

# Israel's Blessed Hope

A 3-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®  
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

## About This Series

In this three-lesson series, Keith Blades examines the phenomenal events surrounding the Lord's physical return to Israel at the end of Daniel's seventieth week — what Keith calls Israel's "blessed hope." Moving beyond conventional surveys of prophecy, Keith focuses on unique, often-overlooked physical and spiritual phenomena: the catastrophic shaking of the earth, the opening of the pit in the land of Idumea, the spiritual war against Satan and his dragons in the waters surrounding the land of Israel, and the Lord's pre-mapped battle route recorded in the Book of the Wars of the LORD. Grounded throughout in right division, the series keeps these events firmly within Israel's prophetic program, setting them in vivid contrast to the Body of Christ's blessed hope of the rapture.



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## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	The physical phenomena attending the Lord's return: the earth reeling, the powers of heaven shaken, and the sun used to break the high arm of the adversary
Lesson 2	The opening of the pit in Idumea, three kingdom-age testimonies to God's judgment, and the ten-nation confederacy the Lord will defeat
Lesson 3	Satan and his dragons in the waters surrounding Israel, the Lord's pre-mapped battle route from the Red Sea to the land of Israel, and the two arks in Israel's program

## Lesson Summaries

L1	<h3>The Shaking of the Earth</h3> <p><i>Physical Phenomena Preceding Israel's Redemption</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The term "blessed hope" technically applies to the Body of Christ (Titus 2 — the rapture); Israel's corresponding hope is the Lord's physical return at the end of the tribulation to vanquish their enemies and establish the kingdom</li><li>• Zechariah 14:1–5: the Lord's feet stand on the Mount of Olives at His return, it cleaves in two creating an escape route for the remnant, and He fights</li></ul>
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against all nations gathered to destroy Jerusalem

- Luke 21:25–28: the remnant is told to look up when they see the signs — “your redemption draweth nigh” — while the sea and waves roar and men’s hearts fail for fear of things coming on the earth

#### **Physical Phenomena: The Shaking of the Earth**

- Isaiah 2, 13, and 24 progressively reveal the severity: the earth will reel to and fro like a drunkard, be “clean dissolved,” and removed out of her place — the entire globe physically displaced by God’s wrath
- Isaiah 24:19–20: “The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard” — produced because the transgression thereof is heavy upon it

#### **The Mechanism: The Powers of Heaven Shaken**

- Job 38:12–15: God commands the “dayspring” (the sun) to take hold of the ends of the earth and shake the wicked out of it — breaking the high arm of the adversary (Satan)
  - The sun was created to replace the original light-bearer (Satan); it is divinely purposed for this final act of judgment against the usurper
- Job 38:31–33: the ordinances of heaven — Pleiades, Orion, Mazzaroth, Arcturus — have influences upon the earth; when these are bound or loosed, catastrophic effects follow on creation
- The book of Job teaches tribulation saints about God’s plan to repossess the earth from the adversary — Job himself is a type of the tribulation saint (James 5:8–11)

L2

### **The Pit, the Enemies, and the Book of the Wars** *God’s Vengeance and the Rehearsal of Battle*

- Deuteronomy 32:22 (Song of Moses): a fire kindled in God’s anger shall burn to the lowest hell, consuming the earth and setting the foundations of the mountains ablaze — a literal geographical event at a specific location south of Israel

#### **The Opening of the Pit in Idumea**

- Isaiah 34:5–10: the land of Idumea (Edom/Bozrah, south of Israel) becomes burning pitch that shall not be quenched night nor day — the fire burns down and opens the pit itself
- Isaiah 66:22–24: throughout the kingdom age, people coming to worship will pass this site and look upon the carcasses of transgressors — a perpetual testimony to God’s judgment

#### **Three Kingdom-Age Testimonies to God’s Judgment**

- (1) The open pit in Idumea; (2) the cemetery of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38–39); (3) the habitation of devils and cage of unclean spirits in Babylon (Revelation 18:2) — nations entering the land pass all three on the kingdom highway system

