Cursed

- Doomed to Destruction -

Compiled by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, August 2014 Last Edited: January 28, 2023 Scripture is from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

This study came out of a forum debate concerning the extent of destruction at the end of this age when Christ returns in glory.

Most Christians believe that Jesus Christ will return to rule over the nations <u>during</u> the upcoming 7th millennium. **They believe** there will be many survivors, after the seven bowl plagues of Revelation. <u>Some believe</u> that only "the land" promised to Abraham's seed - the land of Israel, will be completely devastated. Christ will then heal that "land" to restore Israel and rule over "the nations" (of survivors) on the earth.

I believe this entire planet will be left deserted and lifeless after the last plagues of Revelation. (See our study: <u>7 Trumpets - 7 Bowls</u>.) The redeemed from this age will be *removed* from this earth, just as the first bowl plague is poured out. They will go with Christ to the Father's House in the Heavenly realm, to be prepared for service as "priests of God and of Christ," to govern "the rest of the dead," who will be resurrected at the 8th millennium. See our study: "A Kingdom of Priests."

Revelation 20:5 [The context of this passage is the Glorious Return of Christ.] "The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years." (NAS)

I contend that Adam was in covenant with his Creator, therefore all of Adam's descendants have come under "the curse" of that covenant, resulting from Adam's disobedience. That "curse" is death. Eternal life is found only in God, through Christ (John 14:6).

1 Corinthians 15:22 "As in Adam all die."

THE RULER OF THIS WORLD

Psalm 115:16 "The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to mankind." (NIV)

Yes, the "earth" was given to mankind. But Satan became the "god of this world" after Adam and Eve sinned against the LORD by disobeying His expressed command (2Cor 4:4). The LORD (according to His own Law) could not protect Adam and Eve and their domain, after they rebelled against Him. Satan and his fallen angels were stronger than the humans, and they took over. At this point, Satan is still the ruler of this world. "We do not yet see all things put under" Jesus Christ (Hebrews 2:8).

IJohn 5:19 "The whole world lies in the power of the Evil One."

John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

Matthew 10:22 [Yeshua speaking] "And you will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." (NET)

NOTE: Those directed, controlled or just deceived by the Evil One, are termed "enemies" of the people of God. Christ commanded us, "love your enemies," and we seek to follow His example, but as we near the end of this age, those who do not belong to Christ will be powerfully worked by evil spirit forces. Without the protection of Christ, they will have no defense against them. The dividing line between those who "keep the commandments of God" and those who do not, will come into sharp focus (Rev 14:12).

THE PROMISE

Genesis 12:3 [The LORD speaking to Abraham] "I will bless those who bless you, And <u>I will</u> <u>curse him who curses you</u>; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Every child of Abraham may claim this promise. According to the Apostle Paul, those who are Christ's <u>are</u> "Abraham's seed" (*Gal 3:29*). They live in every nation on this earth. And their enemies also live in every nation.

If those who "curse" the people of God, will themselves be "cursed," what does that say about the extent of the destruction at the end of this age? I contend the destruction will be universal and worldwide.

Exodus 23:22 [The LORD speaking to Israel] "But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then <u>I will be an enemy to your enemies</u> and <u>an adversary to your adversaries</u>."

Deuteronomy 30:7 "Also the LORD your <u>God will put all these curses on your enemies</u> and on those who hate you, who persecuted you."

Numbers 24:9 "Like a lion they crouch and lie down, like a lioness-- who dares to rouse them? May those who bless you be blessed and those who curse you be cursed!" (NIV)

Yes. These words were spoken to Israel. But remember. Gentile believers are "grafted in" TO Israel, through Messiah. That means the promises spoken to Israel, belong to all who are "in Christ."

In the last days, Satan "the Dragon" (Rev 12:9) will give his power, his throne, and his authority TO the terrible Beast of Revelation Chapter Thirteen (Rev 13:2). Satan's rule is worldwide. That means the Beast will rule the world.

The Beast will rule over every "tribe, tongue, and nation, and <u>all who dwell on the earth</u> will serve him," except those with the "seal of God" because they belong to Christ (*Rev 13:6-8*). We read that the Beast will blaspheme the God of Heaven, and will "<u>make war with the saints</u>."

If the adversaries of God and His people are "cursed," and those enemies are found across the whole world, then will not the entire world of human beings be destroyed, once the people of God are removed from this planet?

