

Will God Put an End to Mankind?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Will mankind continue to exist for thousands and thousands of years unless exterminated by an accidental nuclear holocaust? Or, will there come a time when God will put an end to mankind and if so, why?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In most people's minds God is a God of love who cannot get angry or if He ever does, it would never go to the point of Him causing injury or death to anyone as in His eyes all of mankind is considered to be basically good no matter how much wickedness can be seen in the world. All men have a spark of divinity in them, an innate goodness which in some has not manifested itself because of conditions beyond their control. In other words, if it were not for external and uncontrollable influences on men, men would always do good. Just about everyone except the extremely wicked will therefore be saved and in most instances, no one needs to be worried about ever losing their salvation as God is a God of love.

These are all wonderful and reassuring thoughts as, of course, no one wants to be considered evil or think for a moment they could lose their salvation. With these thoughts in mind let's look into the Holy Bible and try to come to a clear determination of the essential nature of man and of God's historic, present and future reactions to the deeds of mankind.

The God of the Old Testament

In the Old Testament (OT) there are several stories which illustrate how God has dealt with humanity in the past.

One of God's major interventions in the affairs of mankind was the Deluge where God caused the death of all of mankind except one family which was used to continue humanity. After less than a thousand years

of man's existence God became quite displeased with mankind and decided to start over again with just one family.

Why was God so dissatisfied with His creation?

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only **evil continually**.

Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it

Gen 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The wickedness of man after less than one thousand years of existence had reached the point where it became intolerable to God. He decided to start over with Noah and his family.

Gen 6:17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

Gen 6:18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

Gen 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Gen 6:20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

Gen 6:21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Gen 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Then later in the Bible we read about God freeing the nation of Israel from Egypt where they had become slaves. Israel was to be a special people to Him if they would obey Him. After their delivery from Egypt, they journeyed until they reached Mount Sinai and Moses went up the mount to get the 10 Commandments. He was gone 40 days and 40 nights (Ex 24:18) and while he was away Israel went back into idolatry. They made themselves a golden calf which they said was the god that brought them out of Egypt.

God saw what they were doing and told Moses to go back down to them.

Exo 32:7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

Exo 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

God was so angry at seeing their disobedience that His desire was to exterminate Israel except Moses.

Exo 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked [will not obey] people:

Exo 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

But Moses pleaded for the life of the nation of Israel and God did not follow through with his desire to destroy them.

Exo 32:11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Exo 32:12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains,

and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

Exo 32:14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

In Exodus 33:5-7 God tells Moses that He cannot stay among the Israelites and that a tent had to be set up far off from the camp as a safeguard against He, on seeing their wickedness, coming upon them and consuming them.

Exo 33:5 For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

Exo 33:6 And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

Exo 33:7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it **the Tabernacle of the congregation**. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without **[outside]** the camp.

God was quite displeased with them and but for His commitment to Moses, He would have destroyed Israel. Even then, his anger was such that He could not live among them as His fury could suddenly break out against them and they would be destroyed.

We also have the example of Sodom and Gomorrah whom God destroyed because of its wickedness by raining fire on it.

In OT times, God punished mankind whenever its wickedness reached a level that could no longer be tolerated.

When we get to the New Testament (NT), we no longer read of a God

punishing mankind through physically destroying individuals and groups that are particularly wicked. Since the closing of the Old Testament, God has not been until our days intervening in the affairs of men as He had in OT times.

This has caused some to think that the God of the NT is not the same God as the God of the OT. Are there 2 different Gods, one for the OT and one for the NT or is it the same God being but who is for a time following a different way of dealing with mankind in NT times?

The God of the New Testament

Is the God of the OT the same as the God of the NT? In order to answer this question we will have to go back to a time before the creation of man.

The Bible tells us that in the beginning, before anything existed, there were two beings who dwelt in eternity.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

There was a first being called God and with this first being there was a second being called the Word. So, there is "God" who is one being and the "Word" who is another being and all things were made by the God being called the Word. A god being is one that is spirit and immortal; the only beings in existence who presently are spirit and immortal are God and the Word.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

1Ti 6:16 Who [Christ] only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Christ as a man did not have immortality until He was glorified again by God the Father. God begat Christ (the Word became flesh (see Php 2:7-8 hereunder) in Mary's womb (Luke 1:30-32) and from that time on, the

Word became the Son of God and God became God the Father.

