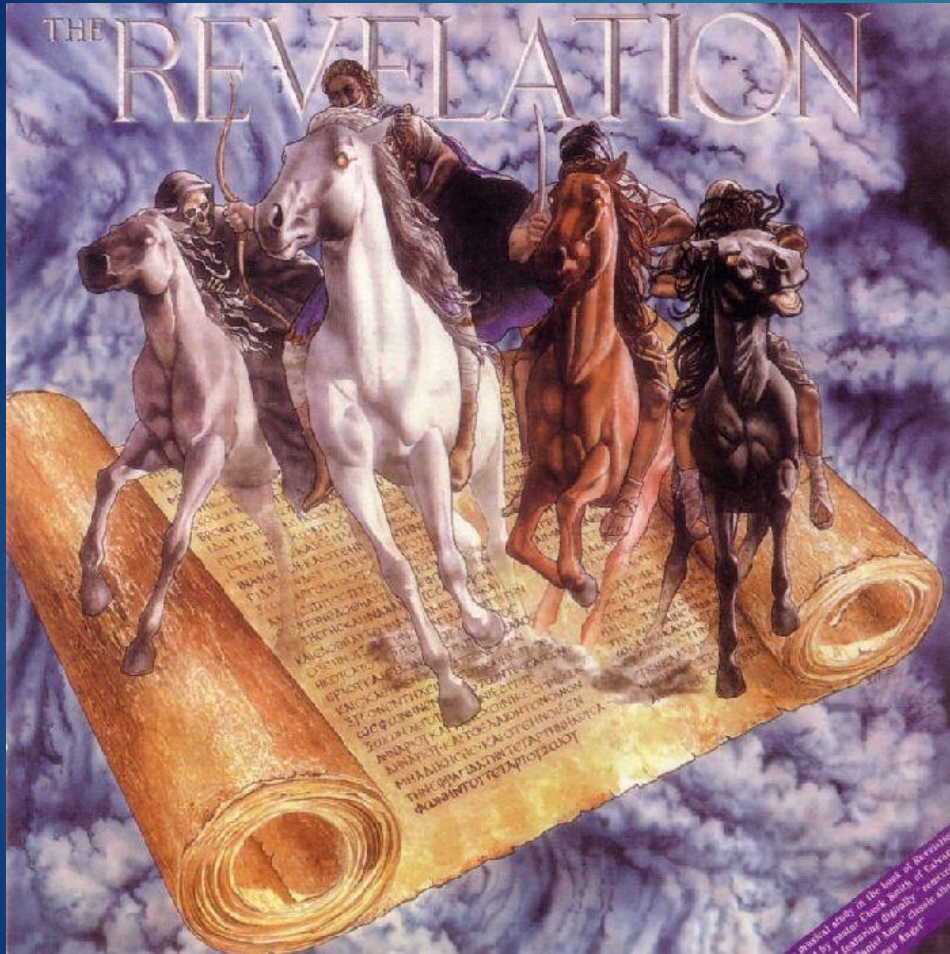


GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN FOR THE AGES



Lesson 2

The Act That Changed the World

[Using Pilgrims Progress!]

