

The Nations Submit to Christ

After Jesus has returned he will first raise those who have died, and gather the living, who have been enlightened by the Gospel - **Gal.3:8; John 5:28** - then judge them according to their works - **Matt. 25:31-32** - rewarding the faithful with everlasting life - **1 Corinthians 15:54** He will reveal himself to the nation of Israel - **Zech. 12:10; John 19:37** - who will accept Jesus as their Messiah = Christ, the one anointed by God to continue David's dynasty in Jerusalem - **Luke 1:32**. The twelve apostles will rule directly under Jesus over Israel - **Matthew 19:28** - with the other immortal faithful governing the Gentile nations - **Rev. 2:26-27**.

The current government in Israel is tolerant of other religions and their shrines, but the new government will not. Bible prophecy indicates that an earthquake will attend the return of Jesus, of apparently greater magnitude than the one which devastated the temple mount of Jerusalem in 1033 AD -

"On that day his feet shall stand...before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him" Zechariah 14:4-5. This is apparently the beginning of our Lord's cleansing of the Promised Land of all foreign shrines. The owners will naturally apply to return to rebuild their various churches, chapels, mosques, seminaries, convents, etc. But Jesus, having established himself as Despot - **Revelation 6:10** - of the Holy Land, will say "no! I am God's appointed religious leader of this world!" The world religious and political leaders will be thunderstruck and scandalized by such an attitude, and they will soon organize an international holy war against him:

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed... Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury...The LORD said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel'." - Psalm 2. This will occur only after the destruction of all armed opposition - *"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time" - Daniel 12:1.* And afterwards will be fulfilled the prophecy of **Jeremiah 16:19** - *"to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: 'Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit'."*

Daniel in chapter 2 shows the feet and ten toes of the image being struck by the Stone, but later represents the same governments of our times as ten horns on a beast - **Daniel 7:7**. This same beast with ten horns is also seen by the apostle John in his visions -

"They (the ten horns) will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful" - Revelation 17:3, 14.

John sees another vision of the war which will end in all national governments being taken over by Christ and his immortal faithful - *"...behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war...From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron...And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords" - Revelation 19:11-16.*

Before Jesus returns there is an opportunity for each of us to decide which side of this war he will be on - to follow Jesus to victory and government of the nations, or to fall with those who challenge him at his coming. Next time, God willing, we will see in what way Jesus will change how the nations are governed.