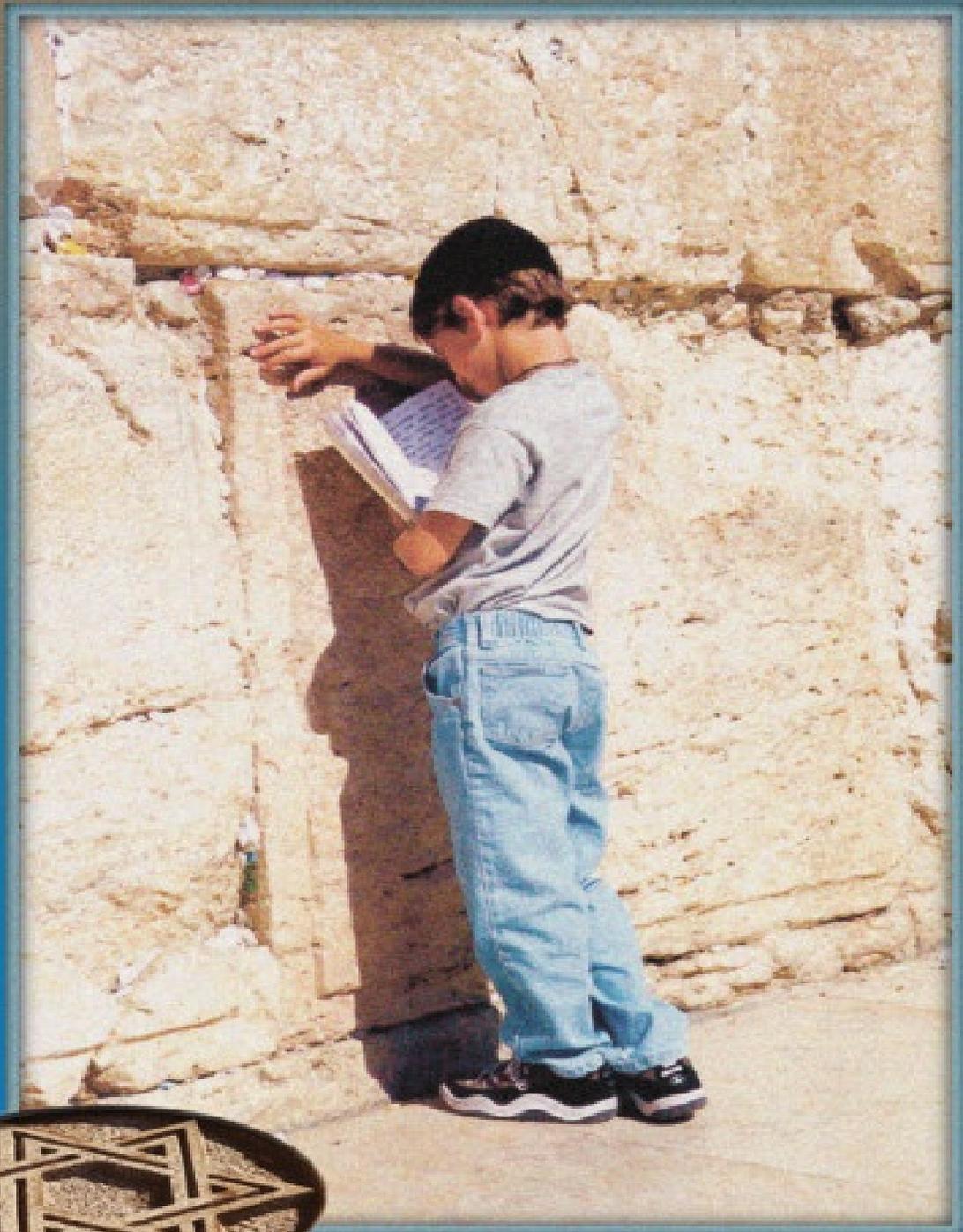
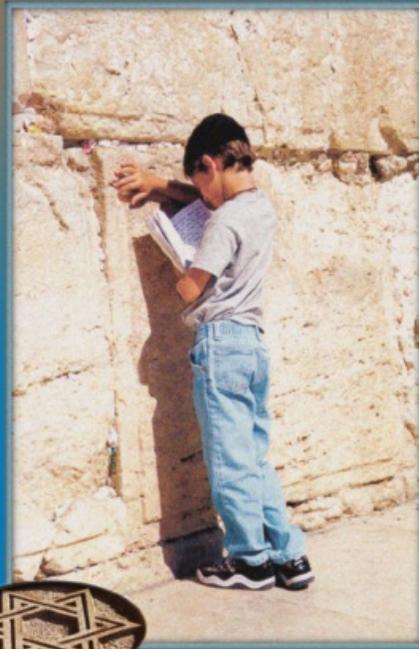


Will **ISRAEL**
Survive the End Times?



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Will ISRAEL Survive the End Times?

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written...” Romans 11:26

From Christians to Christians about the Future of Israel and the Jewish People . . .

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Will Israel Survive the End Times?

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written...” Romans 11:26

What does the future hold for Israel? Will “all Israel” really “be saved” as the Apostle Paul taught? Or will Israel and the vast majority of Jews be lost forever? Will the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—who nurtured Israel for several millennia—ultimately let Israel be destroyed? After bringing back “My people” to the promised Land, will it not be theirs forever? How can Israel ever be a “light to the Gentiles” since Jews are generally considered a “curse among the nations” where they have been scattered? Will more than just a few thousand Jews survive the End Times? (Isaiah 49:6; Zechariah 8:13)



In the End Times of this Age, as the Prophet Zechariah states, Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies from all nations. The city is to be “taken.” (Zechariah 14:1,2) The scene sounds like the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. But it is not! Then it was only Rome which destroyed Jerusalem. This prophecy says “all nations will be gathered against Jerusalem to battle.” The Prophet Ezekiel (38 & 39) also describes this invasion from the North “in the later years” when Israel is dwelling “safely” in the Land. The prophecies sound frightening!



REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY VS. GOD’S PROMISES

Almost all Christian interpretations of prophecy present a very gloomy vision of Israel’s future. Furthermore, these Christians claim that all the blessings promised in the Hebrew Scriptures no longer belong to Israel, but have passed to the Christian Church! Why? Largely because they have adopted “replacement theology” which leaves Israel—and thus all Jews—permanently cast off from God’s favor.

