

Shivat Tziyon (Return to Zion)

- 586—Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar
 - Jeremiah 25:1-12 is a prophesy of the seventy year Babylonian captivity.
- 539—Beginning of Medo-Persian Empire
 - A dual kingdom consisting of Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian, the son-in-law of Darius the Mede
- 538—Edict of Cyrus to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem
 - 537—Remnant of about 43,000 Jews return from Babylon (Ezra 1-2) led by Zerubbabel
 - Initially, under Zerubbabel's leadership, the altar was rebuilt and the people began sacrificing on the altar beginning in the seventh month of Tishrei (Ezra 3:1-7).
- 536—The people then began laying the foundation for the Temple (Ezra 3:8-13).



Shivat Tziyon (Return to Zion)

- 520—Work Begins on Rebuilding the Temple Under King Darius the Persian (Queen Esther's Son!)
 - Some eighteen years after Cyrus' decree, Zechariah and Chaggai prophesied to inspire the people to rebuild (Ezra 5:1-2).
 - Chaggai promised economic prosperity and political autonomy if they would rebuild the Temple first (Chaggai 1-2).
 - Zechariah promised the return of the Shechinah if Am Yisrael would repent (Zechariah 1-6).
 - Ezra 5:3-6:13—Inhabitants of the land tried to have King Darius the Persian halt construction of the Temple.
 - Ezra 6:14-22—Instead, King Darius upholds construction of the Temple and threatens Am Yisrael's protagonists with death!
- 516—The Temple is Finished



Shivat Tziyon (Return to Zion)

- 458—Ezra Headed for Jerusalem (Ezra 7)
 - We'll return here later :)
- 458-432—Deeds of Ezra and Nehemiah
- 430-330—100 Years of Medo-Persian Rule
- 330-63—Greece Ruled the World



The Rise of Hellenism

- 336-331—Alexander the Great conquered lands from Asia throughout Persia; Hellenization begins.
 - His goal was one unified kingdom based on Greek culture.
- 323—Death of Alexander the Great; His kingdom divided into four parts
 - The Seleucus ruled the areas of Syria and Babylon
 - Ptolemy ruled Egypt and the land of Yisrael
 - Antigonus ruled over Macedonia and Greece
 - Lysimachus ruled over Thrace and Asia Minor
 - His four generals were greedy and fought against each other for more territory.
 - First, Ptolemaic and Seleucid dynasties fought against Antigonus.
 - Later, Ptolemaic and Seleucid dynasties fought against each other.



The Rise of Hellenism

- 320-198—Rule of the Ptolemies over Am Yisrael
- 198-142—Rule of the Seleucids over Am Yisrael
 - 175-163—Seleucid king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes
 - This is the period of the beginning of the Maccabean revolt
- 168—Antiochus IV desecrates the Temple
- 167—Mattithias begins Jewish revolt
- 166—Mattithias dies and Judah Maccabee leads
- 165—Dedication of the Temple



The Prophecy of Chaggai

➤ Chaggai 1:1-15

- Adonai challenged Am Yisrael to examine their ways. He told them that they didn't have the prosperity they desired because they had not built His house (Chaggai 1:9)!

➤ Chaggai 2:1-23

- I will shake heaven and earth.

I will *overthrow the throne of kingdoms;*

I will *destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms.*

I will *overthrow the chariots*

And those who ride in them;

The horses and their riders shall come down,

Every one by the sword of his brother.”

- Why this prophecy? Because the other kingdoms had prevented them from rebuilding the Temple.

- Was this prophecy ever fulfilled (along with the return of the Shechinah)?
No!