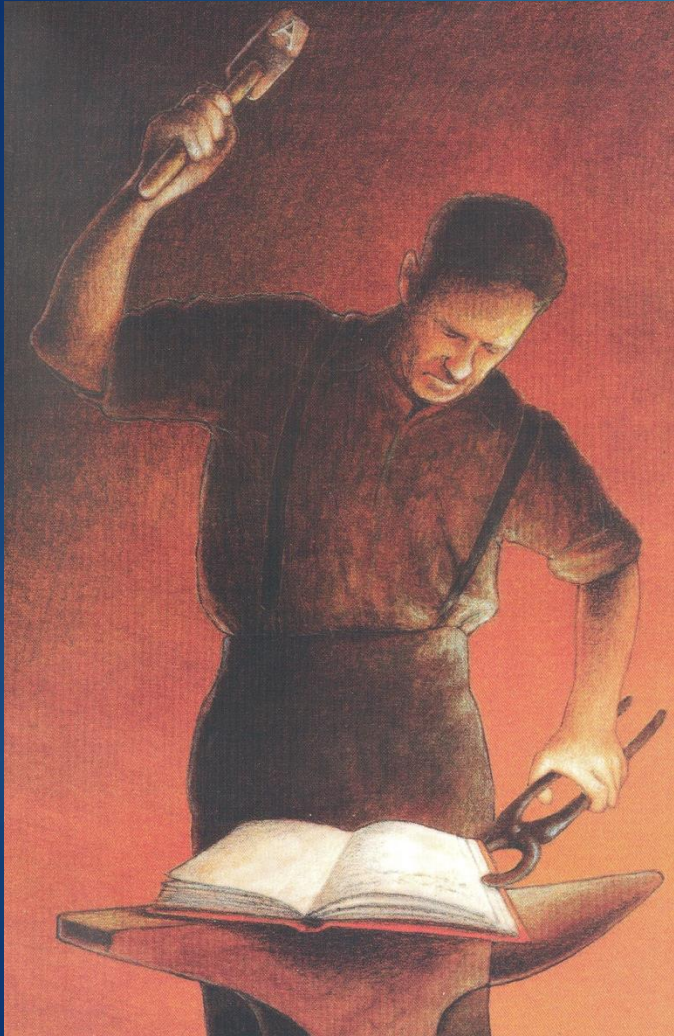
Precursory Studies to the Book of Revelation

REVIEW—LESSON 1

▶ HOW JESUS EXPLAINED THE OT SCRIPTURES

▶ **Luke 24:25-27, 44-47**

When the “Canon” was finalized—God superintended **the final form**, just as He did the words that we have in the text



In the Old Testament:

The Law
The Prophets
The Writings

In the New Testament:

Gospels
Acts
Epistles [Revelation the last]

WRITTEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD



Glory Lost



Glory Returns



Ezek. 1



Law
Prophets
Writings



Eph. 1:3

Gospels
Acts
Epistles



Gen. 1:1

Rev. 21:1

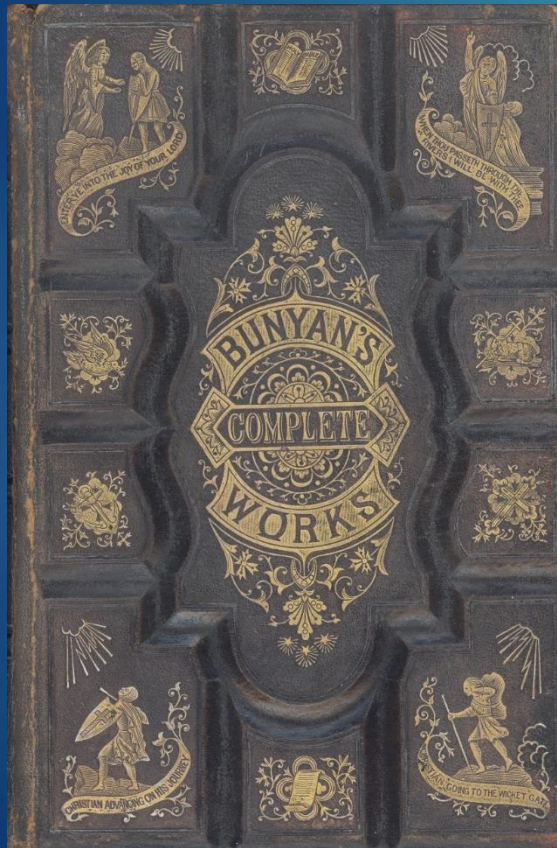
Book Ends

MOSES AND BUNYAN'S PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

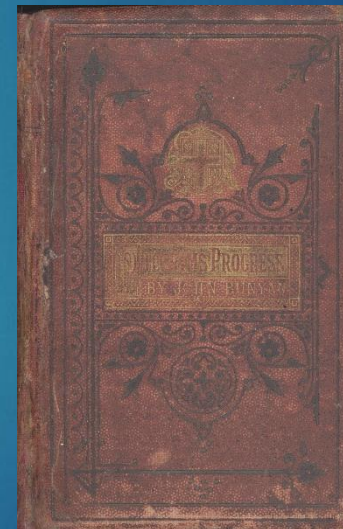
A Way to Help Us Visualize



John Bunyan

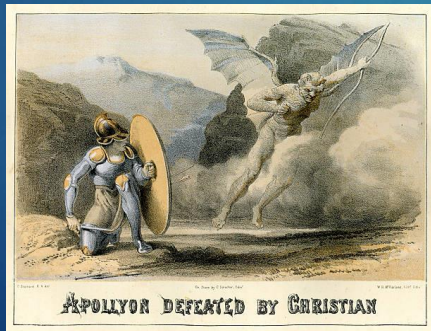
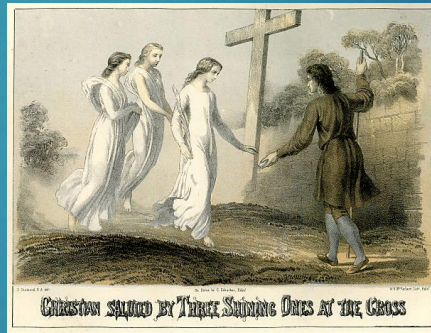
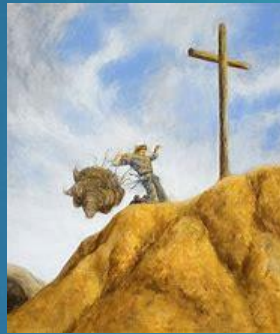
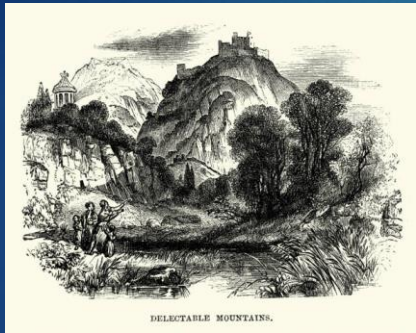
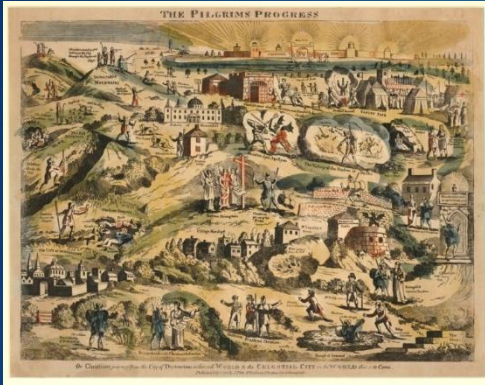


1874



1871

BUNYAN'S STORY



A COMPARISON



- ▶ Bunyan writes a book
- ▶ Moses writes 5 books
- ▶ Bunyan begins in the city of destruction
- ▶ Moses writes after 40 years in the wilderness of destruction
- ▶ Bunyan begins with Christian's despair
- ▶ Moses speaks of Israel's despair
- ▶ Bunyan points the way to the celestial city
- ▶ Moses points to the king of the celestial city as the way to the city
- ▶ Bunyan writes of the journey of Christian
- ▶ Moses writes of the journey of Israel

THE RED AND BLACK LINE OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY



- ▶ **The Red-Line—The Kings Highway**
- ▶ The NT calls it the Narrow Gate

- ▶ **The Black-Line—The way of Apollyon (destruction)**
- ▶ The NT calls it the Broad-way Leading to Destruction

- ▶ **The first bookend, the first H & E—The City of Destruction (from the Fall)**
- ▶ **The second bookend, the new H & E—The celestial city**

THE JOURNEY BEGINS IN THE PENTATEUCH [LAW]

With Moses

&

The Act that Changed the World

- ▶ Moses writes of his personal journey with the Lord and with Israel
 - ▶ **Beginning** in 1520 BC in Exodus—Deuteronomy
 - ▶ **Ending** in 1400 BC just outside the promised land
 - ▶ **A lifespan** of 120 years—Egypt, Desert, Wilderness