Certainly just before his crucifixion, Jesus said, “Your house is left unto you desolate.” (Matthew 23:38) But Apostle Paul also taught that when the Church would be completed, “All Israel shall be saved” (Romans 11:26). Now as we near the End of the Christian Age, God is calling His ancient people home in anticipation of removing their “blindness” (Romans 11:25). Christians throughout the Age, however, have not generally understood Apostle Paul’s words to the Church that “through your mercy, they [Israel] also may obtain mercy” (Romans 11:31).

Early in the Christian Era prominent church “fathers” began to describe the Jews in extremely negative terms. Justin Martyr (A.D. 100 – 165) presented the concept that Christians inherited the promises to Israel when the Jewish nation rejected Jesus as the Messiah. He reasoned that since the Christian faith is like the faith of Abraham, Christians will even inherit the Holy Land as Abraham’s “true children” instead of the Jews.

“Replacement theology” taught by Augustine (A.D. 354–430) also embraced the concept that the “House of Israel” was permanently cast off. As a result, this teaching became official Church doctrine. Remarkably, though, Augustine urged Christians to keep the Jews alive! Why? Their existence would validate the Christian claim to the authenticity of the *whole* Bible. During the same period John Chrysostom (A.D. 339 – c. 407) advocated, “Because... [the Jews]...killed Christ—there is no mercy—slay them.” Chrysostom’s vicious views led directly to violent persecution in Antioch (Syria). Another result of the “replacement theology” was the erroneous charge against the Jews by Christians falsely claiming that the Jews were responsible for gross “ritual murders.” One need not wonder—with such lies being spread—that the destruction of the Jewish people had become a part of Christian theology! (In modern times Arab Muslims have adopted these false anti-Semitic charges and have accused Jews of ritual murders of Arabs and others.)



"At the Wailing Wall"

Upon such a base of false teachings, the Christian Church grew more and more intolerant of the Jews. The Apostle Paul's teaching that Israel would **not** be permanently cast off was ignored by the "official" Church. Even though, Paul taught, "all Israel **shall** be saved." Their blindness would only continue "until the fulness of the Gentiles come in" [i.e., the full number of Gentiles come into the Church] (Romans 11:25). In other words, Israel is still God's people! Therefore, the ominous prophecies of trouble to come upon Israel are only part of the story. God also promised that He will fight for His People and His Land as in the ancient "day of battle." (Zechariah 14:3) And God said He will "have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name...for I have poured out, my spirit upon the house of Israel." (Ezekiel 39:25-29)



Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, Israel

Actually there are many wonderful promises yet to be fulfilled to Israel as a people. The scriptural reality is that God's Plan for Israel's future is beautiful and inspiring. In fact, Christians have a responsibility in the End Times to "comfort" and encourage Israel "that her iniquity is pardoned." (Isaiah 40:1,2) In a world of escalating anti-Semitism, faithful Christians should show sincere and enthusiastic support for Jews and Israel.

WILL ONLY 1/3 OF LIVING JEWS BE SAVED?

Although some Christians assert that they do not subscribe to "replacement theology," they unfortunately have a bottom-line view which is equally gloomy. These Christians wrongly assert that 144,000 Jews (Revelation 7:4) will become believers in the Lord Jesus and serve as preachers to a "post rapture population" of earth during a "7-year tribulation." Their success will be limited, saving only 1/3 of the Jews and 1/4 of the Gentiles. Also, if carefully questioned about the billions not responding during the "tribulation"—they must admit that they believe the rest will be lost forever to the flames of the "lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15) Such a view would also leave everyone who died without belief in Jesus Christ—including Holocaust victims—to suffer eternally. Thus, most Christians who are "Pre-Millennialists" (expecting Christ's return before the Millennium) teach an End Time Armageddon with permanent devastation. They offer no hope in Christ's Kingdom for anyone who dies in Armageddon including all unbelieving Jews and Gentiles alike.

But is that really God's Plan for the children of Israel? or mankind? God Himself promised that He would gather Israel to *His Land* and plant them there with His "whole heart." (Jeremiah 32:41) Why then would God allow such destruction—since He promised they would "never again...be uprooted from the Land I have given them"? (Amos 9:15 niv)

Still others, the "Post-Millennialists," expect they will actually first convert the world—fulfilling the command of Jesus to "occupy" until he returns. (Luke 19:13) These Post-Millennialists expect to gain control and rule the Earth before Jesus' second advent. They seek to establish "Theonomy"—Biblical Law—to govern the US and the world. Their hope and prospects for Israel are not brighter than their view and prospect for the all of mankind.



Pro-Palestinian demonstration in Paris, June, 2010

ANTI-SEMITISM—AND THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM

Replacement theology's child, unfortunately, is anti-Semitism. Sadly, for Jews living in the lands of strangers where they were scattered almost 2,000 years ago, anti-Semitism is as alive as ever. More recently, anti-Jewish sentiment is visibly linked with anti-Israel sentiment. In spite of everything positive the Jewish people have contributed to science, medicine, etc. [See Appendix A], the media has thrived instead on newly born lies spread by those who blame Israel in almost every breath.

The accusation that Jews control the media is also a misconception. Media reporters, in fact, repeatedly orchestrate incidents and then misuse photo journalism to portray Israel as the villain—not the victim of Middle East horrors. This anti-Israel new anti-Semitism can be observed in the actions of the United Nations Non-Alligned Members (NAMs) who are prone to condemn Israel and who are unwilling to reprimand Hamas. [See Appendix B] For well over a decade Hamas' deliberate firing of missiles, mortars and rockets at civilian populations in Israel drew not one single resolution to condemn their terrorism.

Muslim-inspired protests even in the West attach Nazi imagery to the Jews and Israel. Ironically, in the eyes of world media, Fatah (P.A.), Hamas and Hezbollah have become viewed merely as organizations of "freedom fighters." Meanwhile the Jewish victims of terrorism are falsely portrayed as Nazi monsters.

