

ISRAEL



---

ישראל

by Robert Hooley

# ISRAEL

**by Robert Hooley**

Published by  
LIBERTY PUBLICATIONS  
Fifty West Ninth Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80204

COPYRIGHT © by LIBERTY PUBLICATIONS, 1974

*All rights reserved*

*Printed in the United States of America*

## INTRODUCTION

Israel! Israel! Israel!

That name, on the basis of its multiplied usage in the Bible, certainly demands an emphasis in triplicate.

**Where did that name originate?**

**What is its significance today?**

**What about the future?**

Here are three very important, most interesting and often highly provocative questions regarding the nation of Israel. But, thank God, there is a clear answer for each one. How can our hearts be anything but challenged by a study of this fascinating subject?

Our prayer, as you read the following pages, is that your faith will be strengthened in the clear declarations of the Bible and in the infallibility of God's Word — also in the sovereignty and faithfulness of Him who alone can foretell the great prophetic events of the future.

For purposes of simplicity, the terms Jew, Jewish people and Israel will herein be representative of the entire past and future history of this people. Distinction could be made in regards to the divided kingdom, the ten northern tribes then being called Israel and the remaining two southern tribes being called Judah; however, such differentiation is not expedient for the purposes of this booklet.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Robert Hooley is founder and senior pastor of Bethel Biblical, a New Testament church serving the metropolitan area of Denver, Colorado.

He has been mightily used in turning the lives of many toward God — through pulpit ministry, teaching, radio broadcasts and through the many books which he has authored.

This man has a deep and realistic insight regarding the prophetic truths presented in the Word of God, especially in connection with the latter-day events involving Israel and the Jewish people. Consequently, much of his ministry has been directed toward the illumination of these obscure but all-important events of our day and the days just ahead.

Out of all this has emerged a deep and sincere personal love for Israel and the Jewish people, a love which is not only heartfelt, but which is demonstrated in saying and doing those things which bless Israel and the Jewish people.

The Bible makes it very clear in Genesis 12:3 that God will bless them that bless Israel, and curse them which curse Israel. This is an important truth and principle in the life and ministry of Robert Hooley.

# CHAPTER ONE

## AN AMAZING EVENT

May 14, 1948, was a day long anticipated and will be a day long remembered — the day on which a truly amazing event took place in Tel Aviv. Palestine: THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE JEWISH STATE (ISRAEL) IN THE HOLY LAND. Not only was this one of the most important and colossal events in the entire history of the Jewish people, but also one of the grandest and most significant moments of Bible prophecy fulfillment that has even occurred.

There it was, the sign of signs, pointing to the nearness of Jesus Christ's second coming to this earth. This overwhelming event was a clear, calculated and pointed pronouncement — to all the nations of the world — of the sovereignty and faithfulness of Almighty God and the unquestionable infallibility of His Word, the Bible.

Have you ever sincerely pondered the true stature of this miraculous event? Here was a people without national status or a homeland for well over 1,800 long years. By comparison, the United States has been a nation for only about two hundred years, so we are considering a period that is over nine times as long as the entire history of our own country. Although the Jews were an often hated and persecuted people who had been scattered throughout the nations of the world for this unbelievably long period, the Bible clearly revealed that they would miraculously maintain their national identity — and they have. This is unique in the history of all the world for all time.

It is not the purpose of our present study to expound on details relating to their long years of dispersion from their homeland, but the historical record bears witness that here was a people who not only incurred the wrath of man, but had received severe chastening by the hand of God. This fact was prophetically declared by the Prophet Isaiah in answer to his own question in Isaiah 42:24-25, ***“Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.”***

In Verse 22 of the same *chapter*, Isaiah tells us that here was a people who would be robbed and spoiled, a people for a prey who would be snared in holes and hid in prison houses, a people for whom none among the nations would cry out for their deliverance — **no one in the world would stand in their behalf and cry out to God for their restoration to their homeland.** Sad to say, this prophetic text has found clear fulfillment in the treatment rendered the majority of the Jewish people in the world during the past 1,800 or more years of history. The barbaric execution of six million Jews in Europe’s death camps during World War II is one unforgettable example.

