nazareth with Jesus to live.

(John 1:46) (Matt. 2:23) (Matt. 21:11) (Mark 1:24) (Mark 10:47) (Luke 1:26-27, 56) (Luke 2:4, 39, 51) (Luke 4:34) (Luke 18:37) (Luke 24:19).

Jesus eventually left the city for a wider ministry (Matt. 4:13) (Mark 1:9), at one point he was rejected by the inhabitants of the Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30); he was called a prophet from Nazareth in Galilee (Matt. 21:11); the title Jesus Christ of Nazareth is used seventeen times in the New Testament and his enemies used the name Nazarene as an infamous, abusive and insulting title of scorn (Matt. 26:71) (Mark 14:67) (John 1:46). Today Nazareth is a large Arab city on the south edge of Lower Galilee, sixteen miles west of the south tip of the Sea of Galilee.

He should be called a Nazarene: in the book of Matthew it is written:

- He went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene. (Matt. 2:23)

There is no record of any prophet saying that Jesus will be called a Nazarene, but this should not surprise us, since it is almost certain Matthew had access to many Old Testament Jewish scrolls that contained writings that are not recorded in the Bible. Though the prophecy, "he will be called a Nazarene," is not recorded, it is nevertheless a true statement as the following shows.

- Nazareth was the birthplace of Jesus and he took up residence in Nazareth.
- Jesus applied the title to himself. (Acts 22:8) and it is often used.
- He was known amongst the people as a Nazarene. (Mark 14:67) (Acts 2:22) (Acts 3:6) (Acts 10:38).

The title Nazarene when used by Jesus friends had a friendly meaning, but when used by his enemies it was a title of scorn (Matt. 26:71) (Mark 14:67). In (Acts 24:5) adherents of Christianity are also called Nazarenes.

NAZIRITES

Nazirites are the inhabitants of Nazareth. Jesus said, "I am Jesus of Nazareth" and was often called a Nazarene. When the title was used by Jesus friends it had a friendly meaning, but used by his enemies it was a title of scorn. Adherents of Christianity are also called Nazarenes (Also see Nazareth).

NEAH

Town on north border of Zebulun between Rimmon and Hannathon (Josh. 19:13). The exact location is unknown.

NEAPOLIS

Aegean seaport in north of Greece, ten miles south east of Philippi where Paul first set foot on European soil on his second journey (Acts 16:11), he probably passed through it twice on his third journey. (Acts 20:1, 6).

NEBAIOTH

Nebaioth refers to the firstborn son of Ishmael, son of Abraham (Gen. 25:13) (Gen. 28:9) (Gen. 36:3) (1 Chron. 1:9) and Isaiah mentions Nebaioth as a tribe (Isaiah 60:7). Some scholars regard Nebaioth as identical with the Nabataeans.

NEBALLAT

A town near the east edge of the coastal plain thirteen miles from Joppa where Benjamites settled after the exile.

NEBO

Nebo refers to the following:

1. A god of Babylonian mythology, the special seat of his worship was the Babylonian city of Borsippa. He is mention by Isaiah (Isaiah 46:1). Nebo was the god of science and learning. The focus of Isaiah's prophecies against him seems to be that Nebo himself, (who people believed was the controller of the fate of all), is destined himself to go into captivity.
2. The name of the mountains from which Moses beheld the Promised Land. (Deuteronomy 34:1ff).
3. A Moabite town near or on Mount Nebo. (Num. 32:3).
4. A town mentioned immediately after Bethel and Ai. (Ezra. 2:29) (Nehemiah 7:33).

Nebo Judah: the exact location is unknown, possibly Nuba seven miles east of the north end of the Dead Sea, residents of this town participated in the first return form the Exile (Ezra 2:29) (Neh. 7:33). Some later repented of the sin of intermarriage (Ezra 10:43).

Nebo Moab: Transjordanian town nine miles east of the north end of the Dead Sea allotted Reuben (Num. 32:3) (Num. 38) (Num. 33:47) (1 Chron. 5:8), but later under control of the Moabites. It is mentioned in prophetic oracles (Isa. 15:2) (Jer. 48:1).

Mount Nebo: near Nebo ten miles east of the north end of the Dead Sea where Moses died (Deut. 32:49) (Deut. 34:1).

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon: was the great king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire who reigned from 605 to 562 BC. It was he who carried away Judah to their seventy-year Babylonian captivity. He figures in the later chapters of Kings and Chronicles and prominently in the books of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.

Babylon, Assyria and Egypt: Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar, seems to have been a general appointed by the Assyrian king. However, in the later years of Assyria he rebelled, and established himself as king of Babylon in 626 BC. His rebellion increased and finally Nabopolassar with the Medes and Scythians conquered Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, in 612 BC. The Medes and Babylonians divided the Assyrian Empire and a treaty was probably sealed by the marriage of the Median princess to the Babylonian prince, Nebuchadnezzar. In 607 BC., the crown prince Nebuchadnezzar joined his father in the battle against the remnants of the Assyrian power and their allies, the Egyptians.