The Word is the God being who became Christ.

Php 2:5 Let this **mind** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: [The mind or consciousness that was in the physical body of Christ was that of God the Word and Spokesman. This explains how Christ was God in the flesh.]

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Christ was fully God as God the Father with this difference that for a time, He became a man born of the flesh for the purpose of making sure God the Father's plan of salvation by being the perfect sacrifice that forgave the sins of mankind upon repentance and belief. This is why in this verse it says that Christ did not think He was taking away anything from God the Father by saying He was also God though temporarily being a physical and mortal man.

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness [physical appearance] of men:

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. [The Word while in the likeness of men, voluntarily accepted to suffer the horrible death of crucifixion to make God the Father's plan of salvation possible.]

All things were created by the Word and He existed with God before anything was created.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

This second god being is called the Word which is also translated as "the Spokesman." Christ from the beginning has been God's Spokesman i.e., the god being through which God the Father speaks to His called and

chosen ones and through which He interacts with mankind in isolated instances.

Christ, among many other things, at His First Coming came to reveal the existence of God the Father.

Luk 10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

God the Father and the Word or Spokesman are two separate and distinct god beings.

We now come to the point where we can determine who was the God of the Old Testament. There is only one god being which the Bible tells us is the Word or Spokesman. This god being is called the Word and God's Spokesman because He is the means through which God speaks to mankind.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among men for 3 1/2 years; principally among the children of Israel who are the only ones to whom He had been sent.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Mat 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Mat 15:23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

Mat 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

At the end of His 3 1/2 year ministry He ascended back to His Father with the same glory He had before becoming a man.

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

When Christ was resurrected by God the Father, He was resurrected as the glorified spirit being He had been for all eternity with God the Father. There is not one God with one set of rules for the Old Testament and a different one with a different and softer set of rules for the New Testament. God tells us plainly that He doesn't change.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

The Spokesman role remains with the God being who became Christ and it is through the Word that God spoke to His nation Israel in the Old Testament and who speaks in New Testament times to His spiritual nation of Israel, His Church.

The Word spoke to Israel through intermediaries like Moses and the prophets and in the last days, He speaks to His spiritual nation Israel, through the Word in writing, God's Holy Bible.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

In NT times God no longer has prophets no matter how many men go around claiming to be prophets. At this point, we need to clarify who is Israel. There is the physical nation of Israel and the Bible tells us there is a spiritual nation of Israel which began on the Day of Pentecost. Let's continue our analysis.

Physical and Spiritual Israel

There is a major point of understanding which needs to be clarified before continuing with this study and which is that contrary to popular belief, the Bible is not a book addressed to humanity as a whole. It is about and only about the nation of Israel. Other nations are only mentioned in the Bible as they come into contact with Israel; otherwise, the Bible says nothing to them.

Is God unfair?

Why would not all of humanity be of interest to God?

The answer to this question would require that we spend a great deal of

time examining God's plan of salvation for mankind which is something which is beyond the scope of this study. However, for you to understand this study, I will provide a short-form explanation of God's plan of salvation.

God created the heavens and earth by the Word who spoke it and it was done.

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

God after Satan's rebellion restored the surface of the earth so it could sustain life and on the 6th day He created mankind (Gen 1:26-27). Mankind and the animals created on that day were to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth.

Then we read that God chose Abraham (Gen 12:1) saying that He would make of him a great nation. This promise was inherited by his son Isaac and then by Isaac's son Jacob. Jacob's name was changed by God to "Israel."

Gen 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

Jacob had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel.

Jacob had a favorite son, Joseph and he (Jacob) passed on to Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh which he adopted, the blessings from God transmitted to him from Abraham and Isaac.

Gen 48:15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

Gen 48:16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads [Ephraim and Manasseh]; and let my name (Israel) be named on them [Ephraim and Manasseh], and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

This is a Scripture of very great importance that needs to be understood to know who is the physical nation of Israel in the end-time. The tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi became known to the world as the Jews and Israel but the modern day nations that inherited the promises

made to Israel (Jacob) are not the descendants of the 10 physical tribes of Jacob's other sons but only of those of the 2 sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh.

