



WHAT GOD SHOWED HIS CHOSEN BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT
Joseph, Moses, Judges, Kings, Temple, Exile and Prophets

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SCALE



CHAPTER II WHAT GOD SHOWED HIS CHOSEN BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT 1700 B.C. - 460 B.C.

Joseph, one of the patriarchs, was sold into slavery in Egypt as a boy, but God was with him. Joseph won goodwill and favor in the sight of the Pharaoh. **AB Genesis 41:37-39** *And the plan seemed good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find this man's equal, a man in whom is the spirit of God? And Pharaoh said to Joseph, For as much as (your) God has shown you all this, there is nobody as intelligent and discreet and understanding and wise as you are.* God began his redeeming process by putting His Spirit on certain people to show the power of their God. The Pharaoh was certainly impressed with Joseph's God.

There came a famine over Egypt and Canaan and there was grain only in Egypt. Joseph, because of his position in Egypt, saved his father and his eleven brothers and their families. The descendents of Abraham increased and multiplied in Egypt but a different King who did not know Joseph put them into slavery. The Egyptians forced them to expose their babies so they would die.

Moses was born into this and one of Pharaoh's daughters rescued him and raised him as an Egyptian. When he was forty he killed an Egyptian protecting one of his Jewish kinsman. He left and remained in exile for forty years. God needed this man to take his people out of bondage. He manifested Himself to Moses by speaking to him from a burning bush. **AB Exodus 3:2, 4** *The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, yet was not consumed . . . And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, Moses, Moses! And he said, Here am I.* He told Moses to remove the sandals from your feet "for the place you are standing is holy ground." The Lord told him "I have heard their groaning and have come down to rescue them.

Moses worked many signs and wonders in Egypt and the Pharaoh was forced to "let his people go." He led them across the Red Sea which parted to enable them to cross. Moses led them into the wilderness

but the Lord always manifested Himself to them. **AB Exo 13:21-22** *The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.* The Lord manifested Himself by thunder and lightning on Mount Sinai and this frightened the people and they wanted Moses to talk to God for them. You would think these people would be more appreciative after all the miraculous events prior to this time.

God gave Moses a prophecy about Jesus at this time. **AB Deut 18:15-18** *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet from the midst of your brethren, like me (Moses); to him you shall listen. This is what you desired (and asked) of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, or see this great fire any more, lest I die. And the Lord said to me, they have well said all that they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet from among their brethren, like you, and will put My words in his mouth; and he shall speak to them all that I command him.* This is the first mention of someone coming later who will do all things.

The Lord told Moses you must build a place for us to meet. The Lord said, "I will meet with the Israelites and the Tent of Meetings shall be sanctified by the Shekinah Glory". God told Moses **NIV Exo 31: 2-3** *See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.* God filled designated people with His Spirit to make sure things were done to His specifications. It was at this time God delivered his Ten Commandments to Moses.

Moses complained to God that the burden of all these people was too heavy for him. God said I will take of the Spirit which is upon you and put it upon the seventy elders and they will help you. Joshua, one of the chosen, complained to Moses saying some of the men were prophesying in the camp. Moses answered him. **NIV Num 11:29** *But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on*

them!" Moses lamented, wouldn't it be great if the Lord would put His Spirit on everyone. Moses was prophesying to the future because at Pentecost God filled the disciples with His Spirit and it is now available to whosoever will.

Moses knew there would be something greater than the Law. Here he told the people there is more to come. ***NIV Deut 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may follow all the words of the law.*** They would have to wait for their Messiah to get these secret things.

After the forty years when they were about to enter the Promised Land, Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom. ***NIV Deut 34:9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord commanded Moses.*** The Lord buried Moses in the land of Moab but nobody knows where his tomb is to this day.

Joshua led the twelve tribes into the promise land. I think this was where God meant for the Jews to show the world the power of God. As a matter of fact, the Lord meant for the Israelites to govern themselves when they took the promise land. ***AB Deut 1:13 . . . Choose wise, understanding, experienced and respected men, according to your tribes and I will make them heads over you.*** However, the Jews had made it clear they were afraid of God and wanted Moses to listen to God for them (Deut 5:25-27). God probably decided they weren't quite ready at this time for all that He had in mind for them. Later, we will see that God included the democracy in His redemption process.