In 605 BC., when Nebuchadnezzar father was in his last illness, Nebuchadnezzar decisively defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish. At, this time Nebuchadnezzar took over all Syria and Palestine. In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and the LORD gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand (Dan. 1:1-2). At, this time Nebuchadnezzar got news of his father's death and with a picked bodyguard he hastened home to secure his throne.

Nebuchadnezzar, Jehoiakim and Jehoiachim: on repeated occasions, Nebuchadnezzar marched toward the west. In about 602 BC., Jehoiakim revolted against Babylon (2 Kings 24:1), perhaps with the promise of Egyptian help, but Jehoiakim was forced to submit. In 601 BC., Nebuchadnezzar attacked Egypt itself but was defeated. Again, Jehoiakim rebelled in 597 BC., but Babylon brought their armies against him and he died in a siege or by treachery (Jer. 22:18-19) and his son Jehoiachim ascended the throne. But he lasted only three months until the Babylonian campaign was over, and was taken as a hostage to Babylon where he lived and finally was given relative freedom.

Nebuchadnezzar forces Jerusalem to pay heavy taxes: Nebuchadnezzar installed Jeconiah's uncle, Zedekiah as puppet-king over Judah and imposed heavy taxes on the people of Judah. Jeconiah himself was compelled to remain in Babylon. Ezekiel was among the captives of Babylon.

The devastation of Jerusalem: in later years Nebuchadnezzar made repeated expeditions toward the west to collect taxes and keep his subservient kingdoms in line. Babylon's final and brutal devastation of Jerusalem came about in 586 BC.

The following verses show that God used Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon as His servant to bring judgement upon Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants (of Jerusalem and the people Judah) (v2) and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. (Jer. 25:9).
- I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him. ⁷All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, until the time of his own land comes. Then many nations and great kings shall make him their slave. (Jer. 27:6-7).

- It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me.
⁶Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant. (Jer. 27:5-6).

One of the wonders of the world: Nebuchadnezzar is celebrated by the historians of ancient times for the splendor of his building operations as well as for the brilliance of his military exploits. Archeological excavations in Babylon have uncovered the impressive remains of the Ishtar gate; the processional street lined with porticos of enameled brick bearing pictures of legendary creatures and images of lions and mythological gods and the remains of the famous temple of Esagila and the ziggurate or temple tower and the hanging gardens.

The fall of the Babylonian Empire to Cyrus: God used Cyrus king of Media Persia to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin and set the people of Israel free from the bondage and captivity of Babylon. The following verses of the prophet Isaiah show that God not only called Cyrus (the secular king of Persia) His anointed shepherd and called him by name, but also show that God said He would equip Cyrus and take him by the right hand and go before him. They picture God holding Cyrus by the right hand and opening all doors that no man can shut while Cyrus the king of Persia subdues all nations.

- The LORD says of Cyrus, "*He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfil all my purpose,*" saying of Jerusalem, "*She shall be built,*" and of the temple, "*Your foundation shall be laid.*" (Isaiah 44:28).
- Thus says the LORD to *his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped*, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed. (Isaiah 45:1).
- I (*the LORD*) will go before you (*Cyrus king of Persia*) and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, *who call you (Cyrus) by your name.* ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, *I call you by your name, I name you*, though you do not know me. (Isaiah 45:2-3).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; *I equip you (Cyrus) though you do not know me,* ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-6).
- Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, *men of stature, shall come over to you (Cyrus)* and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: '*Surely God is in you,* and there is no other, no god besides him.' (Isaiah 45:14).

At, this time Isaiah is speaking to Israel who is held captive in Babylon. God used Cyrus King of Persia as His anointed shepherd to set His people free. Cyrus after conquering the mighty Empire of Babylon gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God. But Isaiah's message transcends the era of Isaiah and Cyrus and echoes a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd, and his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ, in who God at this present time is also building a Temple made up of Jews and Gentiles (also called a new nation or new creation in Christ). For further information concerning the spiritual temple God is building in Christ at this present time, see the title: The Commonwealth of Israel (at end of this document).

NEBUSHASBAN

Nebushasban the Rab-saris: Nebushasban means, Nebo save me. He was an important officer in the army of Nebuchadnezzar at the time of the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem in 586 BC. Another Babylonian official delivered the Jeremiah to his care. (Jer. 39:11-14).