- *Remember, Kislev 24/25 and the prophesy of the overthrow of Am Yisrael's enemies.*



The Prophecy of Daniel

- Daniel 8:1-27—The vision of the ram with two horns and the he-goat.
 - Daniel 8:1-4—The ram with the two horns, one larger than the other, was the Medo-Persian empire
 - Daniel 8:5-12—The he-goat was Alexander the Great
 - Daniel 8:8—Alexander died at a young age and his kingdom was split into four separate dynasties (the four horns that came up in its place).
 - The fourth little horn is Antiochus Epiphanes
 - Daniel 8:11—The daily offering was taken away
 - *Daniel 8:11—He magnified himself*
 - Daniel 8:12—He cast truth to the ground
 - The prophecy of the abomination of desolation
 - Daniel 11:31-35



The Story of Chanukah

The Story of the Maccabees



The Story of Chanukah

- I Mac 1:11-15—Many of the Jewish people forsook the Torah.
- I Mac 1:16-23—Antiochus robbed the Temple of its furnishings.
- I Mac 1:29-40—Jerusalem was destroyed two years later.
- I Mac 1:41-52—More Jews forsake the Torah and join the Greeks
- I Mac 1:54-61—Desecration of the Temple
 - The Temple was converted into a temple for Zeus.
 - On the 15th of Kislev an image of Zeus was erected in the Temple.
 - **On the 25th of Kislev** they began sacrificing swine to Zeus upon the altar!
 - On this date Antiochus began killing women who had circumcised their sons.
 - Why did they wait until the 25th of Kislev to actually begin offering sacrifices?
 - It stands to reason that the Greeks were aware of the religious and nationalistic significance of the 25th of Kislev!



The Story of Chanukah

- I Mac 1:62-64—Many in Israel resolved to remain faithful to the Torah.
- I Mac 2:1-14—Mattathias' Lament
 - Mattathias was a priest
- I Mac 2:15-27—The Maccabean Revolt
- I Mac 2:2-49-69—Mattathias' death and final exhortation
- I Mac 3:1-9—Judah Maccabee's fame
 - Maccabee means hammer
- I Mac 3:13-23—The battle against Seron and the Syrian army
- I Mac 3:38-4:35—Judas' first and second battles against Lysias, the commander of Antiochus' army
 - The First Battle
 - Lysias came with 47 thousand soldiers
 - Judas had 5 thousand
 - Syrians and Phillistines joined with Lysias
 - Merchants gathered, ready to buy Israelite slaves



The Story of Chanukah

- Judas and the people fasted and prayed
- They defeated Lysias' army!
- The second battle
 - Judas' second battle against Lysias
 - Lysias came with 65 thousand soldiers
 - Judas had 10 thousand
 - Another Judah Maccabee victory
- I Mac 4:37-59—Rededication of the Temple
 - *Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-eighth year,* they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering which they had built. *At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it,* it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals.



The Story of Chanukah

- Why Eight Days?
 - The cruse of oil? This is a legend, which may or may not be true
 - It is found in the Talmud (writings of the Rabbi's), not the book of Maccabees!
 - II Mac 10:5-6—It happened that on the same day on which the sanctuary had been profaned by the foreigners, the purification of the sanctuary took place, that is, on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, which was Chislev. *And they celebrated it for eight days with rejoicing, in the manner of the feast of booths, remembering how not long before, during the feast of booths, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals.*



The Story of Chanukah

- Two dominant themes in the story of Chanukah
 - Devotion to the Torah
 - “God forbid that we should forsake the Torah and the ordinances”
 - “All who willingly offered himself for the Torah”
 - “Be zealous for the Torah and give your lives for the covenant of your Fathers”
 - “But we will fight for our lives and our Torah”
 - Assimilation among the heathen
 - “They forsook the holy covenant and joined themselves to the heathen”
 - “Everyone who forsook the Torah, and so they committed evils in the land”
- This is the story of those who remain faithful to Adonai’s ways and those who apostatize



The Prophecy of Moses

- The lives of the Patriarchs are prophetic pictures of events that will occur in the lives of their descendants
 - Adam and Eve are a picture of Am Yisrael
 - Abraham, Isaac and Joseph
- Jacob's life is a picture of Am Yisrael!
 - When Jacob fled from Esau it was a picture of their exile into the nations! Jacob left the land and so did Jacob and his family.
 - Jacob's return to the land from his oppressive uncle Laban is a picture of Am Yisrael's return to the land! Remember Shivat Tziyon?
 - Jacob sent two messengers. Moses sent twelve spies!
 - The first thing Jacob does when he returned to the land was to build an altar (Genesis 33:20)! But, he had to first deal with Esau.
 - Remember those who harassed Am Yisrael as they tried to build the Temple?
 - Remember, how Am Yisrael could only build an altar?