But, praise God, the Scriptures give unmistakable light and encouragement, for in the very next verse Isaiah speaks prophetically of a future day when, as we now see it and more fully understand it, God would lovingly and faithfully restore His ancient people to their own homeland. Isaiah's words are in the form of a question: ***"Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?"*** (Isaiah 42:23).

It is indeed exciting to be alive in this day when such a phenomenal prophecy is being clearly fulfilled before our eyes. The establishment of Israel as a nation on May 14, 1948, takes on new significance in our hearts when we truly see in this event the miraculous hand of God in definite confirmation of many precise and unailing declarations in His Word. When we honestly open our hearts to this fact, Israel then — in its past, present and future history — becomes a doubly challenging and fascinating study.

With this in mind, let's continue to follow the anointed prophecy of Isaiah, for he now gives forth a profound utterance in Isaiah 43: 1, which says, ***"But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."*** Here is a fantastic verse from the Word of God in which the Lord, through the Prophet Isaiah, makes distinct reference to a then future time when it shall be entirely proper and correct to say that He has redeemed His ancient people, the descendants of Jacob. We previously quoted God's reference to this "time to come" in Verse 23 of the preceding chapter of Isaiah.

In connection with this "time to come," it is important that we take note of God's precise statement in Isaiah 43:1 that He (God) would call them (the descendants of Jacob) by the name Israel. It is true that the provisional national council of the Jewish people had before it in 1948 the choice of two names, Zion and Israel, and that they chose the name Israel. But it is equally true that the Bible previously foretold the active presence of God in that determination. Let us give the real credit where it is rightfully due. Isaiah declared it, and God fulfilled it: ***I, God, have called thee by thy name — Israel.*** Yes, May 14, 1948, is God's miracle.

We are exhorted in God's Word to "**...praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**" (Psalm 107:8). Doesn't it excite you to see the mighty hand of God at work in the world today? The modern state of Israel has more behind its creation than just a political Zionistic movement. The nation of Israel and the continuing restoration of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland is a fact that has resulted from the direct intervention of Almighty God. They have arisen out of the valley of dry bones because the Word of the Lord has been spoken over them (Ezekiel, Chapter 37).

The reality and presence of modern-day Israel contains a message from God to the whole world. It was long ago recorded for us in Isaiah 18:3, which says, "**All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains...**" The banner (ensign) representing the new nation of Israel — that white flag with a blue star of David — has been placed by a sovereign God upon the mountains of Israel to catch the attention of all the nations of the world. This event was no accident it was long ago planned in the counsels of heaven and etched into God's calendar.

We have already seen that Isaiah 43:1 has revealed a time to come when God would redeem the descendants of Jacob and call them by the name Israel. But God has a further message in this verse, saying to His Jewish people, "**Fear not ... thou art mine.**" The dramatic events of history surrounding the pronouncement that established the state of Israel on May 14, 1948, need to be seen in the light of this further message and promise from God. Many people recall that the forces of the British Empire under the command of their high commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, were scheduled to leave the Holy Land by midnight, May 14, 1948. Palestine had been under British rule through a mandate issued by the League of Nations on September 29, 1923. But, in accordance with the United Nations' recommendation of November 29, 1947, the mandate was about to be terminated.

At that time, the total scene in Palestine involving the British, the Jews and the Arabs was one of tenseness and mistrust. Amid that most difficult and explosive atmosphere, the provisional national council of the Jewish people voted by a narrow margin to proclaim THE

REESTABLISHMENT OF THE JEWISH STATE IN THE HOLY LAND. Some friendly foreign governments as well as many prominent Jewish people were opposed to the step being made at that time. Their position seems understandable when we recall that the well equipped armies of five surrounding Arab countries — Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon — were poised and ready to attack the new state the instant the British left. The risk of annihilation facing the vastly outnumbered Jewish people was great. They knew that their defense would be in the hands of their poorly armed underground forces, the Jewish Haganah.

