


UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 41 (PART 1)

WAR IN THE HEAVENLIES

REVELATION 12 | *PART 1*



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Revelation 12 to 14 is the third parenthetical section in the Book of Revelation. It comes after the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet in Revelation 11:15-18 and before the release of the seven bowl judgments.

At the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet, Jesus returns, together with the rapture and the resurrection of the saints. He then marches on the earth to release the final seven bowls of wrath.

**THROUGH REVELATION 12 TO 14, GOD
EXPLAINS WHY THE JUDGMENT IS SO SEVERE.**

The chapters give us an overview of the great End-Time conflict — the conflict between Satan and God, and between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. Chapter 12 highlights the heavenly aspect of the war, chapter 13 the earthly aspect of the war and chapter 14 the certainty of the ultimate victory of the saints!

Revelation 12 gives us an insight into **Satan's plan to totally destroy and exterminate Israel as well as the Church.** This is throughout all ages but especially so during the final three-and-a-half years of human history. This chapter also gives us a heavenly perspective of the war at the End of the Age.

Today, we will focus on verses 1 to 6 which give us a picture of **the spiritual conflict throughout all ages.**

In the next session, we will go into more of the specifics of the war in the heavenlies and what will happen in the final three-and-a-half years of human history.



Verses 1 and 2 tell us about **the call and mandate of God for Israel** and give us a powerful insight into Israel's turbulent and painful history. If we understand these two verses, we will understand why Israel had to suffer throughout history.



The description of the woman in verse 1 bears similarities to Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9-10.

THE WOMAN IS A SYMBOL OF ISRAEL. THE SUN REPRESENTS JACOB AND THE MOON RACHEL AND THE TWELVE STARS THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

It is described as a great sign because it is a very important message. God wants us to understand this message and develop an understanding concerning Israel, especially at the End of the Age.

The woman is *pregnant* with child and *crying out in labour* and pain to give birth (verse 2). It speaks of two things about Israel:

ONE. ISRAEL CARRIES THE CALL AND MANDATE OF GOD

Being pregnant means the woman is carrying something, in this case the call and mandate of God. **God has given eight specific calls and mandates to Israel** (Rom. 9:4-5) — *the Adoption (Sonship), the Glory of God, the Covenants, the Giving of the Law, the Service of God (Priesthood and Ministry), the Promises, the Fathers and the Patriarchs and the Coming of Christ*, both First and Second Coming.

These calls and mandates are given to Israel forever and they are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29). If we understand God's call for Israel, we understand why Satan has sought to destroy her throughout history.

TWO. THE SUFFERING OF ISRAEL THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The mandate and the suffering of Israel are correlated. She suffers because of God's mandate for her.

Three reasons why Satan has sought to destroy Israel throughout all ages:

1. IF THERE WAS NO ISRAEL, THERE WOULD BE NO FULFILMENT OF THE PROPHESED SEED TO COME IN GENESIS 3:15.

God promised that the Seed of the woman would come. And it had to come through Israel. That was why Satan sought to destroy her throughout history.

IF THERE IS NO ISRAEL, THE COVENANT OF GOD WITH MANKIND WILL CEASE. 2.

The covenants of God were all made with Israel — Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and even the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31). A covenant is made between two parties and it will be in place as long as both parties are alive. If either party dies, the covenant will become null and void.

