

# KINGDOM SPIRIT

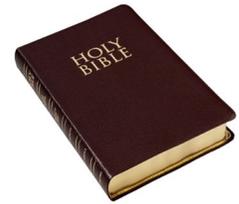
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**"SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD"**

Matthew 6:33



Issue 1305

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK REVELATION

Chapter 7 of Revelation appears somewhat like a parenthetical statement in that for us to understand more of what is being shown John, we need to know a little more information. It is not a break in time or a break in the story of the opening of the seven seals, but rather the addition of some extra information that we need in order to proceed. However, to understand chapter 7, we need to be sure we know the history of the kingdom of Israel. On the chance that not everyone is familiar with this history, I want to take time to do a quick review to bring us up to date, so to speak.

Following the flood of Noah's time, Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth had the job of starting the repopulation of the earth. The Bible does not deal very much with Ham and Japheth at this point, but rather zeros in on Shem and his descendants. It further zeros in on one of these descendants, a man named Abram, later to be called Abraham, and for the most part deals primarily with Abraham and his descendants for the rest of the Bible. God made some unconditional promises to Abraham, including land, posterity, and purpose that would ultimately mean that Abraham's descendants would rule the world. God told him that these promises would apply only to Abraham's only son from his wife Sarah, but this son, Isaac, was not born until Sarah was well past child bearing age making it a miracle birth. Isaac in turn had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Though Jacob was born second, he obtained the

birthright by catching his brother at a weak moment and traded him out of it. Understand that all of this is according to God's plan. We might think, why doesn't God just skip all of the intrigue and just go to the end result that He wants. There are probably several reasons that we could state, but consider that He wants man to develop to be what He wants so that man will ultimately want to be what God wants. Even though God is sovereign, and all things happen according to His plan, He wants man to desire or want to be as God desires him to be. This will bring pleasure to God. He doesn't want robots. It is kind of like being parents. Though things don't always go as we would like, we take pleasure in teaching, correcting, and developing our children to be what we would like for them to be with the hope that they will ultimately be what we want them to be because they want to be that way.

Getting back to Jacob, he had twelve sons. God changed Jacob's name to Israel, meaning God rules, or ruling with God, when Jacob had a genuine conversion experience. Later a famine forced Jacob and his sons to go into the land of Egypt for a couple of hundred years. God provided for them by sending one of Jacob's sons, Joseph, ahead to prepare for their coming. We're told that Jacob, just before he died, blessed Joseph giving him the birthright which entitled him to a double inheritance when they returned to their own land. This was achieved by Jacob adopting Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, as his own, and giving them his name, Israel. This now gave Jacob 13 sons. God ultimately provided a man by the name of Moses to lead them back out

of Egypt to their own land which God had promised Abraham. As they traveled out of Egypt, they had become a very numerous people and God organized them into a nation giving them a codified set of laws, a worship system, and a conditional covenant that so long as they obeyed His laws He would bless them and they would be prosperous. However, He also promised the opposite if they did not obey. They continued to multiply and produce for a while, every once in a while becoming disobedient to God, resulting in their going into captivity to other nations, but being brought back into God's blessing when they repented. They were first ruled by judges in the land and this eventually gave way to a monarchy first with a man named Saul as their king, then a man after God's own heart, King David. So long as they were obedient to God they prospered greatly and they did so while David and his son Solomon were their kings. However, upon the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam became greedy and overtaxed the people and 10 ½ tribes rebelled from Rehoboam, and the kingdom became divided. Descendants of David and Solomon continued as kings over the southern kingdom known as Judah. Judah, Benjamin and ½ the tribe of Levi made up this kingdom. Though Ephraim was the dominant tribe of the rest of Israel, and their kingdom retained the name of Israel. Their kings became kind of the survival of the fittest and they came from different tribes. Both kingdoms became quite wicked, especially in idolatrous worship with Israel being the worst. As a result, God caused the Assyrians to take all of Israel and a large part of Judah captive and moved them to the area south of and between the Caspian and Black Seas. At this point, we lose them from Bible history as the Bible does not mention them by name though we find that the New Covenant is made to both the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah and God had promised Israel that they would ultimately be restored, though not to the land they had previously occupied.