The Israelites were to be completely dependent on God for their protection and God showed them one miracle after another in their battles for the land. Nothing happened unless the Holy Spirit was involved. ***NIV Judges 6:34 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. NIV Judges 11:29 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites. NIV***

Judges 14:19 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house. This was for Samson. All of these were miraculous battles against the enemies of the Israelites. The superhuman efforts were the result of God intervening in their behalf like He did with Jonathan and his armor bearer later on in a battle with the Philistines

The Israelites refuse to listen to Samuel and said they wanted a king who would go out and do battle for them. This was a weakness of mankind who without the Holy Spirit could not depend on God. God was winning all the battles for them but they refused to give him the credit. God told Samuel they were rejecting the Lord, but He relented anyway and Saul was made king. ***AB I Samuel 10:10-11 When they came to the hill (Gibeah), behold, a band of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came mightily upon him, and he spoke under divine inspiration among them. And when all who knew Saul before saw that he spoke by inspiration among the (schooled) prophets, the people said one to another, What has come over (him, who is nobody but) the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?*** Saul had the Spirit but he took things into his own hands and his rule was short-lived.

At this point the Philistine army was overwhelming with thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen and troops like sand on the seashore. It did not look good for the Israelites. Their only weapons were two swords, one with Saul and one with his son, Jonathan. ***AB 1 Samuel 13:22 So on the day of battle neither sword nor spear was found in the hand of any of the men who were with Saul and Jonathan; but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.*** Saul, more or less, hid under a pomegranate tree with 600 men while Jonathan with his armor-bearer slipped away and went out to meet the Philistines. Jonathan told his young armor-bearer it was going to take a miracle regardless whether it was with them or the 600 men. ***AB I Sam 14:6 And Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, Come, and let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us; for there is nothing to prevent the Lord from saving***