THE LAST 40 YEARS

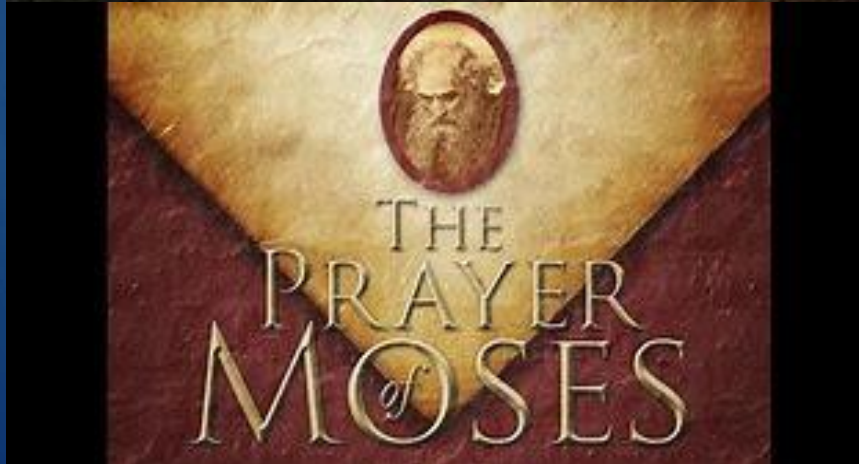
- ▶ An **eleven day journey** from Horeb (Sinai) by way of Seir to Kadesh-barnea (the southern border of the promised land)
- ▶ Turned into **a journey of 38+ years** (Deut. 1:1-3)
- ▶ Where even Moses was denied entrance to the promised land
- ▶ And a generation had died in the wilderness



THE BACKGROUND TO THE STORY

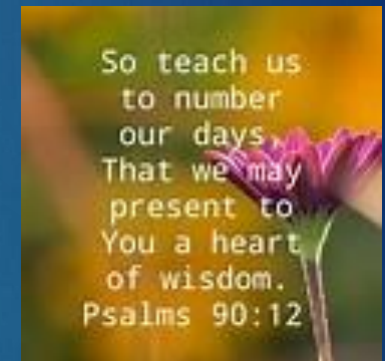


AFTER 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS



**Lord, Thou
hast been our
dwelling place
in all
generations.**

**Before the
mountains
were born, or
Thou didst
give birth to
the earth and
the world,
even from
everlasting to
everlasting,
Thou art God**



THE REASON A GENERATION DIED

Sin and rebellion



- ▶ **Num. 14:11**—How long will this nation spurn me? And how long will they not believe in Me
- ▶ **Num. 14:26-38** goes on to say:



26 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 **“How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me?** I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. 28 “Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; 29 **your corpses will fall in this wilderness,** even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. 30 ‘Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. 31 ‘Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected. 32 ‘But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. 33 **‘Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness,** and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness. 34 ‘According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, even forty years, and you will know My opposition. 35 ‘I, the Lord, have spoken, surely this I will do to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. **In this wilderness they shall be destroyed, and there they will die.’ ”** 36 As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, 37 **even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the Lord.** 38 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive out of those men who went to spy out the land (**cf. Heb. 6**)

THE REAL ISSUE!



- ▶ **Genesis 8:21**—God speaking to Noah just after the flood and Noah's sacrifice of a burnt offering

