

Audio Teaching Sermon Message #54 The Ark that is Petra

[A Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:19]

I'd like to welcome everybody to the next installment of **DWJD's audio teaching sermon series**. It is a great day in the LORD—as is every day for those true believers who are followers and disciples of **Jesus Christ**. I am Pastor Jefferson, and this is audio **sermon #54**. In the last sermon, we were discussing the **120-year** interval God spoke of back in Noah's day and were comparing it to an exact same interval, of which we are in the midst of now, here in our modern age. This latest interval began with Arthur Balfour's receipt of Lord Rothchild's letter in **1917**, notifying him of what was needed to bring about the creation of a **National Jewish Homeland**. This interval ends upon the rapture of the modern church, precisely 120 years from these inaugural instructions. Just as in the days of Noah, all life on the planet, to include this time—the creatures within the oceans, will be exterminated. God's Word will be fulfilled at that time.

[B Willingness Implies Action 1:19 thru 2:46]

The ark Noah built provided *physical* security for him and his family. But they each had to be willing participants to enter the ark. Had they not walked up the gangway, God would not have then somehow magically placed them inside. It will be the same way with the Hebrew people of this age and the future ark that will be **Petra**. They will have to make personal effort to travel from wherever they are, to somehow reach the lost city. Today, **Petra** is **'the remnants of a long-dead settlement.'** It is now an archaeological site located within the borders of Jordan. Its location was once a thriving capital, carved into beautiful rose-colored rock with exquisite detail, surrounded by large mountains and red colored canyons. Scenes from **Petra** have appeared in many popular culture films such as *"Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade"*, *"The Mummy Returns"* and *"Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,"* to name but a few. While it has become a popular tourist site, the vast majority of the city lies unexplored, as it is located almost exclusively underground.

[C A Very Large Series of Caves 2:46 thru 4:17]

It is theorized that most of city lies inside a vast collection of natural caves, the size and scope of which is huge. Theologians have speculated that this labyrinth of caverns could easily house over 3 million people. The caves provide natural air conditioning in the summer and heat in the winter, keeping the temperature inside a comfortable 68 degrees year-round. Petra will provide physical security for the Hebrew people during the last half

of the Tribulation. The Bible does tell us that the Hebrews will be *nourished* while they are there, but nothing specific is told as to how God will accomplish this. But as in the case of Noah's ark, there will certainly be unseen miracles happening all around. There are 5 mentions of **Petra** in Scripture—with 3 found in the **OT** and 2 in the **New**. The first one can be found in **2 Kings 14:7**. It reads, ¹ "He [speaking of King Amaziah—one of the kings of Judah] *killed 10,000 Edomites* ² *in the Valley of Salt,* ³ *and took Sela* [Petra] *in battle* ⁴ *and called its name* (yok-theh-ALE) *Joktheel,* ⁵ *which it is to this very day."*

[**D** The Reality of a Stolen Birthright 4:17 thru 5:57]

The **Edomites** were a tribe which originated from **Esau**—the elder twin to **Jacob**. If you recall, **Isaac** was the miracle offspring of **Abraham** and **Sarah**. In turn, **Isaac's** wife **Rebecca**, gave birth to twins—**Esau** and **Jacob**. Esau was born a few minutes prior to Jacob and was thus the legitimate heir. But **Jacob**, his mom's favorite son, stole the birthright from Esau. He did it with help from his mother, by posing as his brother and fooling Isaac, his elderly and failing father who was on death's doorstep, into giving him his blessing. What **2 Kings 14:7** shows us, is that **Petra** was forcibly taken from the **Edomites**, just as was their birthright. Then, King **Amaziah** changed its name to **yok-theh-ALE**—in the same way **Jacob** had his name changed to **Israel**. The word in **T-3**, [1] **yok-theh-ALE** means '**the LORD subdues, and God is the One who is able.**' All victory belongs to God Almighty and is not a product of human might. **Petra** means '**rock**' and is indicative of God's strength. It is a symbol which brings veneration to our Heavenly Father. **Veneration** means '**a feeling or act of great respect, admiration or devotion.**'

[**E** Amaziah was God's Agent 5:57 thru 7:41]

Back in the day of Noah, Satan attempted to seal humanity's fate by stealing all the women, thus trying to prevent the birth of a genetically pure savior. God saved his remnant by placing them on an ark, away from the reach of the evil one. This is the same purpose for the lost city of **Petra**. The reason for even needing to provide a place like Petra is because the **Antichrist** is going to attempt to repeat his crime of theft—this time by attempting to steal another's identity—that being from **Jesus Christ**—our risen LORD and Savior. In the coming years, Satan will once more attempt to thwart the cause of Christ, this time by attempting to steal both His identity and the worship due Him. This is yet another attempt at derailing man's salvation. The Bible says he will start with the Hebrew people and then quickly move on to those other children of God—those followers

of Christ who were left-behind after the rapture. God, by providing **Petra**—a synonym for Noah’s ark—as a future place of security for the Jews, is doing just that for His chosen people, who first birthed and then rejected His Son. **Noah** built an ark. **King Amaziah** secured another future ark. It’s important to note that both arks were obtained via the hands of God’s men, acting in the role of God’s agent.