The Prophecy of Moses

- What's the next event to occur after Jacob returned from exile?
 - The story of Shechem's lust for Dinah (Genesis 34:1-4)
 - Dinah went out to look over the daughters of the land
 - Shechem saw her as she was out looking over the daughters of the land and raped her.
 - Shechem "became deeply attached to Dina...Shechem, my son, deeply longs for your daughter."
 - The Proposal—Genesis 34:8-10
 - What's wrong with such an innocent proposal?
 - The story of Shechem's lust for Dinah should remind you of another story in the Tanakh.



The Prophecy of Moses

- The story of Shechem's lust for Dinah is thematically connected to Amnon's lust for Absalom's sister Tamar (II Samuel 13:1-18).
 - Amnon "was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar."
 - In both passages, someone was raped!
 - In both passages, someone is referred to as subtle, crafty or cunning.
 - In both passages, after the scripture notes that someone is subtle, the subtle one goes on to tempt someone else by asking a question.
 - Genesis 3:1b—"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"
 - II Samuel 13:4a—And he (Jonadab) said to him "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?"
 - Genesis 2:16-17 states that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was forbidden fruit for Adam and Chavah (Eve). II Samuel 13:2b states that "it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her (Tamar)," thus Tamar was "forbidden fruit" for Amnon!
 - In Genesis 3:6, Chavah gave Adam food (presumably from her hand). In II Samuel 13:5b, 6b and 10a, note how often the phrase, "eat from her hand," appears!



The Prophecy of Moses

- In Genesis 3:7-8, Adam and Chavah sewed fig leaves to cover themselves and hid from Adonai because they were ashamed of their naked bodies. In II Samuel 13:13, Tamar stated “where can I take my shame?”
- After Adam and Chavah sinned, the scripture mentions Chavah’s clothes (covering) twice. II Samuel 13:18-19 mentions Tamar’s robe of many colors!
- After Adam and Chavah sinned, Adonai came and asked a question designed to tell Him why they were so distraught (Genesis 3:11). When Absalom saw Tamar weeping bitterly, he asked her if she had been with Tamar (II Samuel 13:20)!
- After sinning, Chavah was banished from the garden. Furthermore, an angel was posted to prevent her from returning to the Tree of Life. In II Samuel 13:17-18, Amnon had his servant put Tamar out of his house. He then bolted the door so she could not return.
- Who is thematically connected to Jonadab?



The Prophecy of Moses

- Jonadab is thematically connected to hasatan!!! But why?
- Amnon is about to act upon satanically inspired advice
- Thus, Shechem's violation of Dinah was satanically inspired and so was the proposal that followed
- Genesis 34:2 says that Shechem was son of Chamor the Hivvite. The word used for Hivvite (חִיטִּי), is an Aramaic word meaning *serpentine*. It describes the serpent-like, treacherous manner in which Shechem acted.
- Since Jacob's life is a prophetic picture of the nation of Israel, we know that *this is a prophetic story of what will happen whenever Am Yisrael return to the land from an exile.*
- Let's see what happened when Am Yisrael approached the land the first time.



Connecting Genesis 34 to Numbers 25

- The Incident of Baal-Peor—Numbers 25:1-9
 - Am Yisrael are returning to the land from Egyptian exile (Shivat Tziyon!!!).
 - How is this welcome party thematically connected to the welcome party Jacob met?
 - In both stories, the pagans tried to intermarry with Am Yisrael.
 - Both accounts specifically document an Israelite and a pagan who cohabited together
 - Numbers 25:14-15—Zimri, a leader in Simeon, and Cozbi, daughter of a prince in Midian
 - Genesis 34:2—Shechem, son of Chamor, prince of the region and Dinah, daughter of Jacob. Genesis 34:7—he had committed an outrage in Israel
 - Note how the Torah views Jacob and his family as Israel!
This is prophetic!
 - In both stories, the pagan men were decimated.