NEBUZARADAN

Nebuzaradan Captain of the Guard: Nebuzaradan means Nebo has given seed. He was Nebuchadnezzar's general when the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:8, 11, 12, 20) (Jer. 52:12ff). The prophet Jeremiah was made the special charge and responsibility of Nebuzaradan (Jer. 39:11-14). Nebuzaradan bears the title the Captain of the Guard. After the fall of the city of Jerusalem in 586-85 BC., he was made provisional governor of Palestine for the Babylonians and given special charge and responsibility of Jeremiah. He gave Jeremiah the option to travel with him to Babylon or to remain in his own land (Jer. 40:1-6). Jeremiah chose to remain with the poor that Nebuchadnezzar had left in the land of Judah

NEGEB

The Negeb is a desert region between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the south of Judea it was part of the original territory of the Amalekites (Num. 13:29) and refers to the desert region lying to the south of Judea. The physical characteristics of the Negeb are that of rolling hills which abruptly terminate in the desert region. It is bounded on the east by the Dead Sea and on the west by the Mediterranean Sea. It is a land where the water supply is scarce, because of a very meager amount of rainfall in the summer months, but at other seasons of the year streams flow across its desert sands and the nomads use it for pasturage. In this territory Hagar encountered the angel when she fled from the face of her mistress Sarah (Gen. 16:7-14) and it was here that both Isaac and Jacob dwelt (Gen. 24:62) (Gen. 37:1). Many of David's exploits are described as happening in the Negeb, centering around Ziklag (1 Sam. 27:5). After Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 586-585 BC, a group of Jews retreated to the Negeb, where they were harassed by the Edomites who sided with the Babylonians.

NEGEV

Large area south of the Dead Sea

NEHELAM

The place name Nehelam is not found in the Old Testament.

NEIEL

A town approximately nine miles from Acco allotted to Asher. (Josh. 19:27).

NEPHTOAH

Nephtoah means, spring of waters. The site is three miles north west of Jerusalem on the border between Judah and Benjamin (Josh. 15:9) (Josh. 15:15).

NEREUS

Nereus means, wet, it carries the idea of floating a boat of any size. He was a Christian.

NERGAL

A Babylonian deity of destruction and disaster, associated with the planet Mars. (2 Kings 7:30).

NERGAL-SAR-EZER

Nergal-sar-ezer means, Nergal protect the prince. He was the son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar. Nergal-Sharezer became king, by assassinating Amil-Marduk, who had succeeded Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. (Jer. 39:3-13).

NERIAH

Neriah means, whose lamp is Jehovah. He was the father of Seraiah and Baruch. Baruch was the scribe of Jeremiah (Jer. 32:12, 16), (Jer. 36:4) (Jer. 43:3). Luke uses an abbreviated form of Neriah, writing Neri. (Luke 3:27).

NERO

Nero 1: (reigned AD. 54-68) (14 yrs.). He was Roman Emperor and the last of the Julio-Claudian line, following the death of Claudius (AD. 54), the Praetorian Guards, under their prefect Sextus Afranius Burrus, Agrippina's agent, declared Nero Emperor at the age of seventeen. Nero had his rival Britannicus poisoned. In AD. 59., he had his mother murdered for her criticism of his mistress (Poppaea Sabina). In AD. 62., he divorced and later executed Octavia his wife and married Poppaea. His counsellor Burrus died (possibly poisoned) and Seneca his philosopher retired. Poppaea later died as, a result of Nero's violence towards her, and he married Statilia Messalina after executing her husband. In AD. 68., the Gallic and Spanish legions, together with the Praetorian Guards, rebelled against Nero, forcing him to flee Rome. Declared a public enemy by the Senate, he committed suicide on June 9, 68.

Nero and the great fire of Rome: between 18 and 19 July in the year 64 AD., a fire started in Rome that burned for six days causing widespread devastation. Concerning who started this fire there are differing accounts, following are two of them.

1. Nero himself started the fire so that he could bypass the senate and rebuild Rome to his liking, and blamed it on the obscure new Jewish religious sect called the Christians and by doing so began Rome's first persecution against Christians.
2. Since there is evidence that, in AD. 64., many Roman Christians believed in prophecies predicting that Rome would soon be destroyed by fire, some feel that the fire was set off by Christians hoping to make the prediction come true.

Twenty centuries later, there is no way to establish or pin point with absolute certainty who started the fire. However, the most common theory is that rumours spread that Nero was the instigator of the fires and so to shift the blame from himself he accused the Christians who at that time were a powerless obscure religious sect with a small following in the city. Then to support his accusations against them and to appease the

people of Rome, he had the Christians publicly and mercilessly crucified and during gladiator matches he would feed them to lions, and often lit his garden parties with the burning carcasses of Christian so that their bodies would act as torches serving as lights in his gardens, while he mingled among the watching crowds. It is this brutal persecution which immortalized Nero as the first Antichrist in the eyes of the Christian church. Christian persecution continued off and on, for almost three centuries. It is true that the fire paved the way for Nero to re-build Rome and that from the ashes of the fire rose a far more spectacular Rome. A city made of marble and stone with wide streets, pedestrian arcades and ample supplies of water. The debris from the fire was used to fill the malaria-ridden marshes that had plagued the city for generations.