About 150 years later, for the same cause, God caused the Babylonians to take Jerusalem and what was left of Judah captive into the Baby-

lonian Empire. However, He told them that their captivity would only be for 70 years after which time they could return to their own land. Israel, however, was not allowed to return to their land. In the meantime the Persians and the Medes conquered Babylon and took over the Babylonian Empire. At the end of the 70 years, Judah was released by the Persian king to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple. Not everyone went, as many stayed where they were in what was now the Persian Empire. Those that went rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple and for the most part, these were the people who occupied the land when Christ was born and ministered.

Eventually, those of the kingdom of Israel that had been placed between the Black and Caspian Seas began to escape out of captivity and began to move in groups by different names north and west across Asia Minor and into Europe and into the British Isles. This has been an extremely brief review, but this takes us to where we are with Revelation 7.

I need to point out that in accordance with the prophecy God gave Daniel, the Babylonian Empire gave way to the Persians, and then the Persians eventually gave way to the Greeks and just prior to the New Testament time, the Greek Empire had given way to the Romans. All of these changes took time to accomplish with the exception of the fall of the Babylonian Empire. It fell in a single night. But through it all, the ex-Israelite people of the Assyrian captivity were slowly making their way west as they left the land of their captivity.

Something else that might help our understanding as we read chapter 7 is when we said, in our study of chapter 4, that heaven, as John saw it, represented the perfected kingdom of God. The opposite of heaven is the earth. The last of the world empires to whom God had given dominion of the world was the Roman Empire, represented by the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay in the image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream as recorded in Daniel 2. While we have been taught that it is the "devil" that is God's enemy that He is always fighting, according to Scripture,

the primary adversary to God is this Babylonian system represented by the complete image that Nebuchadnezzar saw. This is man's system, a system designed by man who thinks he knows more than God, thus rejecting God. So if we look at this system, of which Rome is the representative during John's time, as the opposite of God's system, or God's Kingdom, which we see represented as heaven in chapter 4, would it not be reasonable to consider that system as the earth when earth is used symbolically as the opposite of heaven, as it is in chapter 7?

(Read Rev. 7:1-8) For us to understand all of Revelation, we need to keep our eye on the ball, so to speak. The ball is the kingdom of God. Daniel tells us in Dan. 2, as he was telling King Nebuchadnezzar what his dream was that was bothering the king because he couldn't remember the dream and he didn't know what it meant, after describing the metal image, **"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken in pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."** When he interpreted the dream, he told the king in verses 44, 45, **"And in the days of these kings (the kings of the nations making up the metal image) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."** In our discussion in our last lesson, we said that God began the creation of this kingdom with some unconditional promises to a man named

Abraham. The unconditional promises are what is referred to here in Daniel as being "cut out without hands," i.e. the fulfillment of these promises was not dependent on action required from Abraham, or any of his descendants. God was unilaterally responsible for their fulfillment. As we follow the development of this kingdom we find that when God formed the children of Israel into a nation at Mt. Sinai, He told them in Exodus 19:6, **"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests (rulers), and an holy (set apart) nation."** We have discussed how that as the kingdom progressed and ultimately came to be ruled by kings, the nation split into two nations or kingdoms, and because of their wickedness, particularly their worshipping idols, the northern kingdom, Israel, and a large part of the southern kingdom, Judah, was taken captive by the Assyrians and placed in the area south of and between the Black and Caspian seas and was not allowed by God to return to their own land in what we today call Palestine. Later the balance of the Judah was also taken captive and placed in the land of Babylon. This latter group was released after 70 years of captivity and though many stayed where they were in the then kingdom of Persia, a portion returned to Jerusalem, rebuilt the city and the temple, and remained in that area through Christ's birth, ministry, death, and resurrection, and on until 70 A.D. when the city and the temple were again destroyed and the people killed or scattered by the Romans. This sounds like the kingdom is no more. Yet, when the angel told Mary that she was to have a son by a virgin birth, he said in Luke 1:31-33, **"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."** So this kingdom is still very much alive, and as we study Revelation, we need to keep this in mind and as I said, keep our eye on the ball. These verses tell us that the throne of David is still in existence, that the house of Jacob is the kingdom, and there shall be no end to that king-

dom.