Connecting Genesis 34 to Numbers 25

- In both stories, the pagan women and children, as well as the booty from the slaughter, were kept by Am Yisrael.
- In both stories there's a reference to the deceitful actions as harlotry.
 - Genesis 34:31—"Should he treat our sister as a harlot?"
 - Numbers 25:1—The people began to commit harlotry
- Both stories contained sexual immorality.
 - Orgies vs. rape
- In both stories the pagans had ulterior motives as to why they wanted to intermarry.
 - Genesis 34:23—"Will not all of their possessions be ours?"
 - Numbers 31:16—The incident of Baal Peor was Balaam's advice!
- Both stories occurred right when Adonai's people were about to enter the land!
 - Genesis 35—Jacob approached Bethel
 - Numbers 22:1—Baal Peor occurred on the plains of Moab



Connecting Genesis 34 to Numbers 25

- The Source of Balaam's Advice?
 - Numbers 31:1-16—The war with Midian
 - Numbers 31:8—Note the mention of Balaam amongst the names of the slain Midianite kings!
 - Numbers 31:16—The welcome party in the incident of Baal Peor was Balaam's advice!
 - Numbers 25:18— “. . . For they harassed you through their conspiracy that they conspired against you in the matter of Peor . . .”
 - His curses wouldn't work. He knew that Am Yisrael would fall if they turned away from their source of blessing and life.
 - What do we know about the source of Balaam's power?
 - Numbers 22:7—The elders of Midian and Moab brought charms with them for Balaam.



Connecting Genesis 34 to Numbers 25

- According to RASHI, the charms were the tools and implements Balaam would need to cast spells.
- Numbers 24:1—. . . “so he did not go as every other time toward divinations . . .”
- What do you suppose was the source of his advice?
 - Balaam’s source of power was satanic!
- A close examination of the incident of Baal-Peor reveals the full content of Balaam’s Advice
 - Intermarriage
 - Feasting, and prostrating themselves to Baal Peor
 - Eating their foods
 - Intimate contact and fellowship
 - Sexual immorality
 - Committing Harlotry



The Persian Shivat Tziyon

- The Persian Shivat Tziyon
- What did Ezra find when he returned to Jerusalem in 458?
 - Ezra, the Torah scholar!
 - Ezra 9:1-15—Ezra confessed the sins of the people
 - Ezra 9:2-3—For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass. So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.
 - Also see Ezra 9:10-14 and Ezra 10:2-4.
- The Sin of Intermarriage and Assimilation!



The Persian Shivat Tziyon

- Completing the Picture
 - Jacob's arrival in Shechem, the incident of Baal-Peor, the Persian Shivat Tziyon, and the Maccabbean revolt are all the same story!
 - It's the story of those who forsake the Torah and assimilate with the heathen versus those who remain separate and hold onto the Torah.
 - Genesis 34:9—And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves.
 - Numbers 25:1-3—Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor.
 - Ezra 9:2—For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass.



The Persian Shivat Tziyon

- I Mac 1:15 & I Mac 2:27—and made themselves uncircumcised and abandoned the holy covenant. They joined with the Gentiles and sold themselves to do evil . . . Then Mattathias cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying: "Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!"
- The last generation of Am Yisrael, both houses, are destined to make a return to the land at the second coming of the Messiah.
- The exodus of Am Yisrael from Egypt to inherit the promised land is a prophetic picture of the exodus of the last generation from this world to inherit the millennial kingdom.
- As we prepare to return, guess who's still giving the same advice.
 - Revelation 2:14—The doctrine of Balaam is alive and well right now
 - The assimilation of Shechem, Baal-Peor and the Greeks teaches us about a far deeper type of assimilation; our assimilation with this world.



The Final Shivat Tziyon

➤ The Final Shivat Tziyon

➤ Remember Deuteronomy 30:4?

➤ It was a prophecy of the re-gathering of all Yisrael to where?

➤ Deuteronomy 30:4—If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

➤ Doesn't this verse teach us about the resurrection and our gathering to Messiah?

➤ This verse concerns the final Shivat Tziyon!

➤ The last generation of Am Yisrael, both houses, are destined to make a final return to the land at the second coming of the Messiah.

➤ As we prepare to return, guess who's still giving the same advice?