I appreciate the dedication and bravery evidenced in the lives of the Jewish people fighting for their survival in those tempestuous days of early statehood (1948). But I am even more thankful for the promise of God applicable at that time, ***“Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.”*** This is why they weren’t defeated then and why they are still there today.

One cannot help but think how on that memorable day, May 14th, the British high commissioner over Palestine, Sir Alan Cunningham, boarded a British ship in the harbor of Haifa and departed for the long trip home. He had served as high commissioner during the last troubled years of the mandate, 1945 through part of 1948, but, thank God, Palestine was not left without a “High Commissioner,” for the true leader of Israel, Jehovah Himself, took charge of the situation in the Holy Land, and the survival of the Jewish people in those dark days rested upon His promise, ***“Fear not ... thou art mine.”*** Praise God, they couldn’t have been placed in better hands.

The events which have come to pass in this century concerning the Jewish people and the state of Israel are nothing less than phenomenal, miraculously guided and directed by the hand of Almighty God. It is totally unrealistic to think that any group of people could possibly have survived the experiences and the ordeals which have historically marked the lives of Jewish people scattered over the face of the earth these many hundreds of years. It is incomprehensible that these people could have escaped total absorption into the cultures of the nations into which they were driven, much less come together again and be formed into a mighty nation in their own original

homeland, under one banner and one name — Israel. It had to be God, for it could not have been accomplished otherwise.

People throughout the world who truly love God and His Word must certainly have a special place in their hearts for the nation of Israel and for God's ancient people, the descendants of Jacob. As world-shaking events continue to develop, it is inevitable that the tiny nation of Israel will increasingly become the central focal point of international attention, because God has a great plan for that nation in the days that lie ahead of us. Every believer should be aware of God's true will and purpose concerning the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, and should be in perfect unity and accord with that plan as it is revealed by the Holy Spirit and as it unfolds before us.

The truth about the nation of Israel, as set forth unalterably in the Word of God, is a very important and thoroughly fascinating subject. We trust that the three remaining chapters of this booklet will challenge you to consider Israel according to God's Word. These three chapters are entitled: "That Name", "Israel Today" and "The Future."

## CHAPTER TWO

### THAT NAME

It all began some 3,800 to 3,900 years ago when God spoke to a man known as Abram, who lived in the regions east of Canaan in the land called Mesopotamia. God said to Abram, in Genesis 12:1, “...***Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.***” God’s sovereign purpose in calling out Abram is revealed in the next two verses, Genesis 12:2-3, where He continues, “***And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***”

We are told in Genesis 12:4, ***“So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him...”*** In the next verse we read that Abram took his loved ones and all their possessions, and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. Verses six and seven of the same chapter reveal that as Abram passed through the land he viewed the Canaanites who dwelt there; and when he came to Sichem (Shechem, a city in Canaan) the Lord appeared unto him and said, ***“Unto thy seed will I give this land,”*** and there he built an altar unto the Lord (Genesis 12:7).

The remainder of Chapter 12 of Genesis reveals that there was a grievous famine in the land (Canaan), which forced Abram to go down into Egypt. The hand of God was upon him there, and he soon became a rich man. After his eventual return to Canaan from Egypt, followed by a separation from his nephew Lot, Abram was again spoken to by God, as recorded in Genesis 13:14-15, ***“...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 for ever”*** Abram was told in Verse 17, ***“Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.”***

Several years passed, after which an interesting incident occurred, as revealed in Genesis, Chapter 15. Abram questioned God about the fact he still had no son or direct descendant, one in whom he could say, ***“this is my seed,”*** because it appeared to him that his only heir would have to be Eliezer of Damascus, the chief steward of his house. However, God answered Abram by declaring, ***“...This (Eliezer) shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir”*** (Genesis 15:4).