#### **The Lord Returns as a Mighty Man of War**

- Isaiah 42:13: the LORD goes forth as a mighty man, stirring up jealousy like a man of war, roaring and prevailing against His enemies
- Psalm 83:1–8: the ten-nation confederacy of the man of sin — Edom, Ishmaelites, Moab, Hagarenes, Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, Philistines, Tyre, and Assur — all nations immediately surrounding the land of Israel; their war

against Israel is ultimately against God Himself

- All ten nations are descended from Abraham's or Lot's family lines; not one European nation is in this confederacy

### The Book of the Wars of the LORD

- Numbers 21:10–15: Israel's wilderness journey was a divine rehearsal — the Lord took them to every future battle site, each marked by a body of water; the book of the wars of the LORD was already written before they arrived
- The battles are not merely nation-against-nation — they involve God routing Satan's spiritual military infrastructure: foul spirits (dragons) dwelling in the bodies of water surrounding the land of Israel

### The Route of the Wars of the LORD *Leviathan, the Dragons, and the Lord's Battle March*

- Job 38:8–11: God broke up His "decreed place" (the land of Israel) for the sea at the flood; the bodies of water surrounding Israel are the result — strategic, not incidental

### Satan and His Dragons in the Waters

- Isaiah 27:1: at the Lord's return He will punish Leviathan the piercing serpent, the dragon that is in the sea — Satan himself took up residence in the Red Sea, directly over the opening to the pit
- Psalm 74:12–15: God will break the heads of the dragons in the waters surrounding the land — Satan assigned foul spirits to each body of water as spiritual guardians opposing God's possession of the land
  - Drying up the waters is both a military and spiritual act — routing the foul spirits from their posts and herding them to Babylon, where they are imprisoned (Revelation 18:2)

### The Lord's Pre-Mapped Battle Route

- Numbers 10:33–36 and Psalm 68:1–4: every time Israel moved during the wilderness journey, Moses declared "Rise up, LORD, let thine enemies be scattered" — a prophetic declaration that Israel was rehearsing the wars of the LORD
- Habakkuk 3: a vision of the Lord's battle route — coming from Teman/Edom in the south (Isaiah 63:1), fighting through the designated battle sites, drying up rivers and seas, and marching into the land
  - Habakkuk 3:11: the sun and moon stand still at His command — repeating the miracle at Gibeon (Joshua 10)

### Two Arks in Israel's Program

- There were two arks: the golden ark behind the veil (representing God's covenant presence) and the ark Moses made of Shittim wood, which led the camp through the wilderness and now resides in the third heaven
- Revelation 11:15–19 and 15:5: the ark is seen in the opened temple in heaven just before the Lord's return — He takes the book of the wars of the LORD, mounts the white horse (Revelation 19), and executes the wars exactly as written
- Joshua 4: Joshua's crossing of the Jordan is a type; memorial stones laid in the midst of the river mark the exact spot where the Lord Jesus Christ will enter the land of Israel

L3

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### Israel's Blessed Hope vs. The Body of Christ's Blessed Hope

The term “blessed hope” in Titus 2 refers to the rapture of the Body of Christ — our confident expectation of the Lord's return for us before the tribulation. Israel's corresponding hope is the Lord's physical return at the end of Daniel's seventieth week to vanquish their enemies and establish the kingdom. These are two distinct events belonging to two distinct programs, and this series focuses entirely on Israel's hope within their prophetic program. Believers today are delivered from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

### Literal Physical Phenomena — Not Symbolism

The earth-shaking, the opening of the pit, the drying up of rivers, and the Lord's battle route are all literal, geographical, physical events — not symbols or metaphors. Keith consistently grounds these in specific Scripture passages (Isaiah 24, Deuteronomy 32, Habakkuk 3, Numbers 21) to demonstrate that God has planned out each detail precisely and will execute them exactly as written. The earth will physically reel like a drunkard; the fire in Idumea will literally not be quenched night nor day.

### Satan's Organized Spiritual Opposition and the Waters

The bodies of water surrounding the land of Israel are not geographically incidental — they are the result of God breaking up His decreed place at the flood, and they became strategic dwelling places for Satan (Leviathan in the Red Sea) and his foul spirits (dragons in the surrounding waters). The Lord's battle route targets these specific locations to rout Satan's spiritual military infrastructure, not merely the human armies of the nations. When He dries up the waters, the foul spirits have nowhere to run and are herded to Babylon for imprisonment.