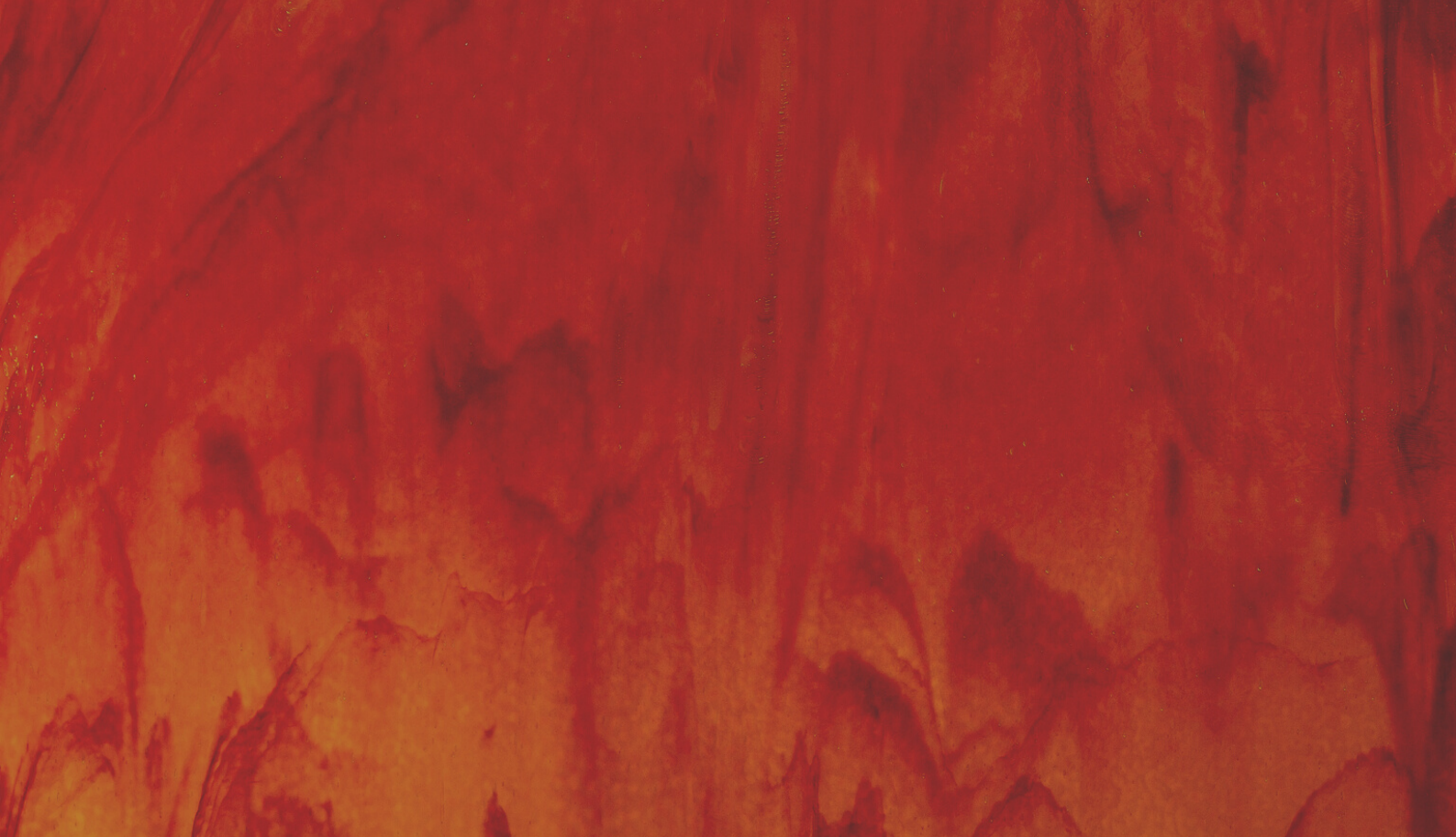
If there is no more nation of Israel, **all the covenants of God automatically cease and the salvation plan of God will be null and void.** Satan knows this and that is why he sought to destroy Israel throughout all ages through empires which persecuted her.

3. IF THERE IS NO ISRAEL, THERE WILL BE NO SECOND COMING.

There are two conditions pertaining to Israel that have to be in place before the Second Coming of Jesus can happen:

- Israel has to be back in her land
- Israel has to welcome Yeshua from the land of Palestine and from the City of Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39; Ps. 2:6; 24:7-10).

In other words, if Israel no longer exists, there will be no Second Coming of Jesus. Satan knows this and that is why he is bent on eradicating Israel and the Jewish people.



Revelation 12:3 describes the red and fiery dragon which is Satan. The title dragon **speaks of his dominance over the nations** at the End of the Age through the Antichrist. He is fiery and red because he will be very angry. He knows his time is short and he will do all he can to destroy Israel and the Ekklesia.