Yes. I know. There are children living across the globe. There were children living at the time of Noah's flood also, and there were children living in Sodom and Gomorrah. There were children living in the cities of the Canaanites that Joshua led Israel to destroy, at the command of the LORD. I believe the LORD has a plan for those children, and for all those who lived and died in ignorance, without the opportunity to choose the LORD and His ways. I believe they will be raised to continue their lives at the 8th millennium, where they will be educated and then have the opportunity to choose. See our study: "The 8th Day and the Rest of the Dead."

CURSED

The Hebrew word "cherem" (#02764) means "devoted to destruction," "doomed to destruction," or simply "devoted," as animals were devoted to the LORD for sacrificial destruction. It is most often translated as "cursed."

At Mount Sinai, the newly formed nation of Israel entered into <u>a blood covenant</u> with Yehovah. That covenant contained <u>blessings for obedience</u>, as well as <u>curses</u> for disobedience. To forsake the covenant (without repentance) would bring the curses - not because the LORD would directly punish, but because <u>He would no longer protect</u> <u>or bless</u>.

Exodus 22:20 [The LORD speaking to Israel] "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed" ["cherem"].

Leviticus 27:29 "No person under the ban, who may become doomed to destruction ["cherem"] among men, shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death."

No person accused of a crime such as murder, could be ransomed for money, and no person in a city specifically identified by the LORD for total destruction, could be ransomed for money.

The LORD commanded Israel to destroy six specific centers of Baal worship - which practiced human sacrifice and sex slavery.

Joshua 6:17 [Joshua speaking] "Now the city [*Jericho*] shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent."

The army of Joshua was to "kill everything living" - every man, woman, and child, and also every animal. The precious metals were to be melted down and given over to the LORD for service within the Tabernacle. Every idol was to be torn down and demolished.

We must remember the culture of those cities. The worship of Baal revolved around child sex slavery, child sacrifice and demonic rituals. The worship of Baal was a worship of demons, and involved demonic possession of both priests and worshipers. To bring into the camp of Israel, children or young women who had been devoted to the god Baal, could bring demon possession with them.

Numbers 21:3 "And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they [Israel under Joshua] utterly destroyed them and their cities."

The Canaanite cities were NOT in covenant with Yahweh, as were the Israelites. Yet the LORD pronounced them "cursed." This is an example of "the curse" applied to non-Israelite peoples. They posed a spiritual threat to Israel through proximity to pagan ways, and a physical threat through warfare.

Israelites who broke the covenant (without repentance) were "cursed" - that is, "devoted to destruction." To break covenant (without repentance) was to render oneself "cut off" from Israel, and subject to the "curse" of Israel's enemies. Eternal life is found only in God, through Christ the Lamb.

At the end of this age, Yeshua Messiah will be given "dominion" over the whole earth (*Dan 7:9-14*). When He comes to take possession of His kingdom, Satan and those inspired or controlled by him, will fight against Him, just as the Canaanites opposed Joshua (the TYPE). The trumpet judgments and last plagues of Revelation, will destroy the enemies of God just as the LORD through Joshua, destroyed the Baal worshiping Canaanites.

Deuteronomy 2:34 [Moses speaking, <u>concerning the Amorites</u>] "We took all his cities at that time, and we <u>utterly destroyed</u> the men, women, and little ones of every city; <u>we left</u> none remaining."

This is universal destruction on a small scale.

Deuteronomy 3:6 [Moses speaking concerning Og of Bashan, the other Amorite king] "And we utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city."

Joshua 6:21 & 24 "And they utterly destroyed <u>all that was in the city</u>, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. . . . they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD."

Centers of Baal worship were destroyed. The populace of other cities were given the option of relocating (outside "the territory of Israel"). If they refused, they would face Israel in battle. Israel was to make "no covenant" or treaty with any Canaanites, and Israelite men were not to marry Canaanite women.

I am drawing a parallel. As Joshua destroyed the centers of Baal worship, the final plagues of this age will wipe out all life on planet earth. [Remember: Joshua was commanded to destroy the animals too.] Baal was "the Beast" of ancient Canaan. The Book of Revelation describes another Beast, who will rule the entire world. Every nation, kindred, tongue and people will serve the Beast of the last days. Only those with the "Seal of God" will steadfastly refuse. As Rahab was spared, and Noah was spared, and Lot was spared, so those with the Seal of God, will be spared. No one else.

KEEPING THE ACCURSED THING

Deuteronomy 7:26 [Moses speaking to Israel] "Nor shall you bring <u>an abomination</u> into your house, <u>lest you be doomed to destruction</u> like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is <u>an accursed thing</u>."

Every ABOMINATION was CURSED and "doomed to destruction."

People who brought "cursed" things into their homes, became "cursed." People who committed "abominations," became "cursed" - "doomed to destruction."