In these 8 verses that we read in Revelation 7, John says that he saw 4 angels standing at the four corners of the earth. We discussed that “earth” when used symbolically stood for the Roman Empire. The angels are holding **“the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.”** We have all heard the term, “the winds of war.” I believe this is what is referred to here as the wind. Rome seemed always to be either expanding their borders militarily or fighting internally in civil wars of one type or another. The sea, as used symbolically, usually refers to people as does vegetation (trees, grass, etc.)

To seal means to secure or protect. John sees another angel coming from the east having the seal of the living God and he calls to the four angels holding the four winds to not hurt the earth, nor the sea, nor the trees until **“we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”** Then the angel proceeds to seal 12,000 of each of the tribes of Israel. The number “12” in Scripture denotes governmental perfection. The 12,000 doesn’t mean that there were just 12,000 of each tribe that were sealed, but rather denotes completeness. It just means that all were sealed, regardless of number. 12 x 12, i.e. 144, only emphasizes this governmental perfection, this completeness. Last lesson we said that the ex-Israelites that were escaping from the location of their captivity were moving north and west. Here we have the angel that is doing the sealing coming from the east. I submit that what John is seeing here is movement of these various groups of the Assyrian captivity Israelites moving west and the angel of God is sealing them, or protecting them from the Roman military as they continued to move west in accordance with what God told David in II Samuel 7:10, **“Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more.”** God did not allow them to go back to the land of Canaan, but rather appointed a new place for them as their original home was now not large enough for them. We will see later that some of these migrating tribes

were ones who attacked Rome, such as the Germans, Vandals, Goths, etc. But until they complete their migrations into western Europe and to the British Isles, John is seeing symbolically God’s protection of them. Not only are these migrating Israelites to be protected but, the people of the Empire are likewise to be protected.

If you recall, when Jacob adopted Joseph’s sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, this gave him thirteen sons. In verse 8 we see Joseph listed, which would be the tribe of Ephraim and in verse 6, Manasseh is listed, so which tribe is missing? It is the tribe of Dan. It is important that we understand why this tribe is not listed as being sealed, or protected, here as this will give us further clues as to God’s overall plan. They are represented in the perfected kingdom by the fourth beast that was like a flying eagle and one of the twelve gates of the new Jerusalem would have had their name on it as Ezekiel saw it in Eze. 48, so Dan certainly does not disappear.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Judges, we have the story of the Israelites being in captivity to Jabin, king of Canaan. When they repented, Deborah, a prophetess and a judge in Israel, and Barak were chosen by God to take the people back out of captivity. Sisera was Jabin’s captain of the host and when they met in battle with the Israelites, they were defeated and Sisera tried to run away but was tricked by a woman by the name of Jael who then killed Sisera. When the battle was over, Deborah and Barak sang a song, in chapter 5, praising God and detailing some of the things that went on. In verse 17, the question was asked in their song, **“why did Dan remain in ships?”** The tribe of Dan had not participated in the battle because they were apparently involved in sea traffic. This helps us understand why Dan was not sealed with the Israelites as they moved across Asia Minor and Europe to re-establish themselves in their new location. They were already there, having traveled by ship earlier.