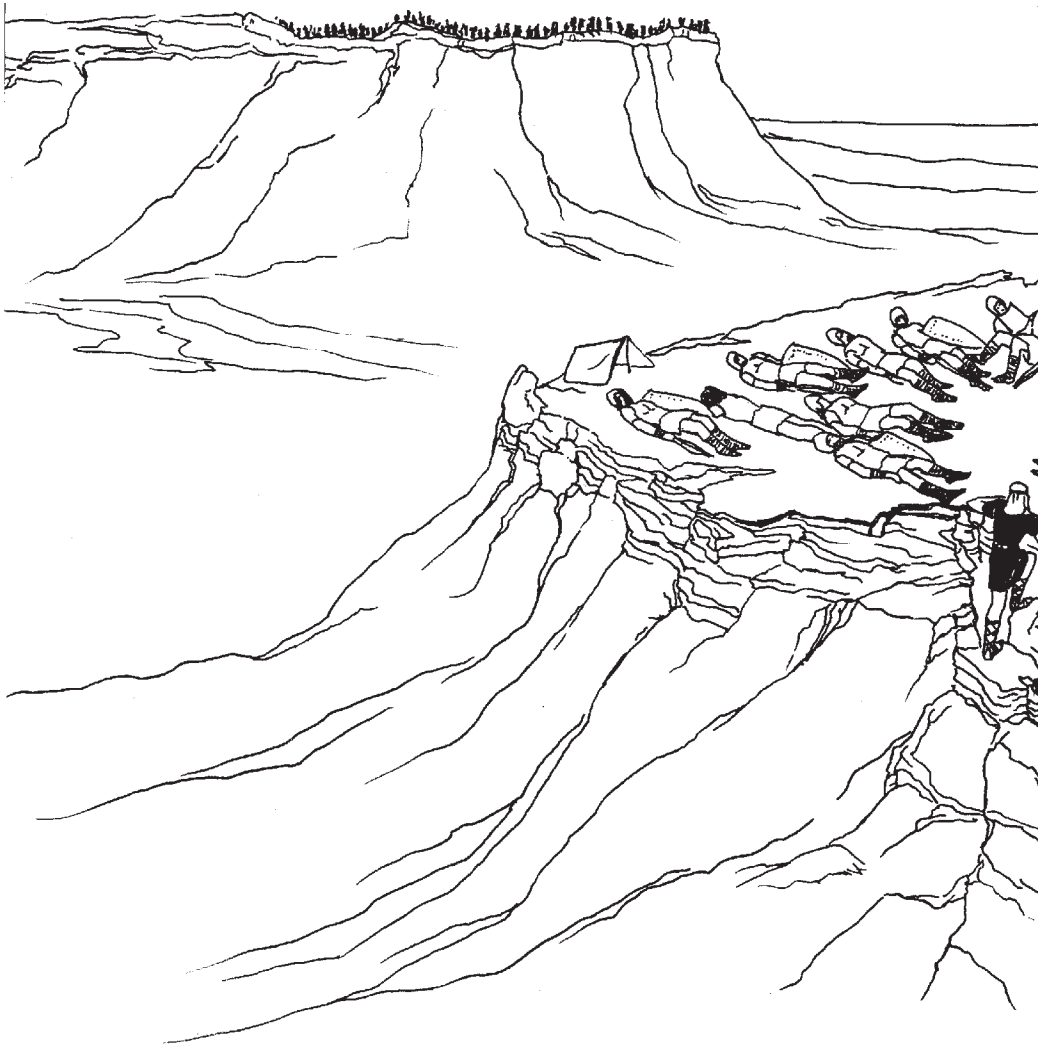