All humanity is "cursed," because all have sinned. When Yeshua took <u>us</u> for Himself, <u>He brought the "accursed thing" into His House</u>. Per the LAW, He became "a curse."

Galatians 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us."

The Greek "katara" (#2671), translated as "curse," was translated as "curse" in the Septuagint translation of Genesis 3:14.

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Do a search using a Bible Concordance, for the word "abomination." Look at the passages describing those things that the LORD called abominations. How many are today accepted in modern cultures around the globe? How many are legalized and government sanctioned?

Government officials who sanction and support those things which the God of Israel called "accursed," are proclaiming loudly, "There is no God of Israel." How long before His might and power are manifest?

Joshua 6:18 "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, <u>lest you become</u> accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it."

Joshua was a TYPE - a living symbol of Jesus Christ. What Joshua did to rid "the land" of the accursed Canaanites, Jesus will do to rid this earth of the enemies of God and His people.

We must remember that the Canaanites were worshiping demons at their Temples. Satan held dominion over these people because of their idolatrous, mystical practices. A young female captive, saved from a battle with Canaanites and then taken into an Israelite household for marriage, could have brought demonic influence with her.

The LORD did not want Israel to be infected with Canaanite idolatry. Sadly, the Israelites disobeyed, and were corrupted by marriage with pagan Canaanite women. King Solomon allowed his foreign wives and concubines to bring images of their gods into the very heart of Jerusalem. He corrupted the nation. He will be judged accordingly. In the end, the LORD devoted both Israel and Judah to destruction.

Isaiah 43:28 "Therefore I will profane the princes (priests) of the sanctuary; <u>I will give Jacob</u> to the curse, and Israel to reproaches."

Israel was "devoted to destruction" because of idolatrous practices. The 10 Northern tribes were conquered by Assyria and any survivors were dispersed throughout that empire.

Daniel 9:11 "Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him."

This is "the curse of the law," which Christ took upon Himself (Galatians 3:13).

ABOMINATIONS

An "abomination" IS "<u>a cursed thing</u>" - a thing doomed to utter destruction. Anyone who brought a "cursed thing" into his camp or house, was "cursed" also. A whole nation could be cursed in this manner (The story of Achen is one example.)

An "abomination" was also <u>a behavior</u> the LORD had forbidden. Anyone who engaged in a behavior that was termed "an abomination," was "cursed." King Ahab can serve as an example. Worship of "foreign gods" was "cursed," as were images of those "gods." Any person in possession of such an image was himself "cursed." He or she would be termed "a curse." Queen Jezebel was "a curse" because she was a high priestess of the god Baal. Her husband King Ahab was cursed because he brought Jezebel into his palace. And the Northen Kingdom - Israel, was cursed because her king was cursed. To remove the curse from Israel, would require the death of the King, his queen, all the priests of Baal, and destruction of all the "alters of Baal," and all the images of Baal.

Essentially an abomination is any thing that the LORD hates, or any behavior He has forbidden. It is easy to see by this definition, that <u>all of humanity was "cursed"</u>. For "all have sinned." "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them" (Jer 11:3, Deut 27:26, Gal 3:10).

By taking "the curse" upon Himself, Christ "has redeemed us from the curse" (Gal 3:13).

The following is a partial list of "abominations."

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to worship other "gods" or their idols (Deut 27:15, Deut 7:25-26, Deut 17:1-5); to make an idol (Exo 20:4); child sacrifice (Lev 18:21, Deut 12:31); to keep for oneself a thing which the LORD had cursed to offer a blemished or deformed animal to Yehovah as a sacrifice (Deut 17:1); to make or use false weights and measures (Prov 20:10) to lie, cheat, or steal (Exo 20:16, Prov 19:5, Lev 19:11) to eat "unclean" meats or "foods offered to idols" (Deut 14:3)

sexual sins: cross dressing (Deut 22:5); heterosexual adultery (Exo 20:14, Lev 18:20); homosexual acts (Lev 18:22, Lev 20:13); prostitution (Deut 23:18, 1Kgs 14:24); sex with an animal (Lev 18:23); sex with a woman during her menstrual flow (Lev 18:19); incest (Lev 18:4-17); marriage with two sisters at the same time (Leviticus 18:18); remarriage to a woman that you divorced for adultery or idolatry (Deut 24:2-4)
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Leviticus 18:24 "Do not defile [#02930] yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. 25 For the land has become defiled, therefore I have visited its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants. 26 But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you . . . 29 For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people." (NAS)

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed [#2672, kataraomai] ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;" (NAS)

NOTE: The Greek word translated as "accursed" is same one used in the Septuagint translation of Genesis 12:3. Also used in Mark 11:21, Luke 6:28, and Romans 12:14.