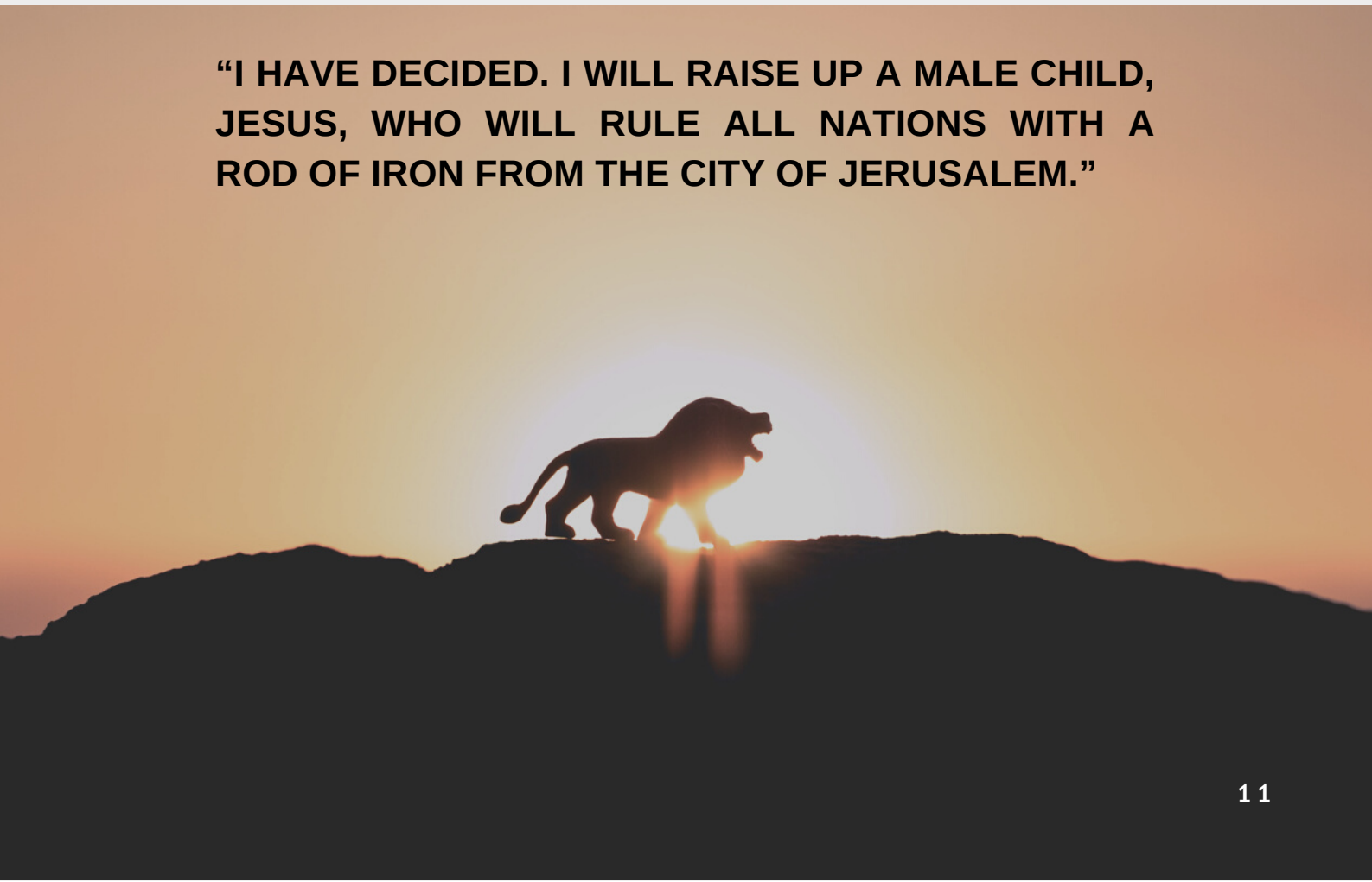
The dragon has seven heads because Satan is behind the seven antisemitic empires throughout history which persecuted Israel. The seven diadems speak of the seven spirits behind these ancient empires. He has ten horns because he will raise up the ten-nation confederation to support the Antichrist to persecute Israel and the people of God.

The dragon's tail drew a third of the stars and threw them to the earth. These are the fallen angels who are now demons on the earth. The dragon stood before the woman, ready to devour the Child as soon as He was born. What was happening in the spirit realm was manifested in the physical when King Herod tried to kill baby Jesus (Matt. 2:16-18).



Revelation 12:5 describes the promise of God the Father that Jesus will rule the nations with a rod of iron. Revelation 12 can be studied together with Psalm 2. Revelation 12 reveals the heavenly perspective whereas Psalm 2 shows us the earthly perspective. Putting these two passages together, we can see that God the Father is saying,