The ten most significant Roman Kings: during the persecution of Christians. The dates are not the Emperor's birth, death or even the exact beginning of their reign to its end, but the approximate peak years of the persecutions.

1. **Nero** (64 to 68 A.D. He reigned four years. Nero ordered the first mass persecution and is remembered as the person who set fire to Rome and then set the blame on Christians.
2. **Domitian** (94 to 96 A.D. He reigned two years. Domitian mainly persecuted Christians of the nobility, but blamed all-natural disasters like earthquakes and famines on Christians and put them to death.
3. **Trajan** (98 to 117 A.D. He reigned nineteen years. Trajan considered Christianity a threat to the Roman Empire and during his reign over ten thousand Christians were put to death.
4. **Marcus Aurelius** (166 to 180 A.D. He reigned fourteen years. Marcus confiscated the property of Christians and had them tortured.
5. **Septimius Severus** (202 to 211 A.D. He reigned nine years. Severus had Christians burned, beheaded and savaged by wild animals.
6. **Maximinus Thrax** (235 to 238 A.D. He reigned three years. Maximus persecuted the clergy, had Christians slain with no trial and buried together in mass graves (pits).
7. **Decius** (249 to 251 A.D. He reigned two years. Decius began one of the cruelest persecutions in which Fabian, the bishop of Rome was the most prominent person martyred.
8. **Valerian** (247 to 259 A.D. He reigned twelve years. Valerian persecuted the clergy and nobility, during his rule Christians were mocked for their beliefs and used for the entertainment of the rulers and their guests.
9. **Aurelian** 275 A.D. He reigned one year. Persecution under Aurelian started with the persecution of Felix who was the bishop of Rome.
10. **Diocletian** 303 to 305 A.D., He reigned two years. This period is commonly called the Era of the Martyr's, it was the bloodiest persecution as it was mostly carried out with swords, daggers and poisons. Since the rule of Diocletian until the edict of Milan in 313 A.D., (which protected Christians) there were more than 20,000 Christians put to death.

Summary of the ten most significant Roman kings: (also called horns), there were literally thousands of Christian men, woman and children, imprisoned, robbed of their homes and land, tortured, and martyred under the persecutions of these Ten kings of the Roman Empire.

Nethaniah means, whom Jehovah gave, it refers to the following four people:

1. The father of Ishmael who struck down Gedaliah who the king of Babylon had made governor over the land. (Jer. 40:8) to (Jer. 41:18).
2. A chief singer. (1 Chron. 25:2, 12).
3. A Levite teacher. (2 Chron. 17:8).
4. The father of Jehudi who the princes sent to Baruch for Jeremiah's book. (Jeremiah 36:14).

NETHINIM

Nethinim means, given ones. They were a large group of temple servants, mentioned only in the later records of the Old Testament. In a sense, all the Levites were Nethinim (i.e., temple servants), for they were given by the LORD as a gift to Aaron and his sons for God's service. In the King James Bible, they are translated Nethinim and in many modern Bibles as temple servants.

- The first inhabitants that dwelt in their cities were, the Israelites, the priests, Levites and the Nethinims (temple servants in ESV) (1 Chronicles 9:2).
- After the Babylonian captivity Nehemiah returned with Nethinims (temple servants in ESV) (Ezra 2:43-58).
- At Ezra's return he lists two hundred and twenty Nethinim and explains that David had appointed these for the service of the Levites (temple servants in ESV) (Ezra 8:20).

NETOPHAH (NETOPHATHITE)

Netophah and the Netophathites refers to a village of Judah and its inhabitants. It lies about three miles south of Jerusalem and three and half miles south of Bethlehem. The village of the Netophathites (1 Chron. 9:16) (Neh. 12:28) were apparently given to, or inhabited by Levites although Netophah is not mentioned in the earlier books. Several of David's men are named as being from this place (2 Sam. 23:28-29) (1 Chron. 5:54). Seraiah, the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, is mentioned (2 Kings 25:23) among the slayers of Gedaliah, the governor.

NICANOR

Nicanor means, victorious and carries the idea of subduing, conquering, overcoming and prevailing (physically and spiritually).

NICODEMUS

Nicodemus comes from the Greek word (*nikos and demos*), it means victorious among his people and by implication, conquest and triumphant he was a Jewish rabbi who becomes a disciple of Jesus (John 3:1-10) (John 7:50-53) (John 19:39-42).