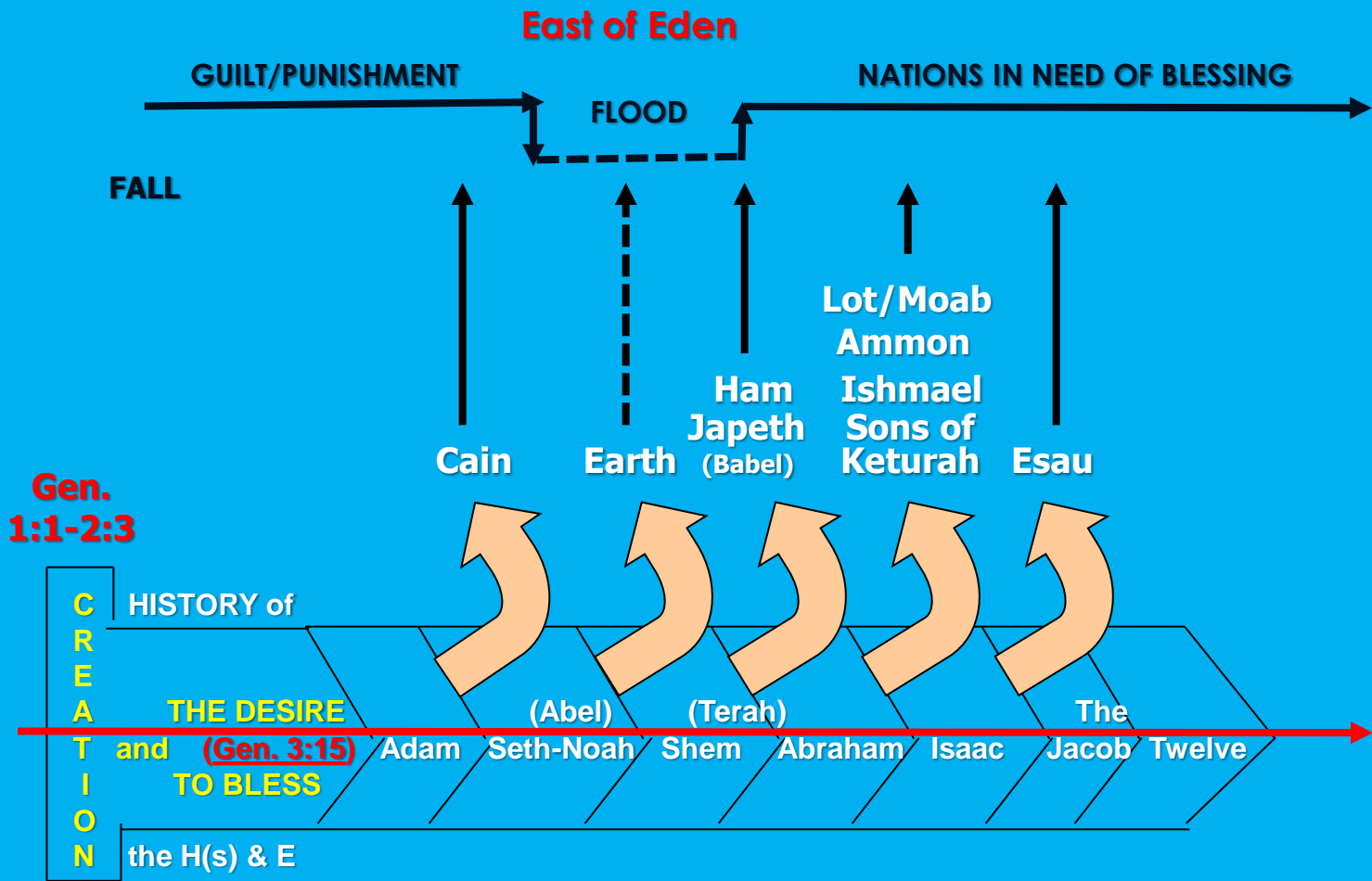
I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent/inclinations of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again smite every living thing, as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter and day and night shall not cease

SO MOSES IS WRITING:

To tell the next generation the ultimate answer
to:

- ▶ **How long will it be** before you return and are sorry for Thy servants (**Psa. 90:13f.**)
- ▶ **So Moses begins at creation**, because the source of the issue began with creation—**The Fall**
- ▶ This is how he explains **the conflict of the ages**

THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES



THE SOLUTION



Moses and the end of days—The Latter Days

- ▶ **Gen. 49:1, 8-12**—a ruler will come from Judah
- ▶ **Num. 22-24**—a king shall rule the nations
- ▶ **Deut. 31:28-29**—but you will be scattered because of the evil you will do in the latter days (cf. Deut. 4:25-30; Lev. 26:27-35)

GENESIS 49:1, 8-12

A Ruler will come forth from Judah

- ▶ At the center of these verses stands a ruler (the seed of the woman—**Gen. 3:15**)
- ▶ So, Jacob's last words become the occasion for a final statement of the book's major theme which is God's plan to restore the lost blessing of the heavens and earth through the seed of Abraham (**cf. Gen. 49:28** and the word bless used 3 times; **cf. Eph. 1:3**)
- ▶ **Verse one** tells us that Jacob is speaking about things in "the last days"
- ▶ This phrase will again be stated in **Num. 24:14-24** and **Deut. 31:29**; (**cf. Deut. 4:25-31, * 30**)



- ▶ In the list, the first three brothers are eliminated from carrying the line of the promised seed
- ▶ Judah will become the preeminent son to carry a royal line (**49:8-12**)—Joseph will still have the right of the firstborn's blessings (**1 Chron. 5:1-2**)
- ▶ Judah will become a victorious warrior to whom the brothers will bow down (**8; cf. Gen. 37:10**—the dream of Joseph)
- ▶ He is pictured as a young lion sleeping after having devoured his prey, followed by the statement, "who shall rouse him" (**9; cf. Num. 24:14-24**)
- ▶ **Verse 10** then fills out the picture with the description of a young warrior king who holds the scepter and the ruler's staff