[**F** Tribute Lambs are Hebrew People 7:41 thru 9:24]

So, we see in **T-5** that God secured Petra as a future place of *refuge*. The term “to this day” is a big clue to understanding that its status as such remains unchanged—even up to the present time. But how then do we know that He will be sending His people there? Great Question! We find the answer in **Isaiah 16:1**. Open your Bible and follow along with me as I read from out of the Hebrew. ¹ “Send the tribute lambs ² of the ruler of the land ³ to Sela (that’s Petra) ⁴ in the uninhabited wilderness ⁵ located in the mountains ⁶ from the Daughter Zion.” This verse is a prophecy. In **T-1**, the words **tribute lambs** appears as just one word in *Hebrew* and it is [1] *kar*. This is the only time this word appears in Scripture, and it means ‘**something which indicates the worth, virtue or effectiveness of the One in question.**’ In this case the “*One in question*” is **Yahweh**. The verse is talking about God’s chosen people—the **Hebrews**. Despite Satan’s many attempts throughout history at snuffing them out, the Bible says His people will instead persevere forever. **T-2** informs us that these lambs belong to the ruler of the land—which we know is God Almighty. **T-3** uses the original name of **Petra**—that being *seh-LAH*.

[**G** Meaning of the Phrase ‘Daughter Zion’ 9:24 thru 10:48]

The Hebrews will be sent to *seh-LAH*, where the locale is described in **T-4** as “an uninhabited wilderness.” And make no mistake about it, Petra in Jordan is essentially an uninhabited desert. Other than those folks who provide support to visiting tourists, no one really lives there. If tourism were to suddenly fade away, so would all the support people. Other than a few very small villages and a visitor’s center, it’s truly an uninhabited wasteland—and has been so for over **2 millennia**. And **T-5** tells us it is located within the rugged mountains of Jordan. To access the city, requires about a 2.7 mile walk from the visitor’s center, terminating through a mile long twisty & very narrow canyon having what feels like at least a hundred turns. Look now at **T-6**. It uses the phrase, “from the Daughter Zion.” The term **Daughter Zion** is a poetic Biblical phrase which ‘**personifies the city of Jerusalem & by extension its inhabitants—the people of Israel.**’ As you will

learn, this verse is a prophecy of what is going to happen in the rapidly approaching years.

[**H** God Closed the Door on Evil 10:48 thru 12:12]

After climbing into the ark, we studied last time in **Gen 7:4** that Noah and his family spent **7 days** aboard. The rain did not begin until after the passing of these 7 days. The Bible doesn't give us any details as to why He loaded them up a week early, only that He did. I refer to this week as literally "*the proverbial time before the storm.*" If you recall from the last audio sermon, it was God Himself who closed the door on the ark. As I've said many times, there are NO idle words in Scripture. God doesn't add words into His manuscript without good reason. So, we must look elsewhere to determine what this week represents. When we look at the midpoint of the Tribulation, we discover our answer. God didn't just close the door on the ark. No, He closed the door on evil. After the flood, Satan and his demonic followers were prohibited from inhabiting the physical realm anywhere on or near the earth. They were locked out and were limited to the spiritual realm only—which they still currently are.

[**I** God Allows His Witnesses to Die 12:12 thru 13:41]

When we study the details of the coming Tribulation, we read in the **11th chapter of Revelation** where the Antichrist is permitted to kill the 2 witnesses God will put on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. If you recall, their job will be to protect the Hebrew Temple from anyone who might seek to enter or harm it in any way. [**Rev 11:3** thru **7**] When their testimony is finished, God will then open the door once more and allow evil to inhabit the physical spaces around the earth. We see this in **verse 7** where it says, "*The beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.*" With their death, it begins a period of what I refer to as "**Unholy Week.**" It will be an eight-day period which will mirror the last 8 days of the life of Jesus. The difference is that while Jesus worked for good, the Antichrist will only work for evil. Upon their deaths, this will allow the Antichrist to gain access to the Temple Mount and the Temple itself. This will allow the forces of evil to begin their reign of pure terror on the earth—the last half of what the Bible describes as "**The Great Tribulation.**"