The Tunisian spark that lit the flames of revolt in early 2011 throughout the Middle East spread quickly to Israel's "moderate" neighbor Egypt. Israel's tenuous "peace treaties" with both Egypt and Jordan immediately appeared endangered. With increasing unrest across the Middle East, the Muslim Brotherhood along with Hamas called for Egypt's border with Gaza to be opened—and a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The only supposed solution to all the instability of the region—even to the European Union fearful of oil shortages—is to get Israel to give more concessions to their alleged "peace partners" of the P. A.



Pro-Palestinian demonstration in Paris, June, 2010

Europe itself is fast moving toward being a Moslem entity, thought by some to be called "Eurabia." The current (outspoken) Islamic presence in Europe is largely due to immigration and population growth. Remarkably, Libya's Muammar al-Gaddafi once said, "There are signs that Allah will grant victory to Islam in Europe without swords, without guns, without conquest. We don't need terrorists, we don't need homicide bombers. The 50 plus million Muslims [in Europe] will turn it into a Muslim continent within a few decades." If that prediction proves true, considering the human rights record of Islamic nations—Europe with the new face of *Sharia* (Islamic) Law—will be inhospitable for Jews and Christians alike.



Visitors Praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

In any case, a huge spike has occurred in the number of anti-Semitic incidents throughout Europe and the world. Similarly, violence in France in 2005 by “youths” saw hundreds of autos torched nightly. (The politically correct term “youths” disguised the ethno-religious identity of Muslim youths.) Sporadic attacks against Jews have been launched against synagogues, Jewish centers, cemeteries and Holocaust memorials. Jewish children who merely wish to walk safely to school need special protection. And, as might be expected, the more observant Jews wearing identifiable head coverings are targeted more regularly.

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR ISRAEL?

Is there any hope for the Jewish people in a world of latent as well as boldly open anti-Semitic hostility? How realistic are God’s promises not only for Israel—but the whole world of mankind? Can there be real hope for Israel to be a blessing? Zechariah, the Prophet, anticipates our concern, *“And it will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.”* (Zechariah 8:13 NAS)



Jerusalem's Golden Gate

LIVING IN MESSIANIC TIMES

Consulting with an Orthodox rabbi, one might be surprised to hear him say that we are living in “Messianic times.” But surprisingly, he would also probably share his belief that the End Time trouble would be climaxed with the attack by “Gog of Magog” against Israel. Why? He would well understand that prophecy indicates such an attack would inflict much suffering. And he might also remind us that “all nations” will come up against Jerusalem. (Zechariah 14:1-3) But, his faith would expect the Messiah to finally deliver Israel. After all, Ezekiel prophesies that God will intervene. Israel will be saved from the attack of “Gog of Magog” and “all nations” who come against Jerusalem. Therefore, many Rabbis and Jewish people are still hoping to be “a light to the Gentiles.” (Isaiah 49:6)

But International sympathy is diminishing for Israel’s right to the Biblical Land promised to her fathers—her home for millennia. Israel is learning a hard lesson. Israel really cannot depend on anyone else but the “God of Israel.” (Exodus 5:1; Luke 1:68) The danger intensifies as Israel’s secular leadership believes it must fall in line with the policies, wisdom and assistance of would-be friends in order to survive. But finally, she will realize that “all her *lovers* have forgotten her.” (Jeremiah 30:14) Ultimately, Israel will survive. Its Messianic government will be headed by “princes,” the resurrected faithful, worthy “fathers” of old. (Psalm 45:16; Hebrews 11)



Panorama of the landscape of the Izrael Valley, Israel

PROMISE TO ABRAHAM TO BLESS ALL

The original promise to father Abraham was not for a Canaan in heaven—but a Land of Promise on Earth. God literally showed Abraham the Land which he would some day receive as an everlasting possession:

*"Lift up now thine eyes and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for **all the land which thou seest**, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. [An intimation of a then far distant period, allowing ample time for such a multiplication of his seed.] Arise, **walk through the land**, in the length of it, and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee."* (Genesis 13:14-17)

*"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, **the land wherein thou art a stranger—all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession.**"* (Genesis 17:8)

However, Stephen declared, Abraham had not yet "so much as to set his foot" on his promised "inheritance." (Acts 7:5) But God's purpose in promising to make a great nation through Abraham was to eventually "bless all the families of the earth." Sadly, his Jewish descendants are falsely accused of seeking instead to rule the world! Actually, God's intention, repeated to Isaac and Jacob—and then to Israel as a nation—is to establish them in the Land and make them the benefactors of all peoples.

*"And thy seed [Jacob's seed] shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and **in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**"* (Genesis 28:14)

A CHOSEN PEOPLE—WITH RESPONSIBILITY

Yes, God chose Israel from among all the families of the earth. But with that favor came heavy responsibility, chastening and punishment.

"You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities." (Amos 3:2)

After the nation of Israel was delivered from the slavery of Egypt, they wandered forty hard years in the wilderness before entering the Land of Promise. God then used Israel to rid the Land of the idolatrous nations that sacrificed even their own children to their idols. Just as God Himself destroyed Sodom for their own "good" (Ezekiel 16:50), He also commanded the Canaanite nations to be destroyed (Exodus 13:11; Joshua 3:10)—making possible their later recovery by resurrection from degradation in the Messianic Kingdom.

But even most Bible-reading believers are unaware of the full import of the unfavorable comparison of Judah to Sodom made by the LORD. As bad as Sodom was, the LORD accused Judah of greater sins because of greater responsibility! But no longer will they be "sisters" in crime. Ezekiel finally explains that Judah will be like a mother to Sodom with a "New Covenant." (Jeremiah 31:31) Sodom and even the Canaanites will be blessed in the resurrection!

*"Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her **daughters** had arrogance, abundant food, and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.... Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me.... Then you [Judah] will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters...and I will give them [Sodom and Samaria] to you as **daughters**, but not because of your [Old Law] covenant. Thus I will establish My covenant [a New Covenant] with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD...."* (Ezekiel 16:49,50,61,62 NAS)

NEW COVENANT WITH JUDAH AND ISRAEL

"My covenant," the "New Covenant," is an "Everlasting Covenant" and it is specifically promised to be made with the house of Judah and Israel. It is a covenant yet to be made. When everyone on this earth will "all know ME," then this New Everlasting Covenant will be in force. (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14)

*"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make **a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah**: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the*

house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and **write it in their hearts**; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

“And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.” (Jeremiah 32:40)

Thus after Israel’s End Time troubles are over, all the peoples of the earth (even Sodom and Gomorah) will be resurrected and will become “daughters” to Israel under the New Covenant. This New Covenant will have “a better” Mediator than Moses (Hebrews 8:6). That new Mediator will be the Messiah—the Christ. All the families of the earth will come to Israel to receive blessings (Zechariah 14:16-18) when the New Covenant is established and the Law of God is written “in their hearts.”