In the end-time there would be 2 great nations that would exist with the one descending from Ephraim being the first to become great followed by the nation descending from Manasseh becoming the single, stand-alone, greatest nation that has ever existed in the history of mankind. This is all fully explained in the following book which can be obtained on the following internet site: <http://herbert-w-armstrong.com/books.html> The title of the book is: *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* It is a fascinating book which explains who are the nations existing in our days that are the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh and who are the inheritors of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In the following verses of Gen 48, it is explained how it occurred that Ephraim who was the youngest was given the greatest part of Jacob's or Israel's inheritance. By right it should have been Manasseh who was the older of the two sons of Joseph. This is why as you will read in the following verses that Israel had crossed his arms so as to have his right hand on the head of Ephraim. He wanted Ephraim to have the greater part of the inheritance.

Gen 48:17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

Gen 48:18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

Gen 48:19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

Gen 48:20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Israel has continued to exist unto our days but the Jews living in Palestine today are not the Israel of Genesis 48. They are the physical descendants of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi and in that sense they are a part of physical Israel but they are not the totality of Israel who

had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. Canada has 10 provinces; all provinces are part of Canada but any 3 provinces are not Canada; it is the 10 provinces together that constitute Canada. The nation of Israel is not 3 tribes out of 13; the nation of Israel is made up of 13 tribes (the tribe of Joseph includes Ephraim and Manasseh).

The Jews are not Israel, they are only a part of Israel; they are not the nation of Israel. It is presently missing the 10 other tribes for us to be able to call it the nation of Israel. For the time being they are simply the Jews; not Israel. The OT nation of Israel ceased to exist when 10 of the tribes went off into captivity under the Persian Empire and were lost to history. The Jews also went into captivity but came back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city and the temple. They then lived under Roman occupation. They rebelled and were overrun by the Roman army and were then scattered and ceased to be an identifiable social group in history until after the end of World War II when the Jews were given territory in the Middle East.

There is however another nation of Israel that is to exist simultaneously with the physical nation of Israel, God's spiritual nation of Israel. I know this is a bit complicated but here is a simplified explanation of who is that spiritual nation.

After Christ's ascension to His Father the disciples were to wait in Jerusalem before beginning to accomplish the mission given them by Christ. On the Day of Pentecost, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman entered the disciples and they became apostles i.e., they were then to give out the message given them by Christ to the nations of their days.

Paul in Rom 2: 25-29 explains that what is important is not be circumcised in the flesh as was required by God to be a member of OT Israel but rather what matters is circumcision of the heart.

Rom 2:25 For circumcision [\[in the flesh\]](#) verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

Being circumcised in the flesh is of value but only if you are living your lives according to God's law but if in your personal life you are not following God's law then your circumcision in the flesh is of no value. It is as though you were not circumcised or as Paul puts it, "...thy circumcision is made uncircumcision."

Rom 2:26 Therefore if the uncircumcision [\[a Gentile, an uncircumcised person\]](#) keep the righteousness of the law, [\[obey God's law\]](#) shall not his uncircumcision be counted for

circumcision? [Even if not circumcised in the flesh would he not be thought of by God as being circumcised in the flesh and therefore, a member of Israel in the same was as those who are circumcised.]

Rom 2:27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

And, will not all those who are uncircumcised (which is by nature i.e., which is the way all men are born) if they follow God's law, judge you who are circumcised but do not obey God's law? In other words, will not an uncircumcised Gentile who obeys God's law pass judgment on those who are circumcised and do not. In the next verses, Paul answers the question.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: [At the time when Paul wrote this, the Jews were the nation of Israel; after the destruction of Israel by the Roman armies they would then be no more physical nation of Israel]

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, [a member of the nation of Israel] which is one inwardly; [by his desire to obey God's law] and circumcision [being a part of Israel] is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

God's new, spiritual nation of Israel will include men from all nations and the criterion is obedience to God. It would no longer be necessary to be born into the nation of Israel and to become circumcised. The condition for becoming part of God's spiritual nation of Israel is to follow God's law.