God greatly encouraged Abram at that time, assuring him He had brought him out of Ur of the Chaldees to give him ***“this land to inherit it”*** (Genesis 15:7). The Lord even said that the land would extend from the river of Egypt to the distant Euphrates River, which would be the eastern boundary. In Genesis 15:6, we read about the reaction of Abram, a true man of faith: ***“And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”***

Chapter 16 of Genesis then tells of an important incident which took place ten years after Abram came to Canaan. Sarai, Abram's wife, became convinced that she was permanently restrained from bearing children; therefore, she encouraged Abram to raise up a seed by Hagar, her Egyptian maid. Although Sarai was later to deeply regret having given that advice, the suggested union between Abram and Hagar produced a son named Ishmael. Thirteen years later, God again appeared to Abram (Genesis 17), challenging that great man of faith to walk before Him in perfection, also pledging His faithfulness to keep the previously made covenant. Abram was then ninety-nine years old, and it had been twenty-four years since he came to Canaan, but he still had no direct seed by his wife Sarai. It was then that God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning exalted father. He also changed the name of Sarai to Sarah, meaning princess.

God dearly loved these two servants of His; and they must have been a great joy to Him, for we find both Abraham and Sarah listed among the heroes of faith in the New Testament (Hebrews, Chapter 11). Just think what a tremendous testing of their faith those twenty-four long years of waiting must have been — a time during which Sarah was unable to bear a child despite God's repeated promises to the contrary.

Yet, God continued to declare His faithfulness to His previously made promises, saying again to Abraham in Genesis 17:6-8, ***“And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 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; and I will be their God.”***

The Bible says that the trial of our faith is more precious than gold, and God's revealed purpose in testing His people is that we all might come forth unto the praise, honor and glory of God. Abraham and Sarah had to fight and win their battle against unbelief, and it was a very real conflict. Please remember that Abraham was ninety; yet, God said Sarah would bear Abraham a son.

We read in the 17th chapter of Genesis how Abraham humbly fell on his face before God in struggling with the immensity of this pronouncement, even requesting of God, ***“O that Ishmael might live before thee!”*** But Almighty God stood fast to His Word and said, in Genesis 17:19-21, ***“...Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac. and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.”***

In these verses we find a very important, basic and foundational truth revealed about God’s relationship and promises to Abraham regarding his firstborn son, Ishmael, and his son to come, Isaac. It is very obvious that the promises made concerning Ishmael and his seed (the Arabs) are quite distinct from the promises made concerning the promised son, Isaac, and his seed (the Jews). It is true that both of these groups of people, the Arabs and the Jews, can trace their ancestral lineage back to Abraham, but their specific inheritance from God is distinctly different and clearly set forth in God’s written Word.

It is vital that we understand this fact, because it directly relates to the present conflict in the Middle East between the Arabs and Jews. This important fact will become increasingly significant and clear to our understanding as we continue this study. It was from Ishmael, the son of Abraham and the Egyptian maid Hagar, that God promised would come forth a great people (the Arabs). God said that Ishmael would beget twelve princes and they would multiply exceedingly in numbers of people. History has clearly revealed a perfect literal fulfillment of God’s Word in the formation of the many Arab states. But God’s faithfulness to bless Ishmael and his seed (the Arabs) did neither fulfill nor take away from God’s original covenant in which He promised to bless Abraham’s seed, for He subsequently revealed that the original covenant or promise would be fulfilled through Isaac, the son which was to be born of Abraham and Sarah in their old age.

It was to the promised son Isaac and his seed, the Jewish people, to whom God clearly and perpetually gave the legal right or title to the promised land — no individual, nation or group of nations will ever successfully be able to abrogate this clear pronouncement of God’s Word.