Nicodemus and the expression, born again: to be born again in the Jewish culture means a new view of life and new responsibilities. When Jesus said to Nicodemus, "you must be born again" the concept of being born again carries the idea of a conversion of life from what Nicodemus lived to another way of living. Nicodemus was born a Jew under the Mosaic

Law and a member of the Sanhedrin he knew he could not change who or what he was because he had been born into the Jewish nation and therefore was born a Jew. Yet he perceived enough to know that to enter into this new life that Jesus was preaching he had to take a new view of the world and of his faith, new responsibilities and a new attitude to his vocation to follow Christ he understood (with limitations) that he needed to change what he had been born into, but he wonders how can he become something different, how can he enter his mother's womb and be born as another man or into another heritage how does he change the fact he was born a Jew? Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant when he said, you must be born again. In the context of the Bible the expression, born again, means a total change of heart, it carries the idea that the entire focus and purpose of a person's life is changed. All, of this change comes about when a person is humble enough to approach God with a repentant heart and accept His eternal plan of salvation that comes to every sinner through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through faith in Christ the human heart is touched by the grace and love of God and that person's life is turned around from the inside, not by force but through God's love entering the human heart. When this supernatural event happens in a person's life, they experience Christ's love and from this love new purposes and new focuses begin to arise from the inside and their life is changed from craving the things of this world to willingly following God. It is in this sense that a person is spoken of in a biblical sense as being born again.

NICOLAUS

Nicolaus means, victorious over the people and carries the idea of conquering and triumphing. He was a proselyte of Antioch.

NICOPOLIS

Nikopolis means, victorious city (i.e., conquest and triumph). It was a city of Thrace in Macedonia that Paul lived in (Titus 3:12). This is the only verse that cites Nicopolis.

NILE RIVER

The Nile River is the longest in the world it covers some four thousand miles from its sources in equatorial Africa to its divided mouth which open into the Mediterranean Sea. The White Nile is the principal stream with multitudes of tributaries joining it and flowing across the land of Egypt. When the Nile overflows, it waters the soil and provides all plant life with rich and new organic fertilizer. The fertility of Egypt depends on the rise of the waters of the Nile to a certain level, when its waters reach this level, they flow over all the country fertilising and nourishing every form of plant life. If the river does not reach this level, there will be deficiency in the crops according, to the lack of rise in the river's waters. The rise of the Nile naturally depends upon the tropical rains falling upon the lake that it flows from. These tropical rains depend on the clouds formed by the winds from the Mediterranean Sea and upon the strength of the sun's heat producing evaporation on the surface of it. The same natural causes that fertilise the land and make it fruitful are the same causes that bring upon its drought and famine.

Egypt is the gift of the Nile: about 450 BC., a Greek historian named Herodotus called Egypt, the gift of the Nile because the Egyptian civilization depended on the annual flooding of the Nile, the resulting depositing of fertile silt and the commercial trade the Nile river provided. The statement, Egypt is the gift of the Nile is, a reflection of the Egyptian appreciation of the great river. The Nile courses like a living tube through

the dried hills and deserts of north east Africa, containing black alluvium of the delta and the entire river valley. In view of the almost complete absence of rain, the annual overflow of the Nile was of great importance to the land, for it watered the soil and provided it with new alluvium and some organic fertilizer. Its waters were used for drinking (Exod. 7:18, 21, 24) (Psalm 78:44) for bathing (Exod. 2:5) and for irrigation (Deut. 11:10). Its stream was the main channel of commerce and travel, with a prevailing north wind to favour southbound sailing vessels against the current.

Alluvium: is soil and sediment deposited by flowing water, especially soil formed in river valleys and deltas from material washed down by the river. It provides rich fertiliser for Egypt's cultivated valleys, plants and land.

The Nile river is the longest in the world: it covers some four thousand miles from its sources near the equator in Africa to its divided mouth which open into the Mediterranean Sea. The White Nile is the principal stream, with multitudes of tributaries joining it and flowing across the land of Egypt.

The river of Egypt: the dividing line between Canaan and Egypt (Gen. 15:18) (Num. 34:5), the southern boundary of Judah (Josh. 15:4, 47). In the other four occurrences, it is coupled with the Euphrates River (Gen. 15:18) (1 Kings 8:65) (2 Kings 24:7) (2 Chron. 7:8) as marking the north and south limits of the land given to the Israelites. It is not an Egyptian river at all, but a Wady (a stream and its valley) of the desert near the border of Egypt. It is identified as the Wady (el-Arish).

NIMRIM

Nimrim or Beth Nimrim: comes from the Hebrew word (*Nimriym*) it literally means clear waters. It refers to place in Moab noted for its waters (Isaiah 15:6) (Jer. 48:34). It was East of the Jordan a city of Reuben east of the Dead Sea. It was celebrated for its pure fountains and springs of water. The stream flows into the Jordan River giving fertility to that part of the country of Moab as it flows along. In various verses the waters of Nimrim are spoken of as becoming desolate this could be for any of the following three reasons:

- A great drought.
- It had been damned up, since it was a common practice in times of war for a besieging army to diverting the waters so their enemy would die of thirst, or dam them with stones and trees, etc., to make the river easy for their chariots and weapons of war to cross.
- They were a visible and eye-catching system of reservoirs or channels of water used to irrigate the fields that had been diverted or dammed.

