



Israel in the last days

Part Three

In 1946 after almost 2000 years of exile the nation of Israel was reborn. Indeed Biblical prophecy was once more fulfilled.

(Isaiah 66: 8-9)" 'Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Do I not bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?' says the Lord. 'Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?' says your God."

Israel is once more in the land given to them by a covenant promise sealed in blood. God Himself had sworn an oath that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would inherit the land of Israel as an everlasting inheritance.

(Genesis 17: 7-8) "I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you: and I will be their God."

There are many Old Testament prophecies given concerning the restoration of Israel in the last days. Three Major Prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel all foretold this event. However there are prophecies concerning Israel that have yet to be fulfilled. These events are also

foretold in the Bible. There are four major prophecies yet to be fulfilled where Israel is concerned.

A spiritual Revival in Israel just before Jesus returns.

(Joel 2:28-32) "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls. "

On the Day of Pentecost the apostle Peter quoted these verses after the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Jews gathered in Jerusalem to hear what Peter had to say. As a result 3000 were born again through faith in Jesus their Messiah. After that the gospel spread throughout the known world and even beyond the frontiers of the Roman Empire. Peter said that this was, "to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Joel." However in the Greek text it says, "This is like that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel."

The Jewish way of understanding prophecy is pattern. In other words Peter was saying that what had happened on the Day of Pentecost was like what would happen to Israel in the Last Days. On the Day of Pentecost there was no, wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke and the sun was not turned to darkness nor the moon to blood. These cosmic events were to happen in the future and clearly at the end of this age according to other passages in the Bible.

The First Century Gospel preaching Church was Jewish and the Last Century Gospel Preaching Church will also be Jewish. While the Church will still be present on the earth at that time and preaching the gospel the Spirit of God will fall upon Israel in a special way and those empowered by the Holy Spirit will be the means through which multitudes will be saved. The Gospel will go forth to the Gentiles around about and Israel will again be "a light to lighten the Gentiles."

This is the clear teaching of Joel chapter two. Then in chapter three of Joel you have the nations coming against Jerusalem.

(Joel 3:1-2) "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land."

So when you look at Joel chapters two and three the spiritual revival in Israel happens in the Last Days just before Jesus returns again. In the book of Revelation we see a 144,000 sealed out of the 12 tribes of Israel and they are specifically a Jewish remnant.

The prophet Ezekiel foretold this

revival that would occur after the Jewish people had been restored to the Land of Israel. In that day what happened on the Day of Pentecost in the book of Acts will happen again.

(Ezek 36: 24-32) " 'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices."

The account of this revival continues in Ezekiel chapter 37:1-14. Then in Chapter 38-39 you have the nations attacking Jerusalem. The revival in Israel and the subsequent attack by the nations is given to us in Joel chapters two and three. Both Ezekiel and Joel are describing the same events. The prophet Zechariah also foretold the spiritual restoration of Israel in the last days.

(Zech 12: 10-14 13:1-2) "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad

Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives, and all the rest of the clans and their wives. “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.”

When Joseph’s wayward brothers finally had a revelation that he was their long lost brother they had betrayed they wept bitterly and rejoiced at the same time as they embraced each other unashamedly. Such will be the joy and weeping of the remnant in Israel when they encounter their Messiah!

The text says that, *“They will look on me, the one they have pierced,*” however the text can also be translated in this way, *“They will look to me, the one they have pierced.”* So this prophecy has a double fulfilment. When the armies surround Jerusalem and after the devastation by the Antichrist the remnant will “look to” the one they have pierced i.e., to say they will look to Him for deliverance from the Antichrist and the armies surrounding Jerusalem. However, it also means that the remnant will, “look on Him” when He comes in the clouds to stand again on the Mount of Olives. At that time the Antichrist will be killed, the armies of the nations will be destroyed and Jesus will commence His reign from Jerusalem. (Revelation 19 & 20) From that time forth the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea! Now we need to look at the second prophecy yet to be fulfilled and we have already touched on this but will now look at it in more detail.

All nations will attack Jerusalem in the Last Days.

(Zech 14:1-2) “A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.”

(Jer 30:3-7) “The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess,’ says the LORD.” These are the words the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah: “This is what the LORD says: “ ‘Cries of fear are heard—terror, not peace. Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.”

Today when you look at the situation on the Middle –East all the nations are turning against Israel. While it looks like the UN the US, Russia and the EU are trying to make peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors they will eventually turn against the Jewish people. God’s word has said this will happen. In fact any covenant that Israel seeks to make with the surrounding nations will be a covenant of death and not life. Isaiah the prophet said it would happen.

(Isaiah 28:14-15) “Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem. You boast, “We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place.”

This covenant will be a “covenant of death” because they will rely upon man instead of the Lord for deliverance. Ultimately those whom they trusted to protect them will betray them and then the Antichrist will unleash on them a holocaust far worse than the one perpetuated on them by Adolph Hitler in the 1940’s. Zechariah the prophet also foretold that this would happen.

Remember that the Jewish people chose Barabbas a wild beast of a man over the Lord Jesus the Lamb of God bringing on themselves terrible consequences. They called down a curse on themselves and on their children unleashing centuries of persecution, devastation and death.

(Zech 13:7-9) “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the LORD Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land,” declares the LORD, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

When this happens Israel will experience what their Messiah experienced at the hands of evil men and for them it will be a betrayal and a crucifixion but in the end it will mean a glorious resurrection for all those who call upon the name of the Lord to be saved! This will be a period of trouble unequalled in history that will start in Jerusalem but engulf the whole world and only the return of Jesus will stop the world from total annihilation. *(Matthew 24:22)*

In Ezekiel chapter thirty-eight God tells us who those nations will be that invade Israel and attack Jerusalem.