Proverbs 17:15 "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD."

Proverbs 6:16 "There are six things that the LORD hates, even seven things that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift to run to evil, a false witness who pours out lies, and a person who spreads discord among family members." (NET)

Proverbs 28:9 "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination."

THE EXAMPLE OF ACHAN

After the battle of Jericho, the Israelite <u>Achan took valuables from the city</u> and hid them under his tent. Because the forbidden "<u>accursed thing</u>" was taken into Israel, "the curse" came upon all of Israel. The LORD could not protect them, or empower them in battle against their enemies. They were defeated at Ai. When the crime of Achen was discovered, the stolen things were burned, and Achen was executed.

Question: Will the LORD today protect and empower a nation that openly endorses and subsidizes those things He has called "accursed?" Those who do such things proclaim loudly, "There is no 'God of Israel.'" How long before the LORD reveals His power?

Joshua 7:12 [The Lord speaking to Joshua] "Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies (retreating), because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will 1 be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you."

Joshua 7:13 "Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.""

Joshua 22:20 "Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity."

Now do you understand why the LORD later dealt so severely with King Saul?

After defeating the Amalakites at the LORD's command, <u>Saul kept alive the King of the Amalakites</u>, as a trophy. He kept a "cursed" man who was "devoted to destruction."

King Saul also did not object when his men kept the best of the cattle and the sheep for themselves (*1Samuel Cpt 15*). In keeping the "accursed thing," Saul brought "the curse" of the covenant upon himself, and upon all of Israel. Samuel understood this. That is why he acted so decisively. And that is why the LORD withdrew His spirit from King Saul (*1Samuel 16:14*).

Samuel took a sword and hacked King Agag in pieces "before the LORD" - meaning inside the Courtyard of the Tabernacle (1Samuel 15:33).

Isaiah 34:5 "For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; Indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment."

Here is a prophecy of judgment upon the descendants of Esau (*Edom*) and the descendants of Lot (*Moab*). Israel was originally told not to war with Edom or Moab because they gave Israel passage through their lands, and sold them water and provisions (*Deut. Cpt 2*). The descendants of Lot once worshiped the God of Abraham. Later they were corrupted by idolatrous practices, and much later came to worship Allah, the God of Islam. Some from this culture will come to know Christ and the Father, but the rest - who worship gods other than Yehovah, are "doomed to destruction." The prophecy of Isaiah concerning Edom and Moab, was fulfilled when Babylon conquered those ancient peoples. <u>It will be fulfilled again</u>, in the last days.

Here again, we see the LORD's "curse" applied to non-Israelites.

Genesis 12:3 [The LORD speaking to Abraham] "I will bless those who bless you, And <u>I will</u> curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Every child of Abraham may claim this promise. Those who are Christ's <u>are</u> "Abraham's seed" (*Gal 3:29*). They live in every nation on earth. Their enemies also live in every nation.

Israel lived under the LORD's covenant of blessing. Those who broke the Covenant - without repentance, were "cut off" <u>from</u> Israel. They would then come under "the curse" of Israel's enemies - the curse of death, resulting from Adam's sin.

NOTE: Non-Israelites who came to worship Yehovah, and since Christ, those who come to believe in Him as God's only Son, are "grafted in" to Israel, and enjoy the blessings of that Covenant. (Romans Chapter Eleven)

THE EARTH and THE LAND

The Hebrew word 'erets (#0776) translated as "the earth" or "the land," can mean:

- (1) the specific land area or "territory" occupied by a certain people
- (2) "the land" promised to "the seed of Abraham"
- (3) "dry land," or the entire land area of the planet as in Genesis Chapter One.

The context of each passage determines the meaning.

I see the Ancient nation of Israel as <u>the lesson book for the rest of mankind</u>. What happened to Israel anciently, when she turned away from the LORD and worshiped pagan gods, will happen to all of mankind in the last days.

The prophecy of Israel's destruction, <u>is also</u> the prophecy of the world's destruction, for their rejection of Yahweh and His law.

Proverbs 28:9 "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination." (NKJ)

1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

Let's review some of the warnings spoken to Ancient Israel.

Malachi 4:4-6 [The LORD speaking] "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

The Lord, speaking to Malachi the prophet, is warning that Israel will be "cursed" - devoted to destruction, unless they heed the message of Elijah the prophet. Likewise, in the final 42 months of this age, the Lord will speak through His "two witnesses" of Revelation Chapter Eleven, one of whom will speak as Elijah spoke, to warn the world of coming judgment and destruction. See our study: "Two Witnesses."