The Day of Pentecost was the beginning of God's spiritual nation of Israel or of God's Church. A church which Christ says was to endure until the end of mankind as the gates of hell (death) would never prevail against it.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Since the day of Pentecost, God's nation is spiritual Israel which is a nation composed of individuals from all nations who have been called by God the Father, who have accepted their calling and who are remaining faithful. They are scattered all over the world in that upon being called and chosen

they are to remain in the world but not be part of it (John 17:14-15).

Joh 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

There is no requirement for them to travel to a given country or city to dwell with other true Christians or to go to a specific country and city to worship God. God is a spirit and is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24) and God's spiritual nation of Israel or Church is a spiritual organism.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

For most of its existence it has been invisible to the world being a spiritual organism whose members are from all over the world and who, in most instances, do not know each other as their conversion is not something that can be outwardly seen by the world. It is something that occurs in their minds by the action of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

In the last days which began with the First Coming of Christ, God has His spiritual nation of Israel which is His Church which started on the Day of Pentecost. There is also existing at the same time the physical nation of Israel, who are the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh and there is also part of the ancient nation of Israel existing in Middle East i.e., the Jews.

In the fullness of time, all of mankind will be called and given an opportunity for salvation and to become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel i.e., His Church. God's eternal kingdom will be composed of all those individuals from all nations who have been called, chosen and who have remained faithful. They are the physical human beings who are to become immortal spirit beings in God's Kingdom.

At the very end, at the time of the 3rd resurrection and of the Great White Throne Judgment there will be only 2 types of individuals on the earth: those who are Spirit-begotten members of God's Church and those who are not. The sheep are the members of God's Church and the goats are all the others who were called and refused to follow their calling or who

followed their calling but after a while went back into the world.

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day]

Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

So, the Bible is a book about only the nation of Israel both as a physical and a spiritual nation. All those who become part of this spiritual nation of Israel will become part of God's Kingdom and all of mankind in time will be given the opportunity to become part of that nation and kingdom.

In the days of ancient Israel there was a priesthood, the sons of Levi who taught and administered the law over the people and the priests lived among the people. In New Testament times, we have a physical nation of Israel, the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh and, we have living among them and in several nations around the world, God's spiritual nation of Israel.

In these last days (began with Christ's First Coming) in which we are living, we now turn to examining how is God's law administered?

Administration of God's Law in New Testament Times

In the days of ancient Israel, the people were punished for their lawbreaking. There was either a requirement for a sacrifice to be offered to atone for the transgression of God's law and in cases where there was no atoning sacrifice under the law for a particular transgression, the person died.

In New Testament times, God is no longer ruling over a physical nation of Israel through prophets and judges. The nations are ruled by men of their own choosing. God has the power to rule over men should He choose to do so but He chooses not to do so.

And in God's Church or spiritual Israel, the death penalty is no longer administered as the church is a spiritual organism totally separate from the law administration authorities of this world. In other words, in OT times when God's church was a physical nation responsible for administering the law it could impose the death penalty as prescribed by the law for certain crimes but in NT times this is no longer the case. As a spiritual organism made up of individuals from the different nations of the world, it has no civil law administration authority nor can it have any, as spiritual Israel is not a sovereign physical nation living in a specific geographical location where it can administer law over its citizens. And, God's spiritual nation is not to be part of this world, its government, law administration practices, etc. With the foundation of God's Church, a different way of administering God's law began which is referred to in the Scriptures as the ministration of the Spirit.

The Ministration of the Spirit

The nation of Israel was stiff-necked i.e., they would not obey God and they were punished whenever their wickedness reached an intolerable level to God. There is much wickedness in the world we all currently live in and in fact, God through Paul, in the Bible calls it "this present evil world."

Gal 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from **this present evil world**, according to the will of God and our Father:

The wickedness of our modern-day world is not all that different from the wickedness that existed in the ancient world of the Old Testament and which will continue to exist until the end of mankind. So why are the nations not being punished today as Israel was in the Old Testament, yet it is the same God?

The answer to this question will require us to explain the "ministration of life" which was made possible by Christ's perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind and which started with the foundation of God's New Testament Church on the Day of Pentecost. Those called and chosen have the holy Spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwelling in their minds and are God's Church or spiritual nation of Israel.