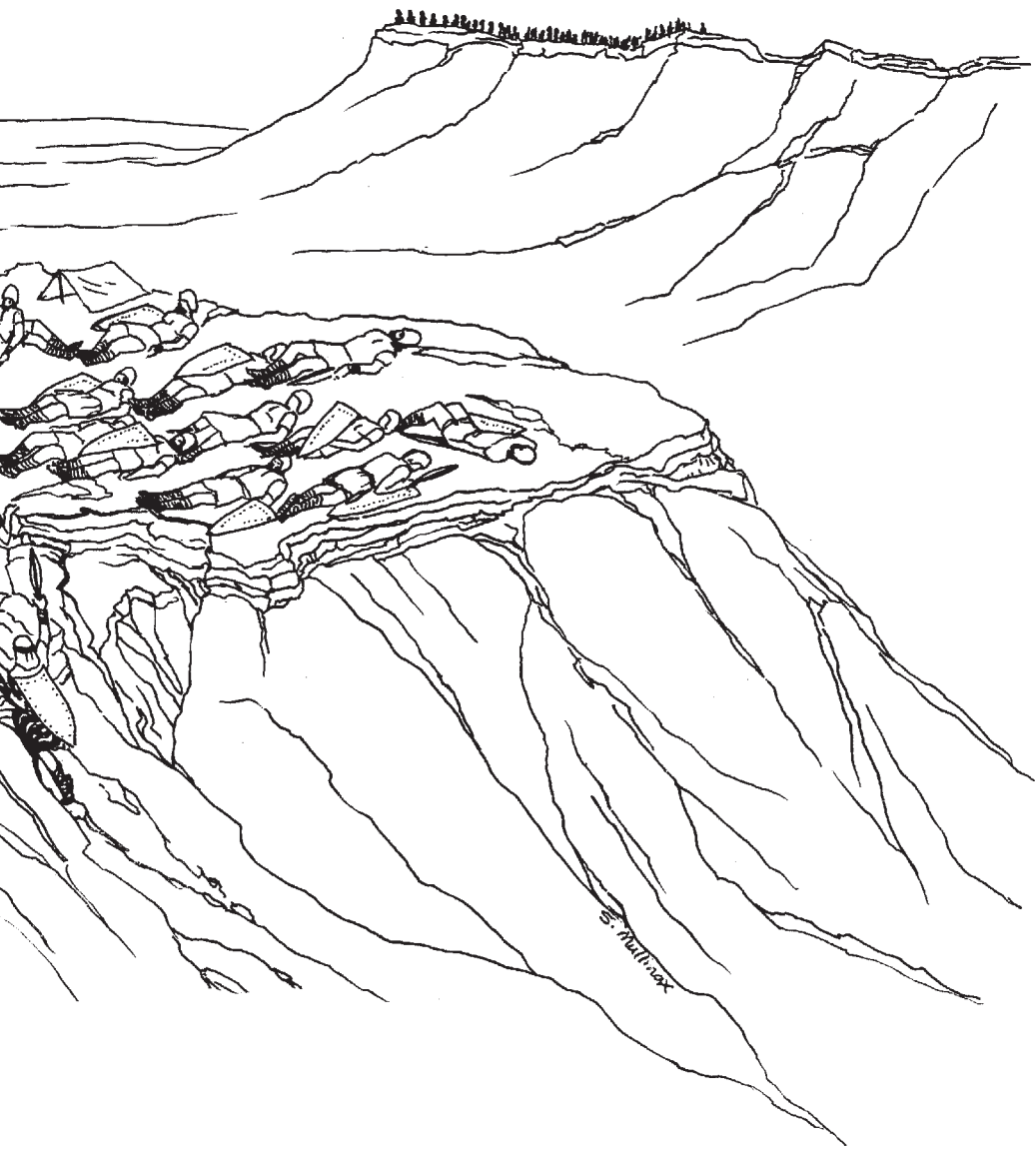