➤ Revelation 2:14—The doctrine of Balaam is alive and well right now!

➤ The assimilation of Shechem, Baal-Peor, Shivat Tziyon (after the Babylonian exile) and the Maccabbean revolt are all prophetic lessons that teach us what will occur just before the final Shivat Tziyon.



The Final Shivat Tziyon

- The story of the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt, culminating in their arrival, conquest and settlement in the land of Canaan, is a foreshadowing of the exodus of the last generation of Adonai's people from the world into the millennial kingdom.
- How do we know for sure that these events are prophetic?
 - Paul stated that the things written in the past (specifically the wilderness wanderings) were for our admonition!
 - Chaggai 2:6-7 is repeated in Hebrews 12:26—I will shake the heavens and the earth!
 - Yeshua stated that the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel was to be a future event (Matthew 24:14-21)!
 - Yeshua reminded us about the doctrine of Balaam in Revelation 2:14!



The Final Shivat Tziyon

- Now that we know the Maccabbean revolt is so intimately connected with 1) the prophecies in Chaggai and Daniel and 2) the doctrine of assimilation expounded by Balaam, we know that it is a prophetic precursor of the end-times also.
- Why Did Yeshua Warn About the Doctrine of Balaam?
 - Because He knows what the Torah teaches about hasatan's tactics whenever He is about to bring His people into the land.
 - The exodus of Am Yisrael from Egypt is a prophetic pattern for the last generation.
 - Why is assimilation so dangerous?
 - Because hasatan knows that if Adonai's people assimilate they will not fulfill their Divine destiny.
 - First, it keeps us preoccupied with everything except possessing the kingdom.
 - Second, it brings wrath upon us from the Holy One.



The Final Shivat Tziyon

- The significance of sacrificing to idols and intermarriage for the last generation?
 - Leviticus 17:3-7—If our forms of worship do not conform to His instructions then they are done unto demons (who inspired the perversions). The key? False forms of worship!
 - In marriage we become one flesh. We become one physically, mentally, emotionally, religiously, socially, politically, economically, etc.
 - We must not overlook spiritual intermarriage and immorality!
 - A comparison of Antiochus' decrees with what popular religion teaches
 - You shall profane the Shabbat
 - You shall profane the festivals and holy days of Leviticus 23
 - You shall set up idols (false forms of worship)
 - You shall eat unclean animals
 - You shall abolish the Torah



The Final Shivat Tziyon

- Chanukah and Christmas are Absolute Opposites!
 - Christmas is the ultimate in syncretism and assimilation.
 - Chanukah is the ultimate in resisting assimilation.
- The Doctrine of Balaam
 - Numbers 25:1-17
 - **Worshiping/bowing down to other gods**
 - **Joined themselves to Baal Peor**
 - **Eating with the pagans (kosher)**
 - **Committing harlotry**
 - **Sexual immorality**



The Heart of the Torah

- An outline of Leviticus 17-18
 - Leviticus 17:1-9 Proper Worship
 - Leviticus 17:10-15 Proper Diet
 - Leviticus 18:1-30 Proper Sexual Relations
 - These passages are in the middle of the Torah! The Rabbis call these passages the heart of the Torah.
 - Isn't that interesting?
 - These passages represent a correction for Balaam's doctrine!



Acts 15:23-29

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, “You must be circumcised and keep the law”—to whom we gave no such commandment—it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Messiah Yeshua. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: **that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.** If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

➤ Does anything in this passage look familiar?



Acts 15:23-29

| <u>Torah Passage</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Acts Passage</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Leviticus 17:1-9 | Proper Worship | Acts 15:29 a |
| Leviticus 17:10-15 | Proper Diet | Acts 15:29 b |
| Leviticus 18:1-30 | Proper Sexual Relations | Acts 15:29 c |

- What Have We Discovered?
 - The instructions given to the gentiles in Acts 15:29 are actually Torah commandments (mitzvot)!!!
 - These two have been linked for over 2,000 years.
 - What does it mean to abstain from blood and things strangled?
 - An explicit command (mitzvah) to Gentiles to eat a kosher diet!
 - This is nothing new. Leviticus 17:10-15 said it first!