2Co 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

2Co 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

2Co 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

2Co 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Under the Old Covenant, the letter of the law had to be observed and although that was less demanding than having to observe the spirit of the law, the major shortcoming was that if someone transgressed a law that required the death penalty then the person was executed. There was then no further opportunity for that person to acknowledge the evil of what they had done, to resolve to change and to have time to demonstrate to God their changed state of mind as they continued living out their lives.

However, with Christ as the perfect sacrifice for sin, sins committed out of the weakness of one's flesh are not taken into consideration (imputed) by God as long as the attitude of the individual is to try to obey Him in all things to the best of his abilities. All sins in New Testament time merit the death penalty, (Rom 6:23) not the first death but the second one (Rev 21:8) which is eternal.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

However, all sins can be forgiven if not committed in willful rebellion against God which is to say, it is not intentionally done in rebellion against God. The administration of the letter of the law sometimes led to the death of the transgressor while the ministry or ministration of life leads to life i.e., eternal life. Even David in the Old Testament had his sinfulness forgiven (adultery and murder) by God; according to the letter of the law David would have been put to death for either transgression. David is an example of the ministration of the Spirit. David went on to live a good life, God forgave His sins and David will be part of God's Kingdom.

Ancient Israel was a physical nation that one became part of by being born into it or being naturalized. This is the nation first chosen by God but God eventually separated Himself from it because of its disobedience but its rejection is not final. There will come a time when God will again choose Israel. Since the First Coming of Christ, God now has a spiritual nation made up of individuals that can come from any nation, who have been called and chosen by God the Father and who are remaining faithful. They can be, and ultimately will be, from all nations of the world that have ever existed since the days of Adam and Eve. Altogether, they are God's spiritual nation of Israel.

These spiritual Israelites are under grace which is to say that no sin is ever imputed to them by God as long as their attitude is one of trying to obey Him in all things to the best of their abilities.

They live unknown and invisible for the greatest part among the unconverted in the nations of the world and continue to be subject to civil laws of man as long as they do not conflict with God's laws. As a spiritual nation responsible for keeping the spirit of the law, God is their judge and the penalty for sin which is not forgiven is the second death from which no resurrection is possible.

This is why the letter of the law killed; when Israel was a physical nation, the death penalty was administered in this life while the administration of the spirit of the law is by God with the death penalty not administered in this life which gives the sinner a chance to repent, change and prove his repentance by living in newness of life. This is why David in whom dwelt the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman because of the role God wanted him to play, though having committed two crimes for which the administration of the letter of the law would have taken his life, will be in God's Kingdom.

Since the Day of Pentecost, God's law is administered over a spiritual nation for whom the death penalty is not carried out in this life; the penalty for unforgiven sin will be the second death which is administered at the very end of God's plan of salvation for mankind at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment. Since the day of Pentecost, God is not administering the letter of the law over the physical nation of Israel. The Gentile and unconverted nations of the world administer their own man-made laws over their citizens.

But there will come a time when God will punish the world for its sinfulness as He did in the days of Noah and of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord

There is a time of trouble coming upon the world such as never was or ever will be again which coincides with the time of Christ's 2nd Coming. Many are looking forward to Christ's 2nd Coming thinking it will be a time of great joy and happiness but the Bible reveals that the 2nd Coming will be a time of planetary scale destruction which by the time the Day of the Lord ends, the earth will have been virtually rendered inhabitable; there will have occurred great environmental disasters and destruction of man's civilization as we know it today.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

It will take God to restore the earth to the point where it can again sustain life and make it possible for humans to reproduce and prosper in a way similar to what occurred when God renewed the face of the planet following its disruption as a result of Satan's rebellion.

The Millennium that will follow the events of the Great Tribulation and of the Day of the Lord, will see a planet whose environment has not only been restored but made better than it was in man's last 6,000 years of existence. The survivors of this great time of destruction which will not be great in number as compared to the number of human beings there was on the earth before the Great Tribulation. The survivors will slowly start rebuilding their lives, homes and cities. There will be peace during the Millennium and the population will again become large. God will have spared enough human beings to make it possible for life to start over again. The Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord are not the times when God will put an end to mankind.

The Last Great Day

Following the end of the Millennium, there will be an event called the "Last Great Day." It is the time when there will be a resurrection of all those human beings who were never called by God. It will be their first and, one and only, opportunity for salvation; all are given only one chance to be saved; there are not 2 callings.