Figure 1 JONATHAN, HIS ARMOR-BEARER, AND THE PHILISTINES

AB I Sam 14:13, 15 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, his armor-bearer after him; and the enemy fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And there was trembling and panic in the (Philistine) camp, in the field, and among all the men, the garrison, and even the raiders trembled; the earth quaked, and it became a terror from God.



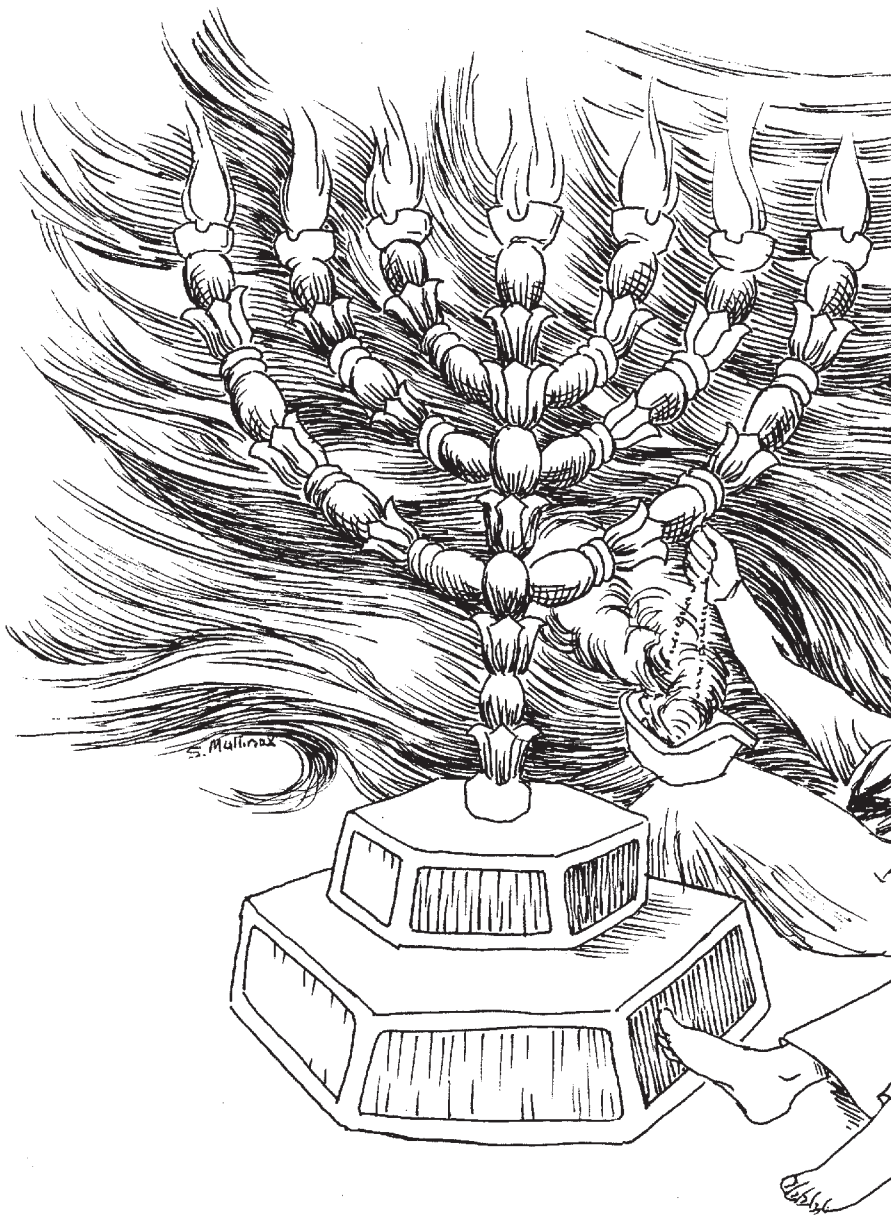


Figure 2 TEMPLE PRIEST SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

AB I Kings 8:10-12 When the priests had come out of the holy place, the cloud filled the Lord's house. So the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. Then Solomon said, the Lord said that He would dwell in the thick darkness.



by many or by few. His armor-bearer said "I am with you whatever you think". These two proceeded out to meet the Philistines. The crack Philistine troops were situated on top of a rocky crag between two passes in the mountains. (FIGURE 1) The rest of the Philistine army could see the top of this crag. Jonathan told his armor-bearer if they call us to come up to them we will know the Lord has delivered them into our hands. Sure enough, the Philistines when they saw these two down below said, "come on up, we'll show you a thing or two."

Jonathan climbed up the bluff on his hands and knees while his armor-bearer followed behind carrying Jonathan's sword and shield. Just as Jonathan reached the top, the crack Philistine troops fell before him. **AB 1 Sam 14:13** *Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, his armor-bearer after him; and the enemy fell before Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed them after him.* The armor-bearer following behind Jonathan killed the crack Philistines lying on the ground with Jonathan's sword. These Philistines fell out under the power of God's Spirit. They were "slain in the Spirit". The rest of the Philistines witnessed this from their positions and were thrown into a panic. **AB 1 Sam 14:15** *And there was trembling and panic in the (Philistine) camp, in the field, and among all the men; the garrison, and even the raiders trembled; the earth quaked, and it became a terror from God.* The Hebrew language tells this best, indicating Jonathan was walking among the prone Philistines and his armor-bearer following behind slew the troops. This probably explains the miraculous victories by the Judges in earlier times. Being "slain in the Spirit" is often ridiculed; however, by this we see God used it to benefit the Israelites.

The next king was David and Samuel anointed him with oil. **NIV 1 Sam 16:13** *So Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. . .* David was a man after God's own heart. David showed many weaknesses, but he always came back to God.

Solomon, David's son, became king and built the great temple. While they were consecrating the temple, the presence of the Lord was so great that the priests were "slain in the Spirit". **AB 1 Kings 8:10-11**

When the priests had come out of the holy place, the cloud filled the Lord's house. So the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house. (FIGURE 2) Solomon said "the Lord said He would dwell in the thick darkness". I have surely built You (the Lord) a house of habitation. (1 King 8:12-13) Under Solomon, Israel reached the zenith of its power in the world. The kingdom reached from the Euphrates to Egypt. The same as God promised to Abraham.

The Jewish nation split and became two kingdoms, Judea on the south and Israel on the north. From this point, the Redeeming process continued with prophets becoming the chief spokesmen for the Lord to the Jewish people. The prophets from Elijah to Isaiah when taken in toto showed the Lord's message became more personal and more universal through the progression of the prophets.

Elijah, who was active in 865-850 B.C., showed God to be a "jealous God". He wanted no other gods before Him. Typical was the confrontation between the prophets of Baal against Elijah ***NIV 1 Kings 18:37-39 Answer me. O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord-he is God! The Lord-he is God!"*** The Lord manifested Himself by sending fire down and consumed the sacrifices that had been soaked with water.

Elisha who followed Elijah wanted some of God's Spirit that was on Elijah. ***NIV 2 Kings 2:9 & 15 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit, Elisha replied". . . The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.*** After Elisha died his bones continued to have God's Spirit. ***NIV 2 Kings 13:20-21 Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw***

a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet. Incidents similar to this happened in Church history. There were healings in Ambrose's Church in 386 A.D. and Augustine's Church in Hippo in 400 A.D. where the bones of martyrs were involved in miraculous healings.