Temple of Solomon, circa B.C.1033

LIVING IN THE PROMISED LAND FOR MILLENNIA

God also promised Abraham all the Land of Israel to him and his descendants. The children of Israel dwelt there for more than fifteen hundred years before the Roman general Titus destroyed the Second Temple and caused the Great Diaspora. But even before the First Temple was built, Israel worshipped for over 400 years at the Tabernacle in Shiloh (Samaria). (Joshua 18:1) Furthermore, under Jewish kings, Jerusalem was the capital for almost 500 years. Samaria and Judea are now misnamed the “West Bank.” This new name strips away the Land’s ancient Jewish identity.

During the periods of the Judges and the Kings, Israel was often invaded and temporarily occupied. During those captivities, many were plucked up and carried to other lands. Because of unfaithfulness, God permitted strangers to waste their cities, drink the wine of their vineyards and eat the fruit of their gardens. But not until the Chaldeans of Babylon destroyed and burned the Temple and Jerusalem and took most of Jewish people in captivity to Babylon was the Land totally desolated.



Cyrus restoring the Vessels of the Temple

That desolation was to last seventy years. (2 Chronicles 36:19-23) Right on time, seventy years later Cyrus, the Persian king, decreed that the Jews could return to Jerusalem. Many faithful Jews did return and rebuild the Temple and the City itself. Chastened, Israel’s returning exiles no longer worshipped idols—and Israel dwelt in the Land as a national polity for nearly six hundred years more until A.D. 70.



Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv, Israel

Jesus, of course, was born in the Promised Land. His ministry was confined to the Children of Israel. Alas, only relatively few accepted Jesus. As a result of their rejection, Jesus proclaimed to Israel, “Your house is left unto you desolate.” But Jesus also said, “From now on you shall not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Matthew 23:38, 39) Very soon, less than forty years later, Jerusalem and the Second Temple were laid waste and desolated by Rome. In A.D. 135 under the command of Hadrian, Rome again suppressed a rebellion led by a false Messiah by the name of Bar Kokhba. Rome destroyed 985 towns and villages, slew over 500,000 men, causing even more to die of starvation and sold many more into slavery. Thus began the Great Diaspora. Jewish people became exiles wandering from country to country the world over—only allowed to return to Jerusalem on the Ninth of Av to mourn the destruction of The Temple. In spite of that devastation, a very small remnant remained in the Land through the last two millennia right up to the present. Though trodden down by Christians and Muslims, they clung to their promises—living in the Land of Israel. [See Appendix C]



Orthodox Jews going to the Wailing Wall for night time prayers

AFTER THE SCATTERING—THE REGATHERING

Even when God warned Israel that she would be scattered amongst all the nations, He also promised to gather her back to His land. In the Law He had warned her about the penalty for disobedience:

*“And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among **all the nations**, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and **gather thee from all the nations**, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.” (Deuteronomy 30:1-3)*

Furthermore, Ezekiel the Prophet, while in captivity in Babylon, assured his fellowcaptives several times of God’s promise to return them to the Land:

*“Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even **gather you** from the people, and assemble you **out of the countries** where ye have been scattered, **and I will give you the land of Israel.**” (Ezekiel 11:17)*



The Knesset's Menorah sculpture, Jerusalem, Israel

These promises for regathering Israel were not for the return from Babylon—but a return from “all the countries” at the End Times.

“And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out....I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.” (Ezekiel 20:34,41)

However, when “all men were in expectation” of the Messiah, Jesus the Messiah did come. But, at that time Israel’s expectation was that their Messiah would release them from the bondage of the Romans. They hoped that the Kingdom with its capital in Jerusalem would be established immediately. But the regathering and establishment of the Kingdom would only be centuries later—after the Great Diaspora—the great scattering during the Christian Gospel Age.



Swords into Plowshares Sculpture, United Nations, New York.

Photograph: David Paul Ohmer. Used by permission

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Isaiah 2:2-4)

RESTORING THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL

Jesus consistently taught about the coming Kingdom for which we pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10) This “Kingdom” was the theme of Jesus’ parables throughout his ministry. This Kingdom was the same prophesied by all the Prophets of Israel—a time when the nations will “beat their swords into plowshares.” In other words, instead of nations pouring their resources into military purposes—they will be diverted to agricultural and peaceful purposes, such as feeding the Earth’s billions! Only then, according to the Prophet Isaiah, will “all nations” come up to Jerusalem to learn about the “God of Jacob”—the God of Israel.

A critical question was asked by Jesus' disciples after his death and resurrection—just before he ascended to heaven. "When they therefore were come together...[they] asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6) Notice that Jesus did *not* say, *No!* I will not restore Israel's Kingdom—they just had me crucified! In his reply, Jesus only said:

"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." (Acts 1:7)

First Century Christians realized that Israel's long hoped-for Messianic Kingdom would not be established until Jesus' Second Advent. The Church began to understand that the purpose of the First Advent was for Jesus to first provide redemption (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14) for Adam and all his progeny. (1 Corinthians 15:22) Jesus' First Advent opened the "call" to follow him. (John 14:6) But only a remnant of Israel responded—so then this "call" was opened to the Gentiles. (John 1:11,12; Acts 13:46) At Jesus' Second Advent his followers would finally be gathered to him for the establishment of his Kingdom. (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Revelation 11:15)

The Apostle Paul explained very clearly that Israel as a nation would be "blinded" with "hardened" hearts—but only until the full number of the Gentile Church was completed. Paul explained that the "Deliverer"—the Christ Head and Body—would then turn "ungodliness" from Israel. Amazingly, the Apostle added that "all Israel will be saved." Can what Paul said be counted on? Are God's promises irrevocable — unchangeable? Yes, they are!