THE WHOLE EARTH? or only THE ANCIENT LAND PROMISED TO ABRAHAM'S SEED?

The "curse" was known, and is repeated in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. After Adam sinned, the LORD pronounced a curse upon the serpent, the earth, and upon the woman. The Serpent's head would be crushed. The ground [earth] would bring forth thorns, and would demand a lot of man's sweat in exchange for food (*Gen 3:17*). The woman would be ruled by her husband, and would give birth in sorrow (*Gen.3:16*). All this would be the result of disobedience.

Thorns are found the world over, as was the subjugation of women until very recently in some Western cultures. Death is universal. "As in Adam, all die" (1Cor 15:22).

The Serpent - Satan, is cursed, and those who serve him are cursed. Only "those in Christ" are protected. This curse is not limited to the land area promised to the Seed of Abraham.

Isaiah 24:6 "The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left."

Yes. This prophecy was written for Israel. But the principle of blessings for obedience, and the curse for disobedience of God's Law, applies universally.

Isaiah 34:2 "For the indignation of the LORD is against <u>all nations</u>, And His fury against <u>all</u> their armies; <u>He has utterly destroyed</u> them, <u>He has given them over to the slaughter</u>."

In the last days, Satan - the Dragon, will give his throne, authority and power, to "the Beast." Satan's rule is universal, therefore the Beast will rule the world. "Every nation, kindred, tongue and people" will serve the Beast. The Beast will "make war" against the saints.

If every person ruled by the Beast,
will "make war" against the saints of God,
that means "every nation, kindred, tongue and people"
will come under the curse against the enemies of Abraham's seed.

The whole earth will be "devoted to destruction."

The redeemed people of Christ will be <u>removed</u>, before the last plagues are unleashed on the day that Christ returns in glory.

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

How can the destruction of "the heavens," be limited to just those above "the land" area promised to the seed of Abraham?

Hebrews 1:10 "He also says, 'In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. II They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." (NIV)

The "foundations of the earth" - laid in "the beginning," were not just those of "the land" of Israel. This is the whole world. I believe this earth will be rendered lifeless by the last plagues. The redeemed will be removed from this planet, to spend the 7th millennium in the Father's House, in the New Jerusalem, in the Heavenly realm.

NOAH'S FLOOD and THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM

The account of Noah's flood, describes the destruction of all land dwelling creatures. Only those preserved with Noah in the ark, survived. Christ compared the destruction at the end of this age, to that of Noah's day (*Matt 24:37*). The people of Noah's day said to God, "Depart from us!" (*Job 22:15-17*). Those living at the end of this age, will do the same.

Jericho was completely destroyed and burned. Sodom and Gomorrah were completely destroyed. Jesus described the coming destruction at His glorious return, as "like" the destruction of Noah's flood, and "like" the destruction of Sodom. Only Rahab and those in her house, survived the destruction of Jericho. Only Noah and those with him in the Ark, survived that universal flood. Only Lot and his two daughters survived the destruction of Sodom and the cities of the plain. And only those "in Christ" will survive the prophesied destruction at the end of this age.

NOTE: The Ancient City of Sodom has been discovered!! A recently published article in the journal <u>Scientific Reports (2021, 11:18632)</u>, concluded that the city was destroyed around 1650BCE, by a "Tunguska sized airburst" similar to the explosion that flattened 830 Square miles of the Siberian forest on June 30, 1908.

At Tall el-Hammam, surfaces of clay bricks and pottery were fired at very high temperatures, (2000 degrees C). Human bones were found in shattered fragments. See: "Discovering The City of Sodom" a book by archeologists Dr. Steven Collins and Dr. Latayne C. Scott, describing their exploration and excavation of the site.

IN THE NEW EARTH

Zechariah 14:11 "The people shall dwell in it; And <u>no longer shall there be utter destruction</u>, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited."

Revelation ends with the promise that "there will be no more curse" in the forever Kingdom of Messiah.

Isaiah 65:17 "For behold, <u>I create new heavens and a new earth</u>; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."

Revelation 22:3 "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."

Let me suggest another study which explains that God's "wrath" is not punishment directly inflicted by God Himself. Rather, the LORD's "wrath" involves those things that happen when the LORD withdraws His protection from those who reject Him, leaving such persons without the spirit of God, and subject to control by Satan and his evil ones. What horrible plans will they push into the minds of those who control governments and armies and weapons of mass destruction or biological warfare? The last plagues do not seem farfetched.

See our study: "The Wrath of God - A Different View."

We pray this study will prove a blessing.

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