Hosea a prophet who lived in 786 to 746 B.C. was married to a prostitute and his witness showed God to be a "Just and Loving God". Isaiah in 740 B.C. showed God to be a "High and Holy God". Isaiah criticized Israel for making so many foreign alliances. The Lord manifested Himself by smoke in the Temple. **NIV Isaiah 6:3-4 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory". At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.** This prophet also prophesied about the coming Immaculate Conception. **AB Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign, Behold, the young woman who is unmarried and a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel-God with us.**

He also prophesied about the coming Messiah who will have all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. **NIV Isaiah 11:1-2 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The spirit of the Lord will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.** Jesus had all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and as a man He used all the Gifts. He had the Spirit without measure. **NIV Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.** Here, Isaiah prophesied about salvation.

Then the prophet Isaiah prophesied about Pentecost **AB Isaiah 29:9 Stop and wonder (at this prophecy, if you choose, whether you understand it or not; but soon you will witness the actual event and be confounded-reluctantly) Blind yourselves (now if you choose)-take your pleasure and riot; then be blinded (at the actual occur-**

rence). ***They are drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not from strong drink (but from spiritual stupor).*** Why couldn't this be about Peter saying, "These are not drunk as you presume, but are filled with the Holy Spirit"? They were in a sense "slain in the Spirit", stumbling and falling down. ***NIV Isaiah 29:14 Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.*** God said He will reveal these things to the unlearned and unskilled and conceal them from the learned and elite (Luke 10:21).

Isaiah then became very specific in prophesying an event in the near future. ***NIV Isaiah 39:6 Behold, the days are coming when all this is in your house, and that which your predecessors have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord.*** This happened in 698 B.C. These prophecies are amazing and to think people believe God has ceased to do this is even more amazing to me. God does not stop manifesting Himself to mankind.

Jeremiah also prophesied before the exile to Babylon. His teaching and prophecy showed God to be a "Companionable God". ***AB Jeremiah 3:16 And it shall be that when you have multiplied and increased in the land in those days, says the Lord, they shall no more say, the ark of the covenant of the Lord. It shall not come to mind, nor shall they (seriously) remember it, nor shall they miss or visit it, nor shall it be repaired or made again (for instead of the ark which represented God's presence, He will show Himself present throughout the city).*** He said they won't need the Ark of the Covenant. God will show His presence throughout the city. This was a prophecy about the coming ekklesia or the public part of the ekklesia-church. At this point democracy hadn't been invented. Jeremiah then told them they will be in Babylon for 70 years. ***NIV Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place.*** He then prophesied about the coming Holy Spirit. ***NIV Jeremiah 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord, "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will***

be my people." This was God's Spirit in man and there would be no need for the Law.

Ezekiel, another prophet, went with the Jews to Babylon and told them there was going to be a new deal. **NIV Ezekiel 21:26-27 This is what the Sovereign Lord Says: take off the turban, remove the crown. It will not be as it was; the lowly will be exalted and the exalted will be brought low. A ruin! A ruin! I will make it a ruin! It will not be restored until he comes to whom it rightfully belongs; to him I will give it.** There was going to be a new deal with no more high priests and no more kings. They were to be brought down and the low was to be exalted. This was the coming of Jesus where the low will be exalted and the Lord said, "He will reign in judgment". Next was a prophecy about the coming ekklesia-church with Jesus in charge. **NIV Ezekiel 34:10, 23 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.** The Lord will raise one shepherd and that will be Jesus. Ezekiel also prophesied about the coming Holy Spirit. **AB Ezekiel 36: 26-27 A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall heed My ordinances, and do them.** Here he said, we will have the Holy Spirit in us.

Daniel was also caught in the exile. He became through a series of fortunate events the main man for King Nebuchadnezzar. He depended on Daniel to interpret his dreams and later made him one of his trusted officials. Nebuchadnezzar, like the Pharaoh in Joseph's time, recognized the Holy Spirit in Daniel. **NIV Daniel 4:8-9 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him). I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; Interpret it for me.**