*"What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened [blinded]....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.' As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned; they are loved on account of the patriarchs [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob], for **God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.**"* (Romans 11:7, 25-29 NIV)



Panorama of the Jezreel Valley, Israel

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL IN THE END TIMES

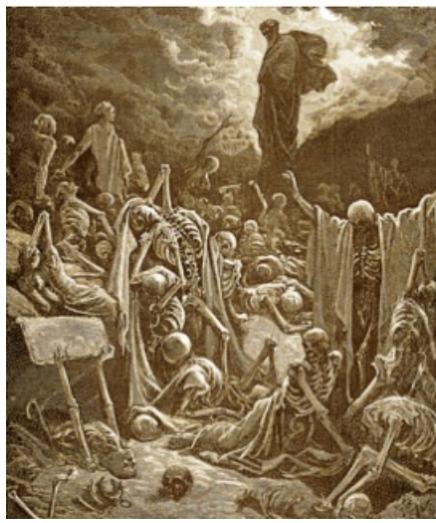
The re-establishment of Israel in the Land promised to their Patriarchs is one of the most important events to be expected in these End Times. Visible to the eyes of the whole world, it fully confirms the Prophets of Israel as true prophets. "Replacement Theology" is clearly mistaken when it asserts that all the prophesied blessings to Israel have passed to the Christian Church. Israel's inheritance in the Promised Land was never made as a spiritual promise to the patriarch Jacob. No heavenly Canaan was promised to the children of Israel—rather a Land of Promise on Earth. As promised to Jacob: "...the land wherein thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. In thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." (Genesis 28:13,14)

Today, God has already regathered Israel to a portion of the Land which He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God, through the Prophet Jeremiah, said that after He would plant them in the Land with His "whole heart," He would then make an "everlasting covenant" with them.

*"And I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and **I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.**"* (Jeremiah 32:40,41)

Despite all the current compromising of Israel's Land rights, the Prophet Amos affirms that Israel would be planted again—never to be pulled up:

*"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 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)



The Prophet Ezekiel's Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones

Dramatically, the Prophet Ezekiel (Chapter 37) was brought in vision to a “valley” to prophesy the regathering and rebirth of Israel. Ezekiel’s “Valley of Dry Bones” was a depiction of a nation that was virtually dead and scattered. After he prophesied—in amazement he saw the bones come together! Then “flesh” came upon the bones and eventually God’s Spirit (vs. 14) was breathed into them. That vision was an illustration of the promised gradual resurrection of the nation of Israel!

*“Then he said unto me, Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel**; behold, they say, **Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off....Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.**” (Ezekiel 37:11, 12)*

Today in fulfillment of that prophecy Israel is being resurrected—bone by bone, sinew by sinew, flesh upon flesh. Finally, the Spirit will be breathed into Israel.



Immigration Camp in Palestine

GATHERING BY “FISHERS” AND “HUNTERS”

When the Zionist movement began near the end of the Nineteenth Century, Jews emigrated from all quarters of the world. Providentially, a modern Hebrew language was reconstructed by Eliezer Ben Yehuda. That language provided a bonding and unifying effect on Jews coming from different countries. Strong ties of blood identity found in the wonderful promises of the *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible) drew many back to the Land promised to their fathers. First, God sent Zionist “fishers” to bring them back. God desired that the Jews respond to the “fishers,” and if enough had returned, the “hunters” would have been unnecessary. However, God foreknew that the “fishers” alone would not be able to accomplish His intended purpose.

*“But the LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. **Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them....**” (Jeremiah 16:15,16)*



Landscape Modern Jerusalem

In the late 1800s “hunters” persecuted Jews in Russia and Russian-ruled lands. Pogroms (organized massacres) of that era awakened more Jews to the bait of the “fishers.” Those who responded became the early settlers who laid the foundation for the State of Israel. But the response of the majority of Jews in Diaspora was feeble at best. God foresaw this lack of enthusiasm to return to the Land of Israel. The time became ripe for more “hunters.”

“After will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.” (Jeremiah 16:16)

Thus, the Czarist era “pogroms” in Russia awakened in Jews a desire to return to their ancestral Holy Land. Then the Nazi persecutions of the 1930s further drove many Jews out of Europe to migrate to the Holy Land. However, with the British controlling the Land—in cooperation with their Arab oil partners—allowed no open door for the Jews immigrate.

Nazi anti-Semitism ignited latent hatred of Jews across Europe. As WW II engulfed European countries, accelerated persecution progressed into an horrific genocide—the Holocaust. Just as in the days when the ancient Chaldeans afflicted the Israelites, the evil of the “hunters” intensified the “disaster.” The Prophet Zechariah explained how God was very angry with those nations who went beyond His intended designs to chasten His people.

“Thus says the LORD of hosts, I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster.” (Zechariah 1:14, 15 NAS)



“Flight from a Pogrom”, Zalman Kleinman, 2001

THE REGATHERING IN “TRAVAIL”

Jeremiah describes the regathering of Israel as a “travail.”

“For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah...and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers...they shall possess it...For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of Hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for,

Io, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.” (Jeremiah 30:3-11)



Haifa, Palestine. 1948 - Jewish immigrants, arriving in Haifa aboard a refugee ship, waving future flag of the state of Israel shortly before its official conception. Photo by Dmitri Kessel

Though Israel is regathered and reestablished in troublous times, Israel is the only nation that is promised survival at the end of the Age! Though the process of regathering is painful—nevertheless only Israel is called by God, “My People” and the Land of Israel, “My Land.” (Isaiah 11:11,12; Ezekiel 38:16; Joel 3:2) Why so painful? Why so much travail? Israel still has to learn not to depend upon supposed allies who only *seem* to support her. Again, Jeremiah called such allies “lovers” who will forget Israel. “All thy lovers have forgotten thee. (Jeremiah 30:14)

While the whole world will struggle with the End Times “travail” of trouble (1 Thessalonians 5:2,3), the result will be the disintegration of all the world’s nation states.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:2,3)

By contrast, Israel alone will continue to benefit from the lessons and corrections during her travail in order to be prepared for her role in the Messianic Kingdom. Israel will survive the End Times and enter into Christ’s Kingdom as the earthly seed of Abraham—the “sand of the sea shore”! (Genesis 22:17)



Olive Tree Branch

CHASTISED AND EXALTED

Christians should well understand the principle of chastening as applied to themselves. “Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son that He receiveth.” (Hebrews 12:6) So it should not surprise Christians that Israel has been chastened in order to be prepared to be a channel of blessing to the whole world. Almighty God has not abandoned Israel. He will “comfort” them and bring upon them all the “good” he has promised.