NIMROD

In the table of the nations in Genesis chapter ten many of the names mentioned are upon cities, countries and tribes, but the one individual name that does stand out clearly is Nimrod. The beginning of his kingdom was Babylonia in the plain of Shinar from where he moved northward and became the founder of Nineveh and other cities in or near Assyria. Though the Bible never states that Nimrod was the leader of those who built the tower of Babel in the land of Shinar, Hebrew and Christian tradition and many writings of historians agree that he stood as the head of the builders of Babel and was the primary force that influenced the people of the land to build Babel.

This idea is especially supported by the fact the Bible states:

- Nimrod was the first on earth to be a mighty man. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. (Gen. 10:8-10)

The word mighty comes from the Hebrew word (*gibbowr*) it literally means powerful, warrior, chief, giant man, mighty man, strong man, valiant man or champion. It can also apply to a strong tyrant, dictator and oppressor. In these verses, we are told that Nimrod's kingdom began in the land of Shinar and that he was the first to be a mighty hunter before the LORD. This expression does not mean that Nimrod was a good and great man before the LORD, but rather signifies that he was mighty in opposition to the LORD. Based upon these facts it is reasonable to suppose that Nimrod was the head ruler leading the people in the building of the tower of Babel and the city. This place was given the name Babel (Gen. 11:5-9) which comes from the Hebrew word (*balal*) it literally means confusion and includes Babylonia and the Babylonian Empire. It was from here (the land of Shinar) that the LORD dispersed all people over the face of all the earth by giving them different languages. In, Babylon the world was united against God and from this time onward Babylon, the first world power became the type of hostile world power opposed to God. Today the entire world is affected by what happened at Babel, much time, study and trouble is taken to learn the language of a foreign country and the diversity of language is a powerful factor in keeping nations apart and in hindering mankind from building another tower of Babel. God's divine purpose in changing the languages was to counteract man's ambitious and ever-recurring dream of universal sovereignty over the entire world. Throughout history this same spirit to create a new world order that controls the world with one powerful man at its head, is still very much alive today and has at certain periods of time throughout history been manifested in certain kings and rulers of nations and countries. The children of men never did and never will come together again in peace until that glorious day, when the Lord Jesus Christ sits upon the throne of his glory and all nations are gathered before him.

NINEVEH

Nineveh was in Assyria (north Iraq) the people were Assyrians it was the capital of the Assyrian Empire; a great international power and administrative centre; one of the most ancient cities of the world, founded by Nimrod (Gen. 10:11-12), a great-grandson of Noah and endured until 612 BC. It lay on the banks of the Tigris river above its convergence with the greater Zab river, almost opposite the site of the modern Mosul in Iraq. Nineveh was for many years the capital of the great Assyrian Empire, its prosperity increased and decreased according, to its long strife between Babylon and Assyria.

Assyria and Babylon: of the two kingdoms, or empires, Babylonia was the more cultured, but Assyria the more warlike. The kingdom over which Nineveh and its kings long ruled was north of Babylon and more in the hills, and these facts made more for warlikeness than the more sedentary culture of a warmer climate. Babylon was the more important from Abraham's time to David's then from David's time to that of Hezekiah and Manasseh, Nineveh and its kings were paramount; then from the time of King Josiah and the prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk and Daniel, Babylon was again at the head

Tiglath-pileser, Ashur-nasirpal and Shalmaneser: among the great rulers of Assyria might be mentioned Tiglath-pileser 1, who made conquests about 1100 BC., and Ashur-nasirpal and Shalmaneser 3, who inaugurated a system of ruthless conquest and deportation of whole populations, which greatly increased the power of Assyria and the influence of Nineveh. It was this latter king (sometimes numbered as 2 instead of 3) who defeated Hazael of Syria and boasted of receiving taxes from Jehu of Israel.

Jonah and Nineveh: the LORD sent Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh of impending doom, saying, "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown," (Jonah 3:4). Nineveh turned from their evil ways and from their violence (Jonah 3:5, 10) and God gave them respite for nearly two hundred years.

Assyria, Babylon and Egypt: Esar-haddon, the great king of Assyria from 680-668 BC., united Babylonia to Assyria and conquered lands as far away as Egypt (Isaiah 19:14) and North Arabia. He was succeeded by his greater son Ashur-bani-pal (called by the Greeks Sardanapalus), who presided over Assyria in its brief climax of power and culture, but Nabopolassar of Babylon, who reigned from 625 to 605 BC., freed it from Assyria and helped to bring about the destruction of Nineveh in 612 BC (some date this destruction 606 BC.).

The Medes attack on Nineveh: about 623 BC., Cyaxares, king of the Medes, made his first attack on Nineveh. This was probably the occasion of Nahum's prophecy. His book is undated, but (Nahum 3:8) speaks of Nineveh in the past tense, and it was destroyed 663 BC., and of Nineveh's destruction as future, so it must have been written about this time.

Nineveh's nakedness: the LORD when inspiring Nahum to prophecy against Nineveh had him express their defeat in the following way:

- Behold, I am against you (Nineveh), declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame. (Nahum 3:5).