(Ezekiel 38:1-11) “The word of the LORD came to me “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you. “ ‘Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. “ ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people - all of them living without walls and without gates and bars.”

This covenant of death will bring a false peace to Israel and they will be taken unawares. The prophet Ezekiel actually tells us who those nations will be that will attack Jerusalem. Other nations will support them but these nations are not named. The ancient nations mentioned are countries that exist today. There are ten nations specifically mentioned.

Meshech, Tubal, Beth Togarmah *(Ezekiel 38:2-3,6 & 39:2)* today these

regions would be found in the land of Russia. Then there is Persia (38:5) Iran. Then there is Cush (38:5) the Sudan. Then there is Put (38:5) Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Then there is Lybia (38:5). The final region mentioned is Gomer (38:6) Germany, Spain and France.

When you look at these 10 kings or nations seven of them are Muslim countries. Three are associated with Christianity. These nations or regions were also part of the ancient Roman Empire. The Antichrist and his army will overthrow three of the ten kings according to the prophet Daniel. Could it be that the three countries mentioned are the ones associated with Christianity, Germany, France and Spain. The final scenario could well be that the Antichrist will resurrect the ancient kingdom of Babylon through a mighty Islamic empire that will dominate the globe. Could this be, *“the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lives?”*

The nations that will attack Jerusalem in the last days just before the return of Jesus will be predominantly Islamic countries. Today the Muslim world is waiting on the Mahdi their Messiah whom they believe will lead them to a global Islamic empire. Remember that the beast in Daniel begins with Ancient Babylon and the beast in Revelation ends with Babylon. Nimrod a major type of the Antichrist built Assyria and was the first ruler of Babylon and he sought to build a global empire through the tower of Babel.

However even though Jerusalem is ravaged and half of the city taken in exile the Jewish people will never be taken away again for the Lord will come to their rescue as He did for the Israelites when their backs were against the sea as they faced the army of the Egyptians. You can read about this attack on Israel in Ezekiel chapters 38-39.

When the armies look like that they will destroy Jerusalem and when the saints have almost been exterminated at the hands of the Antichrist the Lord Jesus will come again, catch up His saints, return with them and the holy angels to destroy the Antichrist and his armies and rescue the nation of Israel. Israel will also share in the victory of their Messiah.

(Zech 12:2-6) “I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness,” declares the LORD. “I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations. Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.’

“On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place. “The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem’s inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah. On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.”

(Zech 14:3-6,) “Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain mov-

ing north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones (Saints) with him."

(1 Thess 3:13) "May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. (Saints)

(12-15) "This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps."

(Joel 3:1-2,12-16) "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!" Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the

LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel."

This present age will end with the destruction of the Antichrist and his global armies at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to judge, to rule and to reign over the nations of the earth.

3. The Jewish people as a nation will recognize their Messiah at His Second Coming.

(Zechariah 12: 10-11a) "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great."

(14:3-4) "Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. "

After the devastation by the Antichrist when the armies of all the nations come against Jerusalem the Jewish people who have survived the holocaust at the hands of the Antichrist will be so exhausted that they will hardly have any strength to resist their oppressors. At that time strong men will be holding their stomachs with fear like women in labour pains. Their destruction as a people and nation will be imminent. Every nation on earth will have deserted them and the ones they trusted in will have betrayed them. They will be so exhausted as a nation that they will not even have the strength to repent. They will be so desperate for deliverance that they will look to the God of their Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to deliver them.

When all human strength, pride and hope have gone from them Jesus will return in great power and splendour to destroy those armies gathered against His brethren. At this time every Israeli alive will see Him whom they pierced and will weep and mourn over their long lost brother who had been crucified for them. The Lord Jesus Himself will be weeping with joy at His final reconciliation with His wayward brothers and sisters. At this time the Israelites will once more sing the victory song of Moses.

On that day Israel will be exulted above the nations and the Millennium will commence with The Lord Jesus reigning from Jerusalem. In that day all of the nations that have survived the Second Coming of Christ will be subject to Him who will rule over them with a rod of Iron. By the way one of the promises to the faithful believers who have overcome the world, the flesh and the devil is that they, along with Jesus, will also rule the nations with a rod of Iron. (Revelation 2:26-27)

In those days every nation will have to submit to the authority of Jesus and those nations who resist will suffer the consequences.

(Zechariah 14:6-18) "On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime—a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light. n On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and His name the only name The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. It

will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure. "This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—great quantities of gold and silver and clothing. A similar plague will strike the horses and mules, the camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps. Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain. If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague He inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar.

Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD Almighty."

Today the eyes of the whole world are focused on Jerusalem and Israel as the super powers strive for mastery and the Arab nations strive for the destruction of the Jewish state. Israel is a nation once again and the very place from where they had been scattered 2000 years ago is the

same place today where they have been gathered again.

(Hosea 1:10) "“Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

4. All Israel will be Saved!

(Rom 11:25-27) “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

God has not finished with His people Israel as many in the Church are telling us today. For 2000 years the Lord has permitted a veil over their hearts to prevent them from seeing their Messiah but now He is removing the veil. Today multi-

tudes of Jewish people all around the world are coming to faith in their Messiah.

More than ever it is important that Israeli's hear the good news about Jesus their Messiah their 'Passover Lamb' who has been sacrificed to atone for their sins. In the last days just before Jesus comes back the Jewish people will have only one other group of people that will support them and that group will be born again Gentile believers who understand God's purposes for Israel.

As the Time of Jacob's Trouble draws near for Israel and ultimately the whole world the support of Jewish missions and evangelism must be the first priority of the Church. The apostle Paul understood God's order for global evangelism.

(Romans 1:16) “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION

" For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ "