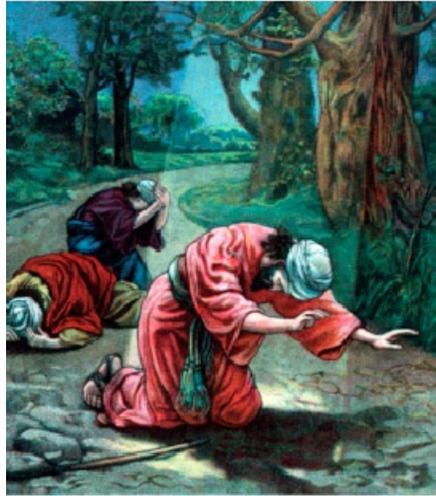
“For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.” (Isaiah 51:3)

“For thus saith the LORD; ‘Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.’” (Jeremiah 32:42)

ISRAEL PROVOKED TO JEALOUSY

Israel's chastening is well documented prophetically even by Moses. In one of his last sermons to the Children of Israel recorded in Deuteronomy, Moses related the LORD's prophetic warning. Israel was essentially warned that if they would not keep the Laws of the LORD, He would provoke them to be "jealous."

"I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation..." (Deuteronomy 32:19)



Saul's Conversion on the Road to Damascus

Apostle Paul quotes Deuteronomy in Romans 10:19 to explain the change that had then occurred in the relationship between God and Israel. The "middle wall of partition" (Ephesians 2:14) separating Israel from Gentiles was broken down and the Gentiles through Christ now could have access to the LORD God—and benefits they never before had.

But Paul who was commissioned to preach to the Gentiles deeply loved his kinsmen of Israel. As he wrote to the First Century Church at Rome, he told them how he could wish "to be accursed and cut off from Christ" for his brethren's sake.

"I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ [Messiah] for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises..." (Romans 9:3,4)

What motivated such a concern and love for Israel? Paul was a staunch believer from the day of his personal revelation of Christ on the Road to Damascus. His commission to bear the name of Jesus before "Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel" was always in his heart. Yes, Jesus would show Paul "how great things he must suffer for my [Jesus'] name's sake" (Acts 9:16) at the hands of the Gentiles—as well as his Jewish brethren.

As mentioned in Romans, Chapter 11, Paul explained that although Israel's rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, Israel's being received back into favor would mean the long-awaited resurrection of the dead! So, in fact, Israel's future prosperity actually holds similar brightness and hope for the whole world.

"For if their [Israel's] rejection is the recon-ciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?" (Romans 11:15)

Incidentally, Paul cautioned the Gentile believers not to "boast against" Israel. He reminded them that as Gentiles they were branches of a "wild olive tree" grafted into the "cultivated" tree—rooted in the Abrahamic promise. So the Gentiles could be just as easily cut off by the LORD if unfaithful, and then replaced by Israelites—the branches that were originally cut off. (Romans 11:17-24)



A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES

But again, how can Israel ever “be a blessing” and a “light to the Gentiles” when she seems to have been a “curse among the nations”? (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 60:3; Zechariah 8:13)

Most Christians who claim to be Zionists teach that the Jewish people are *now* already “a light” and blessing. They assert that current Jewish contributions to science, medicine and technology are the blessings prophesied. Truly, with all the Nobel prizes awarded Jews, it might seem a plausible fulfillment of prophecy. But, is that really what the LORD meant? No. Actually, there is much, much more ahead. Not only have Jews been a blessing, but Israel’s main role as “a light to the Gentiles” will be to bless and teach the world in Messiah’s Kingdom.

The LORD with infinite wisdom has been preparing the Children of Israel to be a nation equipped to encourage the peoples of all nations where they have been scattered through the centuries. Messiah’s Kingdom will offer Israel the first real opportunity to be a blessing to all the peoples of the world. Throughout the past three millennia Jews have become acquainted with the customs and cultures of virtually all nations—perhaps better than any other people. Whether in persecution during “pogroms” or in prosperity receiving rare praise—they have been virtually everywhere! The promise of the LORD that they would be regathered is being fulfilled—visibly confirming the promise that Jerusalem will be the World Center of Blessings!

*“He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: **Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.**” (Isaiah 27:6)*

*“**At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they [the Gentile nations] walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.**” (Jeremiah 3:17,18)*

*“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the LORD; **I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.**” (Zechariah 8:2,3)*



King David Tower, Jerusalem

JERUSALEM TRIUMPHANT

At the climactic turning point in man’s history, when “Gog of Magog” with other nations attack Jerusalem, the LORD God will intervene and fight for Israel. The defeat of Gog will actually be a defeat of all national rebellion against Jehovah (Psalm 21:9). The result will be that the LORD will be magnified and sanctified as Gog is defeated.

*“And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be **in the latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when **I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog**, before their eyes.” (Ezekiel 38:16)*

*“**For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle....Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.**” (Zechariah 14:2,3)*

How did God fight for Israel in ancient “day of battle”? The pattern of old was that when Israel was unfaithful to God, He would send or allow their enemies to chastise them. Then Israel would cry for help, and God would send a Prophet to instruct them and deliver them.

During this future final attack on Israel—when all seems hopeless—both religious and secular Jews will cry out in desperation for the help of the Almighty. Then will begin the resurrection of the Ancient faithful (Hebrews 11)—Abraham, Moses, David, Gideon, Elijah....They will become the leaders, “princes in all the earth” restored as “judges as at the first.” (Psalm 45:16; Isaiah 1:26) Finally, when God intervenes and begins to defeat all the nations that come against Jerusalem, He will pour out His holy Spirit on Israel and they will recognize and accept Jesus as their Messiah.

*“And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. **And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication**, so that they will look on Me whom they*

have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.” (Zechariah 12:9,10 NAS)

The overthrow of the host of Gog of Magog will actually result in a step in the right direction for the salvation of the people of Gog of Magog as well. In spite of the fact that only Israel as a nation will be saved, it is not that only one side wins and the other loses.

In the end, it is a victory for all. A victory against sin! “Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.” (Psalm 76:10) Christ’s Thousand-Year Kingdom will, indeed, use Israel to help recover Earth’s billions of humanity. The peoples of all the nations which came against Jerusalem will go up to Jerusalem to acknowledge and “worship” the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 14:16-19)



AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

Still, why do we hear of “Gog and Magog” at the end of the 1,000-year Messianic Kingdom? As described in the symbolic Book of Revelation—an attack will be made on Jerusalem, the “Beloved City,” by “Gog and Magog.” (Revelation 20:8) However, this host is not the same as those who attacked Jerusalem previously. (“Gog and Magog” are symbolic of God’s ancient enemies just as are “Jezebel” and “Babylon.” Revelation 18:2,10; 2:20) When Satan is loosed after the Thousand Years of his binding (Revelation 20:1-3,8), he will attempt to deceive the fully resurrected and blessed world of mankind. God will allow this final temptation on Mankind. Passing that test will assure them eternal life.

*“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the **sand of the sea**. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”*

(Revelation 20:7-9)

However, really only a small minority gathered from the “four quarters of the earth”—called “Gog and Magog”—will rebel against God’s Kingdom. Why? Because the majority of mankind whose great number as originally promised to Abraham will then be “as the sand of the sea.” (Genesis 22:17). The vast majority will not be deceived. They will have been brought into heart harmony with all the principles of righteousness. They will have accepted the Kingdom’s earthly administrators—as Judges and Princes. This majority of mankind will have come into the bonds of Israel’s New Covenant—blessed by the seed of Abraham. (See also Hebrews 8:8-13)

The rebels—a small minority who will be deceived by a desperate Satan—will join the attack against the “camp of the saints,” the earthly administrators of the Kingdom in Jerusalem. But God will quickly destroy that rebellious attacking host. And Satan, as prophesied in Scripture, will be crushed and destroyed. (Romans 16:20; Hebrews 2:14) **Then peace will reign forever in God’s Kingdom!**



Shofar at Western Wall

PRAYING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

Presently, Christians are like the “watchmen” on the wall—asked to pray and give God “no rest until He...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” Watchful, observant Jews are well aware of their Scriptures and still pray, making petition for these promises to be fulfilled.

“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” (Isaiah 62:6,7 NAS)

Christians are encouraged to remember that the Apostle Paul said, “By your mercy, they [Israel] shall receive mercy.” (Romans 11:31) No other sympathetic attitude is consistent with the compassionate Mercy of God. For now—in a world of escalating anti-Semitism—it will mean supporting, and encouraging the Jewish people to believe in Israel's prophetic destiny as a blessing to the world. Christians should “comfort” and encourage Israel. (Isaiah 40:1,2)

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.” (Isaiah 40:1,2)

Additionally, Christians have another challenge, namely, encouraging Diaspora Jews to support Israel, embrace their heritage, and accept Divine providence which has brought Israel back to God's Land. But will all Christians have sufficient faith to stand by Israel and Jews in the face of increasing worldwide anti-Semitism?

While the Church will be the heavenly “New Jerusalem” (Revelation 21:1,2), literal Jerusalem on earth will be its visible capital. Yes, the “fathers” of Israel and others of the ancient righteous men and women will be Princes and Judges. And then all peoples, recognizing God's blessing to Israel will ask the Jews to teach them.

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations...will grasp the garment of a Jew say ing, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.” (Zechariah 8:23 NAS)

Gradually the families of the earth will actually become part of the family of Israel:

“Yet nowhear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not Jesurun, whom I have chosen....I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring....One shall say, I am the LORD's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and surname himself by the name of Israel.” (Isaiah 44:1-5)

Yes, Israel will not only survive the End Times—but will be the only nation which will be integrated into Messiah's Kingdom. Truly, Israel will be “a light to the Gentiles.” The “peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6) will finally mean peace on earth. (Luke 2:14) Then God's promise to Abraham will be gloriously fulfilled when both the spiritual “stars” and earthly “seed of Abraham” together bless “all the families of the earth.”

“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore....” (Genesis 22:17)



Israel's survival of the End Times will actually be the beginning of a glorious eternity for all mankind.

APPENDIX A

Contributions of Israel and Jewish People to the World

Although Israel's prophetic destiny is to "bless all the families of the earth" in Messiah's Kingdom and be "a light to the nations"—Israel and the Jewish people have already blessed the world with many significant contributions. One can only imagine with their track record of past centuries what it will be like when these incredible children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are used by the LORD to bless all the nations in the Messianic Kingdom.

Remarkably, Jews constitute almost one-fifth of all Nobel laureates. In a world in which Jews number less than one half of one percent of the population—this is an amazing fact. Since 1911, Jews have received Nobel prizes in all categories for World Peace, Medicine, Economics, Physiology, Chemistry and Literature.

In an era of booming populations, shrinking resources, and environmental degradation, Israel leads the world in critical fields such as solar power generation and seawater desalination. As nations struggle to make the best use of their resources, Israel's cutting-edge technologies promise to improve health and living standards for hundreds of millions across the globe, while making industry more efficient and minimizing the environmental impact of human activities.

An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale, fully functional solar electricity generating plant, in southern California's Mojave Desert. The huge site has a capacity of 553 megawatts—enough electricity for 400,000 homes—currently the world's largest and most productive solar array. What does that portend for an energy-guzzling, oil-dependent world?

In computer breakthroughs, the world's largest chip maker relies on Israeli talent. At the Intel facilities in Haifa and Petach Tikva, the Pentium M chip—for Wi-Fi broadband access—was created. Most of Windows NT and XP operating systems were developed by Microsoft-Israel.

In economics—for which the Nobel has been awarded only since 1969—23 laureates are Jewish, more than 36 percent of the total.

In agricultural engineering, Israel has begun to make the "dessert...rejoice and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). The dry stretch of earth running from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea is among the world's hottest places. But it is now the home to one of the world's most ambitious and successful agricultural technology also shared with other countries—including irrigation methods, greenhouse technology, anaerobic digestion (recycling organic wastes).

In medicine, Israelis developed the first ingestible video camera, so small it fits inside a pill. It is used to view the small intestine from the inside, to detect cancer and digestive disorders. Other Israeli researchers have developed a new device that directly helps the heart pump blood—an innovation with the potential to save lives among those with heart failure.