Prior to Nineveh's defeat, they are viewed as an undefiled woman whose nakedness had never been seen, and after their defeat are likened to a naked woman who all nations look upon. It is in the sense that Nineveh was a great successful city that had never been defeated that they were, seen as an undefiled woman, in contrast to this as a naked woman when brought to utter ruin.

NOAH

Noah the first religion: some today feel that Christianity is a relatively new religion compared to many other, but this is not so, its roots and its foundation traces back to Noah, he had the first and only true religion with God, but over the following years it gradually became deformed and many false religions also trace their faith back to Noah.

Noah was a righteous man: in a world taken over by evil, violence and corruption and the only man left on the earth that the Bible states walked with God and was blameless even though he lived in a society saturated with sin, violence and rebellion against God. Every reader should ponder for a moment here, and consider the unwavering faithfulness that Noah had in, the midst of such a godless society. Over, and over again, in the account of Noah's life we read, "Noah did everything just as God commanded," he was the only man alive that pleased God. His long and godly life of nine hundred and fifty years (Gen. 9:29) exemplifies his obedience and his faith. Since the wickedness of man had covered the earth like a flood, God decided to start over again with Noah and his family. The LORD gave Noah very specific instructions and told him to build an ark in preparation for a catastrophic flood that would destroy every living thing on earth.

The following verse shows that Noah had a family of eight:

- In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark. (Gen. 7:13).

The wives of Shem, and Ham, and Japheth are not named in the Bible, all eight entered the Ark.

Noah's accomplishments: building the ark took longer than the average lifespan today, yet Noah faithfully accepted his calling and never wavered from it. He was truly a hero of the Christian faith and is appropriately mentioned in Hebrews chapter eleven commonly given the title: "The Hall of Faith." He was the only man remaining in his generation that pleased God and goes on to become the second father of the human race. As an architectural engineer and shipbuilder, he put together an amazing structure, the likes of which had never, before been built. With the building of the Ark spanning one hundred and twenty years, it was clearly a notable achievement. Noah's greatest accomplishment, however, was his faithful commitment to obey and walk with God all the days of his life.

Noah's strengths: Noah was a righteous man and blameless among the people of his time. This does not mean Noah was perfect or sinless, but that he loved God with his whole heart and was fully committed to obedience. If it was possible for us to attain to the glorious state of a sin-free life Christ died for no reason. The statement, "Noah was a righteous man and blameless," means that he was patient and persistent, and faithful to God and he did not depend on anyone else. His faith was singular and unshakable in a completely faithless society.

Noah and the Ark: after the flood, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, located in present-day Turkey.

Noah and the rainbow: the rainbow, is set in the rainy sky to remind us of God's covenant with Noah? Noah was a man who stood alone in a godless culture, a man whom God chose to be the father of the new world, a man who found favour in God's sight and who walked with God. It is certain the godless wicked and corrupt society he lived amongst ridiculed him for building the ark, especially since it had not rained before. Despite this scorn he stood alone in faith and obedience to God and refused to listen to the world. The Bible calls Noah a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). He tried to warn others about God's coming judgment for sin, but no one listened. The door of the Ark was open to anyone who wanted to be saved, until the day the rain came and God shut the door. Everyone on the Ark was saved. Everyone outside the Ark died. Only Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were safe on the Ark. Except these eight people (1 Peter 3:20) every other person died. Just like then, preachers today are warning the global world of God's impending judgment to come. In the same way that there was a door on the Ark people could enter and be saved, there is a door of salvation today. That door is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only name under heaven and earth by which all those descended from our earthly father Adam must be saved. There was only one door to the Ark and there is only one way to be saved from the judgment of our sin. Those seeking eternal life should humble themselves before God, repent and ask Jesus to save them from their sins while the door is still open. Noah's wife and family stood by him even though everyone else scorned him and because of their obedience together they began a new world. Much like all those in Christ will do when Jesus returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth.

Noah and the flood: Noah was to put seven pairs of all clean animals and one pair of all unclean animals plus seven pairs of all birds, into the ark, during this time it is certain Noah's neighbours would have mocked and scorned what he was doing, but despite these Noah by faith continued to build the ark, collect the animals and birds, and preparing for the looming judgment of God and the flood. After one hundred-and twenty-years Noah and his family entered the Ark, God opened the heavens it rained for forty days and forty nights and at the end of that time the then known earth was flooded only Noah and his family remained alive. After one hundred-and fifty-days God sent a wind (the breath of God), which blew over the waters and made them recede and the ark rested on the top of the mountains of Ararat. Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven, then a dove to see what they would do they returned because they were unable to find anywhere dry to perch. Later Noah sent out a second dove it came back with an olive twig between its beak, and