The time of the Last Great Day will be like that of the Millennium. God the

Father will then call all men to salvation as He did during the Millennium. In other words, all those rising up in the second resurrection will be called to salvation and they will have to make a choice whether to follow or not their calling in the same way that all those who have been called before them had to do since the beginning.

They will live for 100 years and at the end of that time period, there will occur the Great White Throne Judgment.

Isa 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

The Great White Throne Judgment

This is the time when Christ will judge (sentence) all of mankind that has ever existed. There are some which before that time have already been judged (sentenced) and these are God's saints who at Christ's 2nd Coming became glorified spirit beings and who collectively, are the Bride of Christ. At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment they are already part of God's Kingdom.

The word "judgment" has 2 possible meaning. It can refer to a time of evaluation against certain standards. In this case, the attitude of obedience of God's called and chosen ones is being evaluated. Are they really trying to obey God as best they can or not. The other meaning of the word judgment is to make a decision that something meets or does not meet a prescribed standard. In the case of Christians, God, after having observed how they lived their lives after having been called and chosen, will make a final decision. Were they truly trying to obey Me to the best of their abilities in all things? Sentence is then pronounced: those who were not really trying to obey God will be part of the goats who die in the Lake of Fire and those who were, will be part of the sheep who inherit salvation at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment.

Since the beginning of mankind God has been administering His master plan of salvation for mankind and there are many who have been called and who did not follow their calling. Their time of judgment will be during the period of the Great White Throne Judgment.

The Great White Throne Judgment occurs at the very end of the 100 years allocated to those who rose up in the 2nd resurrection to flesh-and-blood existence at the beginning of the Last Great Day. At that time, there will be a 3rd resurrection of all those who from the days of Adam and Eve have

been called and who were not chosen because they did not follow their calling or who followed their calling for a time and then turned away from it. This resurrection will also include all those who during the Millennium were called, chosen and faithful and had died at the end of their natural lives. In the Great White Throne Judgment they are raised up to flesh-and-blood existence.

The goats will be those who from the time of Adam and Eve to the end of the Millennium refused their calling or did not remain converted and the sheep will be those who remained faithful all through their lives. Those resurrected in the 2nd resurrection at the beginning of the Last Great Day who rejected their calling or turned away from it after having accepted it will also be part of the goats.

The sheep will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world and become glorified holy spirit beings in God's Kingdom. They will be the children of the kingdom as they are the result of the work of Christ and His Bride.

As for the others who are not saved and who remain flesh-and-blood human beings, the earth is engulfed by a Lake of Fire which kills all those who did not become spirit beings. The Lake of Fire is the first step in God making a new heaven and a new earth and in making all things new.

This is the time when flesh-and-blood mankind will cease to exist. God is patient and endured the wickedness of mankind for 7,000 years in accordance with the 7,000 years allocated to mankind. Mankind was created for a very special purpose and for a given time only. Once that purpose and time have been accomplished, there is no longer any need to continue mankind or this present universe.

God did not exterminate mankind despite the wickedness of many so as to fulfill His master plan of salvation which is to reproduce Himself through those men that would self-willingly and freely submit to Him. The saved will fully share in the very nature of God and they will be autonomous beings with mind power and individuality like God and the Word, and like the Word they will be in perfect submission to God. Together they will constitute a new entity made up of possibly millions of separate and distinct parts all working together in perfect cooperation and harmony as do the millions of parts constituting our human bodies.

Conclusion

There is as time coming when God will put an end to mankind.

Mankind was created for a very special purpose. Mankind was created as a means to reproduce Himself. Man is the pinnacle of God's creative ability which is to create a material being with whom He could communicate and which could become an immortal glorified spirit being i.e., a God being like Himself while retaining the personality, individuality and mind it had while a material, flesh-and-blood being. In this way, God's Kingdom when fully established will be made up of other beings with mind power and the ability to have their own thoughts independently from God. In this way they will have individuality and personalities as diverse as there are individuals. It will be an interesting and fascinating time of fellowship with God and the Word and with all those who have inherited salvation across the centuries of the existence of mankind.

God has allotted 7,000 years to mankind and once humanity comes to the end of that time period and the completion of God's plan of salvation for mankind, God will put an end to mankind.