APPENDIX B

Institutionalized Bias Against Israel

Examples of institutionalized bias against Israel include:

From 2008-2009, the U.N. General Assembly (GA) continued to spend a disproportionate amount of time focusing on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, passing 20 resolutions which are one-sided or blatantly anti-Israel. Of 10 emergency special sessions called by the GA, six have been about Israel. No emergency sessions have been held on the Rwandan genocide, ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, or the two decades of atrocities in Sudan.

The U.N. Human Rights Council (HRC), which replaced the Commission on Human Rights in March 2006, has been even more hopelessly ineffective than its predecessor, and is permanently engaged in criticism of Israel while ignoring pressing international human rights crises.

For decades, Israel was the only member state consistently denied admission into a regional group. The Arab states continue to prevent Israeli

membership in the Asian Regional Group, Israel's natural geopolitical grouping. As a result, Israel sought entry into the Western and Others Group (WEOG) and in May 2000 was granted admission to that regional group in New York, but not in Geneva, the seat of several U.N. bodies and subsidiary organizations. Israel's participation in the U.N., therefore, is still limited and it is restricted from participating in U.N. Geneva-based activities.

SOURCE: ADL <http://www.adl.org/international/Israel-UN-1-introduction.asp>

APPENDIX C

Diaspora: Expulsions, Forced Conversions, Assimilations and Exterminations

The term Diaspora is based on the words "Gola" and "Galut." These terms always had a negative connotation in Jewish culture. Implicit in the idea of "exile" is the concept that the Jews are not just a religion, but a community tied to a specific Land. Thus, use of the term carried with it the seeds of Zionism. The Jewish perspective of the concept is that Gola (Diaspora) describes anything that is interminably long.

Assyrian Expulsion

The first exile began when Israel was defeated by the Assyrians and Jews were exiled to the region of modern Kurdistan as recorded in the Bible:

2 KINGS 17:6 "In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes."

Chaldean Expulsion

The remaining kingdom of Judea was destroyed by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar....This is recorded both in the Biblical book of Kings and in the Chronicles of the Kings of Judea. Unlike the exile of Israel, which left no organized Jewish presence in the north of the Land and may have been complete, the Babylonian exile was partial:

2 KINGS 25:1 "And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about."

2 KINGS 25:19-22 "And out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land that were found in the city: And Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah: And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their Land. And as for the people that remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah the...ruler."

Cyrus' Decree, 536 B.C., Allowed the Jews to Return to Land

The Jews were partly restored to their land by the Persians beginning the period of the Second Temple. However, important Jewish communities remained in exile in what is now Iraq, making them the oldest surviving Jewish exile. No trace remained of the Assyrian captives of Israel.

Egyptian Expulsion

A large number of Jews were exiled also to Egypt by Ptolemy about 300 BC, forming the Jewish colony in Alexandria. That colony was later almost decimated (40-60,000 killed) by Ptolemy IV Philopater, whose wrath was kindled by the priests at Jerusalem who refused to let him worship in the Temple.

Roman Expulsion

Under Roman occupation, Judea was again destroyed following the revolt of 70 AD and the destruction of the Temple. Following the revolt of Bar Kochba which was finally crushed about A.D. 135, a large number of Jews were carried off into exile. Additional Jews left at different times owing to impossible economic conditions and were scattered throughout the Roman empire. But there were important Jewish communities remaining in Cyprus, Alexandria, Syria and elsewhere after the time of the Bar-Kochba revolt.

The Gola or Diaspora produced a profound reorganization of Jewish religion and culture. As there was no temporal authority to lead the nation, the different communities were usually organized under rabbis, who also often acted as the "ambassador" of the Jewish community to the surrounding gentile world. Biblical laws pertained to the Jews of Judea whose religion and culture were centered around the Temple in Jerusalem and the land. The place of the Bible in Jewish religion and culture was somewhat eclipsed by the Talmud and later rabbinical commentaries, which regulated Jewish life and adjusted it to the reality of living in exile under foreign rule. National pride and national self defense were denigrated as dangerous, in part because of the disastrous results of the revolt of Bar Kochba--the suppression of which was accompanied by a virtual genocide in the land of Israel.

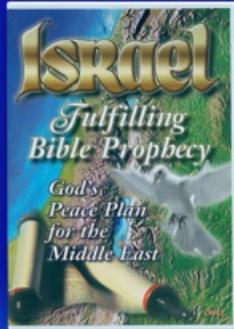
Forced Conversions and Extermination

Under medieval Christian rule, Jews of the European Galut (*Go/a*) were despised second or third class citizens, always living in fear of expulsion and subject to special regulations and taxes, as well as frequent outbreaks of murderous persecution and extermination and forced

conversion. Jewish life centered around the ghettos of European cities, enclosed areas that were locked in at night. Jews were limited in their choice of occupation, their place of residence and the places they could travel to. They were often forced to wear special dress and were denied citizenship. The ghetto and ghetto life are considered to be "medieval," but this is not so. Though there were Jewish quarters in towns since at least the Tenth Century, the first recorded enclosed ghetto was established in Venice in 1516, during the Renaissance, and ghettos were a feature of European urban life that lasted well into the Nineteenth Century.

In Muslim countries Jews often fared better, but they were always *dhimmi* at best: second-class citizens who did not participate in national life, did not serve in the army and paid special taxes. Several Muslim rulers also undertook forced conversion campaigns. Because religion was the only vehicle of national organization, converted Jews were invariably lost to their people as well as to their religion. As with the "Marrano" Jews of Spain, and the "Donmeh" Jews of Turkey, there have been many "secret Jews" living as Muslims through out the Middleeast--having been previously forced to convert to Islam.

ADAPTED FROM <http://www.zionism-israel.com/dic/Gola.htm>



Thank you for taking the time to carefully read this booklet.

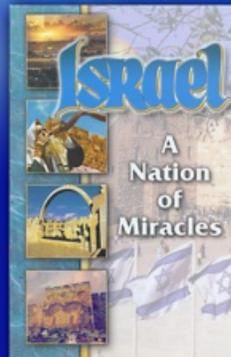
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*"...ISRAEL shall
blossom and
bud, and fill
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world with fruit"*

Isaiah 27:6