### The Two Arks and the Book of the Wars of the LORD

There are two distinct arks in Israel's program. The golden ark behind the veil represented God's covenant presence among His people. The ark Moses made of Shittim wood led the camp through the wilderness — each journey to a new location was a rehearsal of the Lord's future battle route. That ark now resides in the third heaven, containing the book of the wars of the LORD. At His return, the Lord takes that book, mounts the white horse (Revelation 19), and fights the wars exactly as written and rehearsed.

### Israel's Wilderness Journey as a Prophetic Rehearsal

Israel's wilderness journey from Egypt to Canaan was not a random series of stops — it was a divinely directed rehearsal of the Lord's return route. Every time the ark moved, Moses declared “Rise up, LORD, let thine enemies be scattered” (Numbers 10:35; Psalm 68:1) — a prophetic declaration that the nation was being taken to future battle sites. Each battlefield was chosen in advance and recorded in the book of the wars of the LORD, and each site is marked by a body of water where a foul spirit is stationed. When the Lord returns, He will fight those battles at those exact locations.

## Key Scripture References

<b>Zechariah 14:1–5</b>	The Lord's feet stand on the Mount of Olives; it cleaves in two; He fights against all nations gathered against Jerusalem
<b>Luke 21:25–28</b>	Signs in sun, moon, and stars; sea and waves roaring; men's hearts failing; "your redemption draweth nigh" — the remnant's blessed hope
<b>Isaiah 24:17–20</b>	The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, utterly broken down and removed out of her place by God's wrath
<b>Job 38:12–15</b>	God commands the dayspring (sun) to take hold of the ends of the earth, shake the wicked out of it, and break the high arm of the adversary
<b>Job 38:31–33</b>	The ordinances of heaven — Pleiades, Orion, Mazzaroth, Arcturus — and their influences on the earth; when bound or loosed, catastrophic effects follow
<b>James 5:8–11</b>	Job as a type of the tribulation saint; "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" — the remnant's patience modeled on Job's
<b>Deuteronomy 32:22</b>	Fire kindled in God's anger burns to the lowest hell; sets fire to the foundations of the mountains — the Song of Moses
<b>Isaiah 34:5–10</b>	The Lord's sacrifice in Bozrah; the land of Idumea becomes burning pitch, never quenched — for the controversy of Zion
<b>Isaiah 66:22–24</b>	In the kingdom, all flesh comes to worship and views the carcasses of transgressors at the open pit — a perpetual testimony
<b>Revelation 18:2</b>	Babylon becomes a habitation of devils and a cage of every foul spirit and unclean bird — three kingdom-age testimonies to God's judgment
<b>Isaiah 42:13</b>	The LORD goes forth as a mighty man of war, stirring up jealousy, roaring and prevailing against His enemies
<b>Psalms 83:1–8</b>	The ten-nation confederacy of the man of sin listed: all nations immediately surrounding Israel; their hatred is ultimately against God
<b>Numbers 21:10–15</b>	Israel's wilderness route as rehearsal; the book of the wars of the LORD cited — battle sites chosen in advance, each marked by water
<b>Job 38:8–11</b>	God broke up His decreed place for the sea at the flood — the origin of the bodies of water surrounding the land of Israel
<b>Isaiah 27:1</b>	The LORD will punish Leviathan the dragon in the sea at His return — Satan's residence in the Red Sea identified
<b>Psalms 74:12–15</b>	God breaks the heads of the dragons in the waters surrounding the land — the spiritual powers posted to guard the land against God's people
<b>Numbers 10:33–36</b>	The ark going before the camp; Moses' prophetic declaration "Rise up, LORD" over every move — a rehearsal of the wars of the LORD
<b>Psalms 68:1–4</b>	"Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered" — David's appeal for the fulfillment of Moses' declaration at the Lord's return

<b>Habakkuk 3</b>	The vision of the Lord's full battle route: from Teman/Edom, through the battle sites, drying up rivers and the sea, entering the land
<b>Isaiah 63:1</b>	"Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?" — the remnant sees the Lord approaching from the south
<b>Revelation 11:15–19</b>	The ark seen in the opened temple in heaven, preparatory to the Lord's return — He takes the book of the wars of the LORD
<b>Joshua 4</b>	Joshua's crossing of the Jordan as a type; memorial stones in the river mark the exact spot where the Lord Jesus Christ will enter the land

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