

ISRAEL

For 2000 years Israel had not been a nation. Now, “suddenly,” they are one again! They even live in the same land that they used to. Why? Does God want them there? Is He responsible – or not? Jeremiah 16:15 says, “... I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.”

“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.” (Amos 9:14, 15)

Why? Because God has in mind for them a special purpose. Over 3,000 years ago, God made a very special promise. He made it to Abraham, but it is a promise which affects every member of the human race who has ever lived. *“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.* (Gen. 22:18)

This promise was repeated to Isaac, and to Jacob. In fact, God “sware by himself” that this promise would be fulfilled. (Heb. 6:13) Paul tells us that *“for the fathers’ sakes,”* that is, because of this promise to the patriarchs of Israel, God would again favor Israel. God calls them back to their homeland that they may be the first to receive the blessings of the earthly kingdom designed to subsequently bless all the nations. From Israel, under their restored leaders, the blessings will flow to all mankind. The prophet foretold, *“... as ye were a curse among the heathen... O house of Israel... ye shall be a blessing... In those days... ten men shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, we will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”* (Zech. 8:13, 23)

How can God use a non-Christian people?

A good point. Peter said of Jesus, *“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12) It would seem a little inconsistent, then, to bless the world through a non-Christian nation. In fact, Israel was “left desolate” (Matt. 23:38) for their unbelief. But were they cast off forever?

“God forbid!” is Paul’s emphatic reply in Romans, chapter 11. He makes three basic points in his discussion:

(1) Because of unbelief, Israel was set aside from chief favor. They lost the opportunity, as a nation, of becoming heirs with Christ in his heavenly kingdom. They were blinded to their Messiah (verses 7-10, 17, 20, 25).

(2) Because Israel was set aside, the call

to the Christian way was extended to the Gentiles (verses 11, 17-21, 24, 28).

(3) When the body of Christ is complete, Israel will have her blindness removed (they’ll recognize their Messiah!), and having their favor restored, God will make a “new covenant” with them (verses 25-27, 30-32).

Blindness removed?

Question: After nearly 2,000 years, how will Israel’s blindness suddenly be lifted?

Answer: a miraculous deliverance. Joel says. *“... In that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat (Israel) and will plead with them there for my people . . .”* (Joel 3:1, 2) Zechariah continues, and tells us just what will happen when God “pleads” for His people. *“For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, the houses rifled . . . Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.”* (Zechariah 11:2, 3)

When Israel is all but defeated, humbled under her oppressors, then the Lord will intervene. And Israel, recognizing their miraculous deliverance, will see with the eye of their understanding that it is their Messiah that delivered them. *“... And they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him . . .”* (Zech. 12:10) as they realize that the one who saved them was the one they had rejected for so long.

The whole work of regathering Israel is summarized by the prophet Ezekiel: *“And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered... with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face... And I will cause you to pass under the rod (of trouble), and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant... and I will purge*

out from among you the rebels . . . and ye shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezekiel 20:34-38)

For the purpose of instruction and leadership from the time of their deliverance, God promised to *“restore (their) judges as at the first . . .”* (Isaiah 1:26; see also Micah 5:5; Psalm 49:14; Daniel 12:13) At that time, the arrangements of the earthly kingdom shall be set up. Look, for instance, what that “new covenant” will mean. *“This shall be the covenant that I will make . . . I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; (I) will be their God, and they shall be my people . . . all shall know me . . . I will remember their sin no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:34)

And those prophets who foretold Israel’s rebirth – notice what they say will happen at that time:

“... in that day . . . the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord . . .” (Joel 3:18)

“... living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; . . . And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.” (Zech. 14:8, 9)

“... the house of the Lord shall be established . . . and people shall flow into it. . . the word of the Lord (will come) from Jerusalem.” (Micah 4:1, 2)

A beautiful kingdom.

A kingdom where blind eyes shall see, the lame shall leap, and *“parched ground shall become a pool.”* (Isa. 35:5-7) But most of mankind are lying in graves. A beautiful kingdom – can it only be for the few that remain? God’s love is much more abundant. The prison doors of death shall be opened, *“and the ransomed of the Lord shall return . . . sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”* (Isa. 35:10; 61:1) As Paul said in speaking of Israel, *“What shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?”* (Romans 11:15)

ISRAEL IN HISTORY AND PROPHECY

Israel. The nation with the most famous history in the world. The nation known for leaders like Moses, David, and Solomon. The nation whose laws have been the template of decency and justice. The nation destroyed and given to others. The nation whose people were scattered, yet never lost their identity. The nation whose name was changed to Palestine, but still is Israel

today. The nation who sought after God. The nation who has become a nation again.

Israel. Who would ever think that this nation of a few million would ever come back again? The plots of her enemies have been foiled by time. How come? God's plans are to revive her and rebuild her. It will be the "come back" sensation of history. It has already started. While many are interested in her history, relatively few realize her future. The Scriptures abound with information, the significance of which is unfolding before our very eyes. Egypt,

Russia, Israel. What's going on? More important, what's going to result?

***Israel in History and Prophecy*,** a 37 page booklet, is an interesting treatise answering this very question. Scriptures from both Old and New Testaments hold the answer for those who seek. The home-coming of the Jew has been the outstanding sign that God is doing something. Send for the free booklet, ***Israel in History and Prophecy*.**