(Read Rev. 7:9-17) From the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis through 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Revelation, the Bible is to, for, and about Israel and her King. This isn’t because they have done something special that has earned them special rights above oth-

er people, but because God, in His sovereignty, has chosen them for a particular job on the earth. That job is to be witnesses of God to the rest of the world. As we look at their history, we might think that they have done a pretty poor job of this as they appear to be a very stubborn and stiff necked people. However, we need to keep in mind that God is sovereign and that everything that has happened is totally in accordance with His plan.

If we study God's law, we will find numerous reasons that people are to be cast out of the congregation. They could always be readmitted if the repented and went through the ritual cleansing procedures, but if they did not do this, they were no longer considered to be a part of Israel. So, it was not just a punishment, but rather involved one's citizenship in the congregation. In the same breath, should a non-Israelite wish to become a citizen of the congregation, he or she could do so as long as they were obedient to God's law.

In the New Testament, or New Covenant, the same principle applies. Even if one is an Israelite by genealogy, to be considered to be an Israelite or a Jew so far as the Kingdom of God is concerned, one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and commit their lives to Him. Galatians 3:29 says, **"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** If one is not an Israelite or Jew by genealogy, the same thing applies.

What John is seeing here are people out of every nation who are not necessarily Israelite or Jews by genealogy, that have received their salvation through the grace of Jesus Christ, praising God for their salvation. In John's time, it was pretty much assumed that only those who were descended from Abraham could be saved, so when the elder asked him if he knew who these people were and where they came from, John didn't know. The elder had to explain to him who they were. Even though the apostles were sent to the gentiles, we need to remember that the word "gentile" simply means nations, and not just non-Jew as it is usually considered today. Most of these gentiles that the apostles first went to were

of those migrating Israelites from the Assyrian captivity, as these were the people who would ultimately carry the gospel to the world. So I believe we have in chapter 7 information that both the Israelites are alive and well and that there are Christians from other families and races as well that will ultimately rule in the kingdom with Christ. As we go forward in our study, this is the kingdom of God that will be opposed to the kingdom of man, or the Babylonian system. JRL

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HOSEA

We are studying the book of the prophet Hosea who was a prophet to Israel before, during and after her captivity by the Assyrians. (Read Hosea 3) I don't know for sure whether the woman spoken of here is Gomer or another woman. Different commentaries vary, but either way, it appears that this took place after Gomer had birthed the three children we read of in the first two chapters. It is not real clear whether she went back to her harlotry or she had died and this is another woman. Either way, Hosea had to buy her which he did. But once he bought her, he tells her that she is to abide without him for many days and is not to play the harlot during those days and that he will remain true to her during that time as well. This was a prophecy foretelling the fact that Israel would be in captivity for a long time and during that time would have no king or ruler. We're then told that when that time period was completed, the children of Israel would seek the LORD their God and David their king. I believe we are still in that time in the sense that we still do not have the true King of Kings ruling over us yet, but I believe we are nearing the end of that time.

(Read Hosea 4:1-5) The next several chapters of Hosea deal with the judgment of the Assyrian captivity and the reason for it. However there are several prophecies and other pieces of information that we need to look at as we read Hosea. God says He has a controversy with the people of the land (Israel) because He says there is no truth, mercy or knowledge of God in the land. Sound

familiar? The inevitable result is swearing, lying, killing, stealing, adultery and they break out of all restraints until bloodshed follows bloodshed. The people have become weak and are wasting away and even the animals are faint. Yet no one warns or reproves. All, including their priests and prophets, will fall.

(Read Hosea 4:6-11) The primary reason for all of this is in verse 6, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou has forgotten the law of thy God. I will also forget thy children.”** This is the problem we face today. This is what upset me so bad when I was telling you recently of our experience in a recent church Bible study. People think they are doing as they should because they attend church and they participate in the so-called Bible study, but when it is over they know nothing more from the Bible than they knew before they entered the church. To me this is a very serious problem and I am convinced that this is the reason we are plagued with all of the problems we face today whether they be political, financial, or religious. To me it is criminal and we as a people will pay a price in God’s judgment.