[**J** A Holy Signal From God 13:41 thru 15:00]

Now, I am quickly summarizing these events because our focus today is on the significance of the *timing* surrounding Noah's ark and how it compares to the modern ark of Petra. Don't be concerned as all of these prophetic events will be covered in depth in

future sermons. So, following the death of God’s 2 witnesses, the Antichrist will place a **large idol** in the Holy of Holies. The Bible describes this event as “***the Abomination of desolation.***” This is the signal for the Hebrews to begin their flight to Petra. At the end of the 7 days following the LORD opening the door allowing evil beings to once again inhabit the physical realm, the Antichrist will enter the Holy of Holies in the Hebrew Temple and declare himself to be God. This begins what the Bible describes as a “***war in heaven.***” It will last for **40 days** and result in the defeat of Satan and his followers, upon which time Satan will be cast out of heaven and down to the earth. This is the moment when God unleashed the rain upon the earth in Noah’s time.

[**K** **Wakeup Calls for Jews and Christians** **15:00 thru 16:13**]

The **7 days** Noah spent inside the ark were followed by **40 days** and **40 nights** of what must have been the most intense rain imaginable. The reason for God’s mention of both days and nights is so that folks understood they were literal 24-hour periods. The rain lasted 40 full days, just as the war in heaven will also last 40 full days. And, the Hebrew people who are aware of the Biblical significance of these events, will begin making a mad dash for **Petra**. So, it will be for the true disciples of Christ, who will clearly understand the significance of where they are on God’s prophetic timeline. The killing of the 2 witnesses and the placement of an idol in the Holy of Holies are intended to be huge wakeup calls to both Christians and Jews alike. For the Jews, they know a new holocaust is fast coming their way. And for the Christians, they will understand that the arrival of the Bridegroom is at long last right at the door.

[**L** **Daniel Prophesied the Coming End** **16:13 thru 17:46**]

Jesus spoke of this event in the chapter we’ve been focused on for the last dozen sermons. Open your Bible now to **Matthew 24:15 & 16**. They read, “*Therefore, when you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand). Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.*” Jesus is more or less making a direct quote from the prophet Daniel. Everything about the time period of the Tribulation is mentioned in a single verse. Flip over now to **Daniel 9:27**. It says, “*And he (the Antichrist) will make a firm covenant with the many (the nation of Israel) for one week, (7-year peace treaty) but in the middle of the week (the midpoint of the Tribulation) he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; (by killing the 2 witnesses) and on the wing of abominations will come*

one who makes desolate, (Satan getting tossed out of Heaven down to earth) *even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”* (the Second coming of Christ). And Daniel wrote that 600 years prior to the birth of Jesus.

[**M** Those Who will Never See Satan 17:46 thru 19:02]

As we've discussed, Noah likely spent the **3 ½ years** prior to God closing the door on loading up the ark as God brought the animals to him. The Hebrews beginning to move to Petra will possibly begin once the Anti-Christ is revealed with the signing of the peace treaty—also a period of **3 ½ years** before God this time opens the door to evil. They will then be forced to get serious about leaving for Petra when the “**Abomination of desolation**” is revealed. This is because all hell will literally break loose once Satan gets tossed out of heaven. Jesus will likewise remove His church at the end of the 40-day war in Heaven when Satan gets evicted. I like to tell people that we will literally pass him on our way up when he's on his way down. Theologically, there's no way God will allow his people to be exposed to the physical wrath of Satan once the door to evil is opened back up. In the same way, it makes no sense for us to see the devil up in heaven after God brings us up there.

[**Z** Some Final Thoughts 19:02 thru 20:29]

The point to this sermon is that God always protects His people. Noah and his family boarded an ark which physically protected them from those who were targeted by **Yahweh** for destruction. In the same way, **Petra** will protect those Hebrews from the wrath of Satan following his removal from Heaven. From that point onwards, Satan knows his days are numbered and few and he will strike out with unimaginable wrath on those who refuse to worship him. Try as the Bible states that he will, Satan will be unable to pierce the protective shield that God will place around Petra. But woe to the folks located on outside the ark. They will be destroyed, just as those who failed to gain entry into Noah's ark. Everyone outside the ark will perish. Those refusing the mark will die at the hands of the forces of evil. Everyone bearing it who's left at the end, will be killed by Jesus at His 2nd Coming. Hey, our time is up for today. But just know that we will be speaking of all this and much more in the coming audio sermons. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**