Noah knew it had found a branch on which to perch. He waited another seven days, to be confident that the earth was finally dry. Then God told him to leave the ark and free all the animals and birds. The first thing Noah did was to build an altar and make a burnt offering of thanksgiving to the LORD and the smell of it wafted up to the throne room of God. God promised Noah that He would never again destroy all living creatures, as He had done. God made a rainbow across the sky to be a sign of this covenant between God and Noah and all his descendants that the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Noah's weakness: Noah, now in the new world and working as farmer who tills the earth and sows crops also planted a vineyard. When the grapes ripened, he made wine, but on a certain occasion he drank too much and became drunk and for whatever reason ended up lying naked on the floor of his tent (perhaps the heat was too much for him, or he passed out while getting ready for bed because he had drunk far too much). This is the only recorded sin of Noah it reminds us that even the most-godly of people have weaknesses and can fall prey to temptation of this world.

- Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. ²²And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. ²³Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers." (Gen. 9:20-24).

Noah and Ham's sin: Noah's son Ham was amused by the sight of his father's nakedness and instead of covering him he went and got his brothers so that they could see too. But they were respectful towards their father, and shielded their eyes and approached their father backwards while they covered him. When Noah woke up and heard what had happened, he cursed Ham and all his descendants for the son's lack of respect. Ham's offspring would be servants while Noah's other two sons (Shem and Japheth) would prosper as would their descendants. Ham was the father of Canaan, who was the forefather of the Canaanites who were traditional enemies of the Hebrew people, this story of course offers and explanation for that enmity.

NOTE: Noah drinking an excess of wine was wrong and Ham's sin was not that he saw his father naked, but that he failed to show respect to his father and deliberately went to get his brothers so they could also mock and stare at their naked father.

Further facts concerning Noah.

- Seven pairs of all clean animals and one pair of all unclean animals, plus seven pairs of all birds were to be put into the ark.
- After Noah was five hundred years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen. 5:32). The son's wives are not named in the Bible, all eight entered the Ark. (Gen. 7:13).
- When Noah was six hundred years old, he entered the Ark with his wife, his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives.
- On the seventeenth day of the second month the heavens opened and all the fountains of the deep burst forth and rain fell forty days and forty nights (Gen. 7:11-14) and the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. (Genesis 7:24).

Noah's preaching eventually brought forth the Redeemer: Noah was a preacher of righteousness calling all to enter the Ark and be saved from God's judgment. Noah's preaching and the Ark evidences God's willingness to save all who repent, believe and turn from their wicked

ways. Sadly, all Noah's good effort was in vain eventually the measure of iniquities of the population become ripe for destruction and as, a consequence they were swept away by the waters of the flood, however the surviving line of Seth ultimately fulfilled God's promise and brought forth the Redeemer; the Son of God, born of Mary through the descendants of Noah's son Shem.

NOB

Nob (means to bring forth fruit, literal or spiritual to make cheerful and increase). It was a town in Palestine inhabited by priests (Neh. 11:32) situated somewhere upon the ridge of the Mount of Olives, to the northeast of Jerusalem. The exact location has not been identified with certainty, but the Assyrian march ended at Nob and was so near to Jerusalem that it could be seen from the final Assyrian camp. Isaiah pictures the king of Assyria here as shaking his hand with defiance against the holy city Jerusalem. (Isaiah 10:32) showing that Nob was within sight of Jerusalem. In the time of king Saul, the Tabernacle stood here for a time, and David's visit to Ahimelech the priest (1 Sam. 21) was the cause or at least the occasion for the complete destruction of the city by Saul (1 Sam. 22:19). David fleeing from Saul, asked for provision for his young men and for a sword, all of which the priest granted; but Doeg the Edomite, was a witness to the transaction and reported it to Saul, who in his insane hatred and jealousy of David, caused the priests to be slain and their city to be destroyed.

NOMADS

In ancient times, it was the custom that the first people onto unoccupied land became the owners of the ground they occupied and cultivated. Nomads who roamed with their flocks over a wide range of country did not have any passion to own their own property in land. In contrast to this, farmers who settled on a fertile spot and cultivated the soil and sowed the seed acquired the acres by their labour upon it and this right to it was acknowledged by others. In this way, each farmer became the absolute owner of their own farm and by this method much of the land was the private property of the peasantry of the country and as such it was their right to dispose of it as they chose.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL.

At the end of the notes concerning Nebuchadnezzar (above) Isaiah prophecies of Cyrus who the LORD calls His anointed shepherd and who will bring about a new world and give Israel permission to re-build their temple. This prophecy also echoes a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd, and his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ, who will also usher in a new world and in who God at this present time is also building a spiritual Temple made up of Jews and Gentiles. Following are Paul's teachings concerning this Temple that God is now building in Christ.

The Apostle Paul said:

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken

down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

THE GLORY OF THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE GOD IS BUILDING IN CHRIST

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles' teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity.

When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ. God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most

Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building, (taken from the beautiful writings of a faithful, but unknown brother in Christ).

Peter wrote:

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when:

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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