This is what Hosea says as he continues. As the people increase, their sins increase as well. We could point fingers and blame the preachers completely. However, the saying, “we get the leadership we deserve” is the same thing that Hosea is saying here. I heard Rush Limbaugh one day this last week talking about the situation in California. The people vote for people they know to be of very low character, they vote to raise taxes (usually thinking they are causing only the rich to pay the taxes), they vote for more and more welfare. A vast majority of the people do not see the inevitable result of all of this though businesses are leaving the state in droves, people are leaving on the average of several thousand a day and the state revenues continue to decline and the state debt continues to climb and morality is falling off a cliff. The people get the leadership they deserve. The same thing applies to those who should have the responsibility of teaching the peo-

ple the ways of God. The people get the kind of preachers and teachers they want. The result as Hosea is telling us here in verses 10 and 11, **“For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase; because they have left off to take heed to the LORD. Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.”**

(Read Hosea 4:12-14) Instead of turning to God the people were asking counsel of their idols and divination rods. We can say that we don’t do that now, yet I believe that if you will pick up any newspaper and look at the community events scheduled for the next week, a large portion of them will be different groups providing counseling from a psychiatric approach. If a tragedy happens where people are killed, immediately psychiatric counseling is made available to the surviving people. When I was on the fire department, if the department had to deal with a particularly terrible tragedy, someone would always want to provide psychiatric counseling. Our problem is widespread, we have left God and His ways out of our lives. I don’t mean to relegate mental illness to non-existence as I know it does exist, but far too often we as a people are turning to counsel from a man-made science that should not have near the prominence that it currently enjoys. Psychiatry can be blamed to a great deal for the behavior problems that we face today in our young people as well as in our leadership. To me, it parallels asking counsel of idols and divination rods. If we would learn of God, His law and His ways, the need for psychiatric counseling would greatly diminish.

God says that because the people sacrificed on the mountains and burn incense upon the hills, their daughters shall commit whoredom and their wives will commit adultery. The pagan religions that they were following apparently not only allowed these sins, but some of these Canaanite religions required at least some of the women to become “temple women” and as part of their worship the men were to engage in whoredom with these women. In some translations, verse 14 is posed as a question while others like the King James pose it as a statement. Either way God is

saying that He is not going to punish the women because the men are separating themselves with these harlots. Because of all of this, God says that the people that do not understand will fall.

Not only is God dealing with individuals here, but He is also dealing with nations, particularly Israel as He regards her as a harlot because she has gone after other gods. (Read Hosea 4:15-19) So far Judah has not got as bad as Israel in this respect. He is warning Judah not to go the same way. Gilgal was the place where King Jeroboam of Israel had erected an idolatrous temple. Bethaven is put for Bethel which means "House of God". However, to keep the people from going to Jerusalem to worship after the kingdom of Israel divided. King Jeroboam put one of the two golden calves that he had made at Bethel and told the people that this was their god, so Bethel was polluted with idolatry as well. The following is the Ferrar Fenton translation of verses 17-19:

**"Let Ephraim alone;--for his idols seduce.—**

**Their drink is drunk out; they have whored with their whore,**

**And his Princes delight in their shame!**

**A furious wind will enfold in her wings,-  
And their altars become their disgrace."**

I can't help but feel that we are in very much the same condition that Israel was in just prior to her captivity. I see much of the same things going on, especially the people going after their other gods, whether those gods are money, power, material things, or things to fulfill their lusts. I believe this is why we are currently under judgment as a nation though most people don't seem to realize it yet.

(Read Hosea 5:1-7) Dr. Bullinger, in his Companion Bible, has the following note concerning Tabor and Mizpah: "*Tabor is on the west of Jordan and not connected with Ephraim; but Tabor means a mound; so that the idolatrous altar may have been called Mizpah while Tabor was the 'mound' of Gen. 31, both belonging to the same district.*" The mound of Gen. 31 is the mound that Jacob and Laban, his father-in-law made to signify their covenant that neither of them would pass beyond it to the other. Jacob

called it Galeed (Heap of Witness) and then Laban added "Mizpah" (watch) to the name as they made their covenant.