- ▶ Judah will hold such a status until “one comes to whom it truly belongs” (Shiloh—an untranslated form of the Hebrew expression meaning “one to whom it belongs”)
- ▶ To this one shall be the obedience of the nations, i.e., a kingship that extends beyond the boundaries of Canaan (**10b; see Psa. 2:8; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 5:5, 9**)
- ▶ **Verses 11 and 12** picture the reign of this one
- ▶ The picture is that of plenitude, the wine, the symbol of prosperity and blessing, will be so abundant that wine will be as commonplace as water (**cf. Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 19:11, 13, 15**)
- ▶ His eyes are darker than wine and his teeth whiter than milk—i.e., joy and abundance

NUMBERS 23-24

The King shall Rule the Nations (Balaam Oracles—we are here)

- ▶ Balak, (Moab) out of fear hires Balaam to curse Israel (**cf. Gen. 12:3**)
- ▶ The account parallels many of the early events in the book of Exodus, i.e., the future is going to be like the past
- ▶ I.e., what God did for Israel in the past is seen as type of what he will do for then in the future through the promised king (**Num. 23:22 and 24:7-8 with 1 Chron. 4:42-43**, Agag/Gog; first plural, 23:22; then singular, 24:7-8)
- ▶ **Numbers 24:9** has reference to **Gen. 49:9**



ISRAEL VS THE KING

Israel's past prefigures the King's future experience

Israel (23:18-24)

- ▶ God brings **them** out of Egypt
- ▶ God is for **them** like the horns of an ox
- ▶ **Israel** is like a lion

King (24:7-9)

- God brings **Him** out of Egypt
- God is for **Him** like the horns of an ox
- The **King** is like a lion

- ▶ **Num. 24:17** draws heavily on the crushing of the serpent's head in **Gen. 3:15**
- ▶ Balaam says, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but he is not near (is this David and or Messiah; **see 24:23-24** that it is Messiah)
- ▶ The defeat of Moab is extended to cover the defeat of "Ashur and *Eber" probably Babylon at the hands of the Kittim (possibly the Romans)
- ▶ In the end, the Kittim will come to ruin (**24:24**)
- ▶ Kittim is also associated in the bible with nations such as Magog, Tubal, Media and Meshech, nations figured in the latter days in **Ezek. 38:2-3 and Dan. 11:30**, where Kittim is referenced in the last great battle (the Table of Nations, **Gen. 10**)
- ▶ *Eber is not the Eber in the table of Nations

DEUTERONOMY 31:28-29

The Scattering of Israel amongst the Nations

- ▶ Moses was commanded to write a song as a witness to the nation of Israel in the last days
- ▶ Moses knows that after his death Israel will act corruptly and therefore evil will befall them in the last days
- ▶ This judgment is apocalyptic in scope
- ▶ **Deut. 4:25-31, *30** tells us the evil that will befall them **in the last days** in that **they will be scattered** amongst the nations, **but if or when** they seek the Lord, He will have compassion upon them



- ▶ **Lev. 26:27-33, 40-45** has already said these same things
- ▶ The curses for disobedience are found in **Deut. 27-28** along with the blessings
- ▶ **Deut. 30:1-8** then references their scattering, their repentance when God will circumcise their heart (**Jer. 31:31**), and adds that God will then inflict all these curses on their enemies
- ▶ The question that is left open is, where does this conquering king fit in light of the dispersion?

IN SUMMARY

- ▶ Read the Song of Moses in **Deut. 32:1-47**; then read his blessings in **Deut. 33:1-29**; summarize these passages
- ▶ **Deut. 34:10** closes with the one who will be like Moses, who knows God face to face, that He has not yet come (**Deut. 18:14-15**)
- ▶ He is the one who will gather a second time the people out from among the nations
- ▶ So, at the end of the Pentateuch we are awaiting the coming of a king who will return blessing and righteousness to the earth
- ▶ Ruth is the bridge between Genesis and 1 Samuel
 - ▶ Ruth, a Moabitess
 - ▶ Born in the time of the judges, i.e., the Book of Judges (Samuel is the last judge)
 - ▶ Marries Boaz, the great grandfather of David (**Ruth 4:18-22**; cf. **Gen. 38:1-30**)