Daniel prophesied the Jews have 490 years (70 weeks of years) to get straight with God (Daniel 9:24). We don't know when he made this statement because of Daniel's age and position in the government; he may have remained past the end of the exile, which was 538 B.C. He prophesied very pointedly about Jerusalem. ***AB Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until (the coming of the anointed one, a prince, shall be seven weeks (of years), and sixty-two weeks (of years); it shall be built again with city square and moat, but in troublous times.*** In this verse he said there will be 483 years from the time they find the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the anointed one (Jesus) comes to them. The part of this verse that really intrigued me was, "It shall be built again with a city square". This was uncanny even for God's prophecy. The Jewish Temple was rebuilt by Herod starting in 19 B.C., but the Temple Mount area which encompassed some 30 acres was the Agora or "city square" of Jerusalem. This Agora had colonnades or stoas around its perimeter, and if you were a Jew and read this "with a city square" in 10 B.C., you should have been looking for the Messiah. God gave the Jews plenty of warning about the coming Messiah. I suspect at this time not many were reading the Word.

The second part of Isaiah, chapters forty to sixty-six, was written at the end of the exile in Babylon. Here God was depicted as a "Universal God" for all nations. He prophesied about the Holy Spirit being poured out on their descendents. ***NIV Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessings on your descendants.*** This was a lot like Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28) ***AB Isaiah 48:6 You have heard (these things foretold), now you see this fulfillment; and will you not bear witness to it? I show you specified new things from this time forth, even hidden things---kept in reserve---which you have not known.*** Isaiah said there was more to be revealed. This was similar to Moses' prophecy in Deuteronomy 29:29. Isaiah showed the universal nature of God in this verse. ***NIV Isaiah 49:6 He says, "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends***

of the earth". God said, "My salvation shall extend to the ends of the earth". It's going to be a universal thing.

In Chapter 53 Isaiah depicted the Messiah in vivid detail. ***NIV Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*** Verse 10 showed how He was wounded for our transgressions and in ***AB Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief and made Him sick. When You and He make Him an offering for sin (and He has risen from the dead, in time to come), He shall see His spiritual offspring, He shall prolong His days, and the will and pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.*** Here he died for our sins and rose from the dead. We are His spiritual offspring. How the Jews could read this and miss the Messiah is beyond me.

By the time Jesus came, the leaders were probably not reading the word of God. They were too comfortable in their position of leadership. In verse 59:16 God said man needed an intercessor. ***AB Isaiah 59:16 He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor (no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right); therefore His own arm brought Him victory, and His righteousness (having the Spirit without measure) sustained Him.*** The intercessor would have the Spirit without measure and this righteousness would sustain Him.

When Jesus was in His home synagogue in Nazareth, He read this verse ***AB Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the (physical and spiritual) captives, and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord-the year for His favor-and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;*** When He finished He said "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled (Luke 4:21).

The temple in Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonian conquerors was rebuilt in 515 B.C. Cyrus of Persia provided the funds but it was a far cry from the original one built by Solomon. Zechariah, the prophet, was active about this time and didn't seem all that happy about the new Temple. **AB Zech 6:13** *Yes, (you are building a temple of the Lord, but) it is He Who shall build the (true) temple of the Lord, and He shall bear the honor and glory (as of the only begotten of the Father), and shall sit and rule upon His throne. And He shall be a priest upon His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between the two (offices) (Priest and King).* He prophesied Jesus will build a true temple of the Lord. Zechariah was not impressed with the priest as he said the Lord will be both Priest and King. He makes a very specific prophesy about the Messiah riding on donkey. **NIV Zech 9:9** *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* In fact, Jesus had this verse in mind when he told the disciples to get Him a donkey to ride into Jerusalem. Maybe Jesus (Holy Spirit) told Zechariah to prophesy this in the first-place.

The prophet Joel, who probably lived around 500 B.C., prophesied about the coming Holy Spirit. **AB Joel 2:28-32a** *And afterward I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Even upon the menservants and upon the maidservants in those days will I pour out My Spirit. And I will show signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered and saved.* At Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples, Peter quoted these verses to explain what was happening to them. He said "These men are not drunk as you imagine." "But this is the beginning of what was spoken through the prophet Joel." (Acts 2:15)

The last prophet of God to speak to the Jews was Malachi. He probably lived around 460 B.C. It was during the Persian rule with the governors in charge of the Jewish society. The operation of the Temple

was obviously in dire straits as the priests were corrupt about the sacrifices. ***NIV Mal 1:8 When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you? says the Lord Almighty.*** From Malachi's words, we assume the temple sacrifices were not taken seriously and had fallen into disarray.