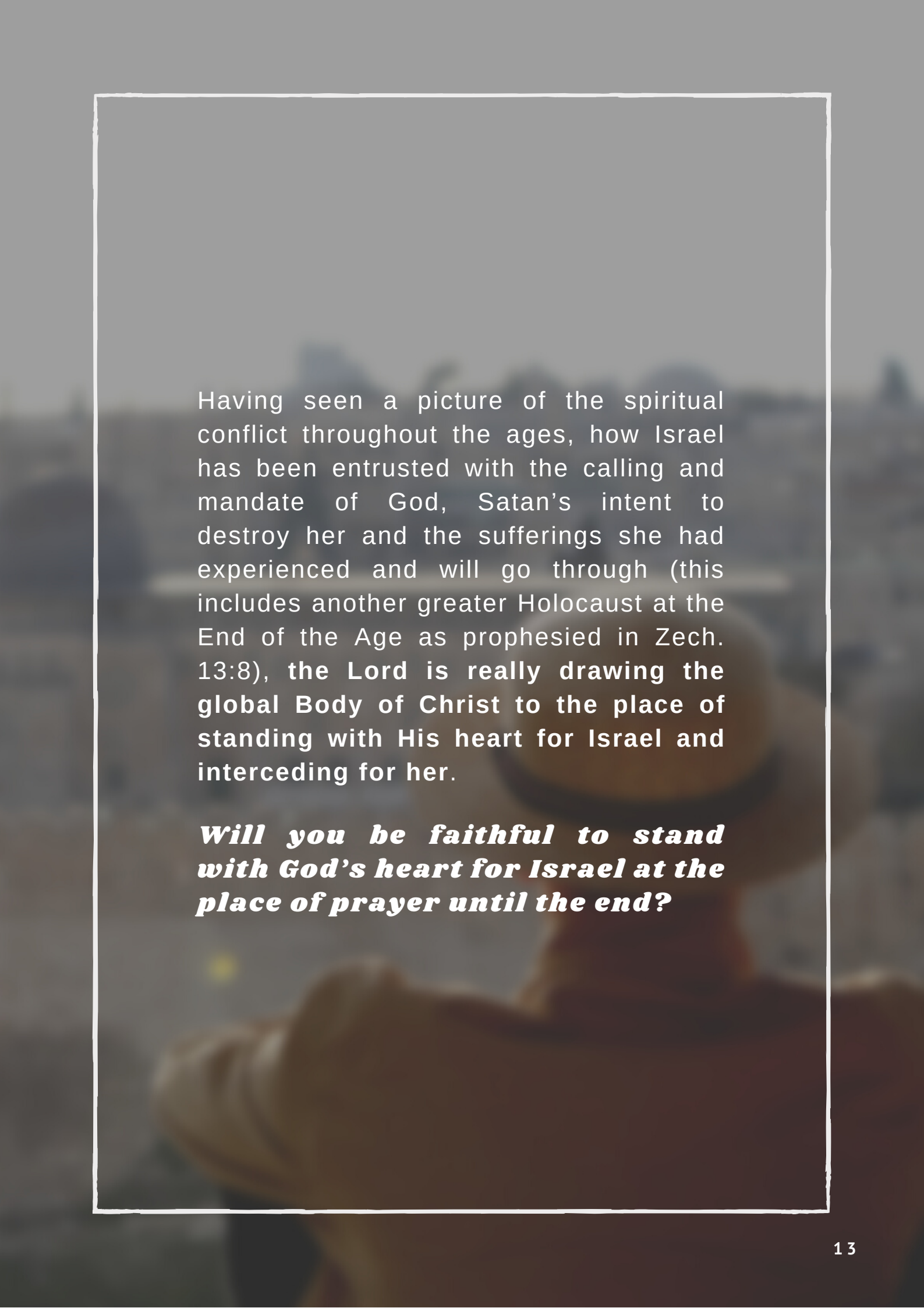
“I HAVE DECIDED. I WILL RAISE UP A MALE CHILD, JESUS, WHO WILL RULE ALL NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON FROM THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.”





What is Jesus' response to the Father's decree? He asks the Father for the nations as His inheritance (Ps. 2:7-8). The reason why the Bible gives us a heavenly perspective of what is happening and what God wants to do, is for us to intercede from the perspective of heaven for the fulfilment of His promises. This will be powerful!

Revelation 12:6 tells us that though Israel will be persecuted in the final three-and-a-half years, God will prepare a place and provide for her, just like how He supernaturally led and provided for Israel in the time of her Exodus from Egypt.



Having seen a picture of the spiritual conflict throughout the ages, how Israel has been entrusted with the calling and mandate of God, Satan's intent to destroy her and the sufferings she had experienced and will go through (this includes another greater Holocaust at the End of the Age as prophesied in Zech. 13:8), the Lord is really drawing the global Body of Christ to the place of standing with His heart for Israel and interceding for her.

Will you be faithful to stand with God's heart for Israel at the place of prayer until the end?

CONTINUED IN
SESSION 41 (PART 2)



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