God is telling the priests, the people and the king that the judgment is toward them all. He says that the apostates are deeply involved in slaughter, but He will exterminate them all. Ephraim is the largest of the tribes of Israel and is looked to as the leader of Israel. The name Ephraim is often used in place of Israel for the northern kingdom. God says He knows them. They are not hid from Him, He is telling them to their face what is going to happen and when they seek Him they will not find Him.

(Read Hosea 5:8-15) He is warning Benjamin and parts of Judah, as we have already seen that a large percentage of Judah ended up in the Assyrian captivity as well. God says that when He is done the land of Ephraim, or Israel, will be desolate. He says that Israel will even make the mistake of turning to Jareb, an appellation for the king of Assyria, for help when Assyria will actually be their enemy. God says that He is going to return to His place until Israel acknowledges their offence and seek His face. He says they will seek Him early in their affliction.

(Read Hosea 6:1-3) I recently read a commentary that included these verses in a very interesting light. The full commentary suggested that the six days of creation has been played out throughout our history taking one day to be a thousand years (**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.** II Peter 3:8) Each day of creation provided a template for what would happen in the corresponding millennium. I would like to skip to the fourth day of creation for our purposes in this lesson. On the fourth day of creation, **"God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."** (Gen. 1:16) If we look at the fourth millennium, Jesus Christ was born near the end of this millennium. The apostle John tells us in John 1:4-5, **In him (Jesus Christ) was life;**

**and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”** In correlation with the fourth day of creation, Christ would be the greater light and the church would be the lesser light that was to reflect the light of the sun (Son), but had no light of its own.

On the fifth day of creation, God created the fish of the sea and the fowl of the air and said for them to be fruitful and multiply. This then could be considered the template for the fifth millennium. God instructed the church to multiply which it did. Sometimes it shone brightly as the full moon and sometimes there was just a sliver.

On the sixth day of creation **“God said, let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.”** (Gen. 1:24) and then we see toward the end of the sixth day, **“God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”** (Gen. 1:27) The ultimate purpose of creation was and is to create man in His own image.

When God created Adam, He gave him a dominion mandate to rule the earth. From Adam to the present, this dominion mandate, though the authority is real, has been badly abused as man has ruled for his own benefit. When Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon and had deposed Zedekiah, king of Judah, God gave the dominion mandate to Nebuchadnezzar. From that time to the present, the beast (corresponding to the creation of beasts) kingdoms (Lion—Babylon, Bear—Persia, Leopard—Greece, nameless beast with iron teeth—Rome) have ruled in accordance with their false gods. In the last century, man has made himself the gods of the earth. These “gods” have their own kingdom known as “Mystery Babylon”

which tries to mimic God’s kingdom. However, the fruit of their kingdom is bitter and poisonous, yet these two kingdoms have contended for the ultimate dominion for a long time.

When God gave man the dominion mandate the intent was for man to have the dominion authority, but recognizing that his authority is not independent from God and His law. It is God’s plan that these beast empires will be brought into compliance with God’s law with the total creation of man in the image of God, i.e. the pouring out of the fullness of the Spirit and the first resurrection. Rev. 20 tells us that the first resurrection will take place near the beginning of the seventh millennium. Gen. 1 indicates that it will be at the end of the sixth millennium.

With this in mind, going back to Hosea 6, this prophecy would be in line with the fourth, fifth and sixth millennium with the first two days representing the time from the beginning of Israel’s fall to Christ, and the first millennium after Christ and the third day representing the second millennium from Christ in which the full creation of man in the image of God will be achieved as will be seen in the first resurrection. The latter and former rain would represent the two comings of Christ, the first when He was crucified and the second when He establishes His kingdom among men. Though He has torn, He will heal and though He hath smitten, He will bind or bandage us up.

We will continue with Hosea 6 in our next issue. JRL

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*A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. Prov. 10:1*

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