True to God’s promise, Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age — Isaac — at the set time of which God had spoken. And Isaac was the particular son of Abraham through whom the seed would be called. It is highly important that we reemphasize the clear pronouncement of God’s infallible Word as recorded in Genesis 21: 1 2, ***“...for in Isaac shall thy seed be called”*** — not in Ishmael, but in Isaac. The Word of God reveals that Isaac grew up to be a gentle and humble man, one who truly walked before God in reverential fear. Isaac took Rebekah as his wife, she being the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian, and she bore him twin boys named Esau and Jacob. It was the custom for the firstborn son, who was Esau, to receive the greater inheritance and blessing of the father, but the Lord said unto Rebekah in Genesis 25:23, ***“...Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder (Esau) shall serve the younger (Jacob).”***

Having already clearly established that the seed of the Abrahamic covenant would be through Abraham’s son Isaac, not Ishmael, God now reveals that the line would continue through Isaac’s son Jacob, not Esau. As with Ishmael and Isaac before them, the conflict continued to build between Isaac’s two sons, Esau and Jacob. But there is no room for error in our understanding of God’s pronouncement, ***“...the elder (Esau) shall serve the younger (Jacob).”*** The subsequent historical events involving these two brothers and their respective descendants constitutes another indisputable instance of the pinpoint accuracy of God’s Word in describing things to come.

We continue to read in Genesis, Chapter 25, how Esau and Jacob grew up with quite different interests and desires. Esau was an outdoorsman, a cunning hunter who had little interest in spiritual things, preferring the pleasures that a carefree life could afford. But Jacob had a great interest, respect and love for the family birthright or

inheritance, including its priestly ministry which normally belonged to the eldest son, hence we read of the events leading to the legal transfer of the birthright privileges from Esau to Jacob.

The Scripture declares, in Genesis 25:34, “**...Esau despised his birthright.**” And because he held it in such low esteem, Esau sold his birthright and all its privileges to Jacob by an act of his own free will. He was later to bitterly regret this hasty and impulsive move, and it led into such a hatred for his brother Jacob that he sought opportunity to kill him. It was this situation that prompted Jacob to flee from the land of Canaan, on his mother’s advice, but before he left, his father Isaac reaffirmed God’s blessing upon his life by declaring, “***And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; and give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham***” (Genesis 28:3-4).

When Jacob fled from Canaan, he journeyed eastward to live with his uncle Laban in Mesopotamia. While on this journey eastward he had a most glorious experience at a place called Luz, where he spent the night sleeping under the stars and using stones for his pillow. In Genesis 28:12-15, we read of this memorable night: “***And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy 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. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of***”.

Yes, God gloriously and dramatically revealed Himself unto the young man called Jacob, one truly destined to be a prince among men. Here was the making and shaping of an ever-increasing bond of love

between Almighty God and a very special man, Jacob, who was destined to find great favour in God's sight.

In the years which followed in Mesopotamia, Jacob was given Laban's daughters — Leah, and then Rachel — for his wives. These years spent under the employ of his uncle Laban were often difficult. Jacob suffered much, yet learned some great lessons. And all the while, God's faithful hand was upon his life, and he prospered. The Bible declares that God permitted no one to do Jacob harm. Finally, the time came when God moved upon Jacob, both directly and through circumstances. that he might return to his homeland — the land of his inheritance.

Jacob's return with his family and possessions from Mesopotamia to the promised land led to an exciting and famous incident, recorded in Genesis, Chapter 32. We read how Jacob wrestled all night at Peniel with the Angel of the Lord, and prevailed — claiming and receiving the promise of God's blessing just at daybreak. In Genesis 32:28, we read of God's words to Jacob, ***"...Thy name shall be called no more Jacob (meaning supplanter), but Israel (meaning to have power with God): for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."*** And there it was — the blessing that had been promised to Jacob, along with a new and mighty name. Scripture reveals that the promised power and the name Israel were to become so great that this name given originally to one man began to blossom forth as the name of an entire nation of people — ISRAEL. A study of the Word of God reveals over two thousand references to the name Israel. This is an amazing fulfillment of prophecy, yes, a literal monument to the sovereignty and faithfulness of Almighty God.

The concept and reality of the nation of Israel began to spring forth in Egypt after the elderly Jacob and approximately seventy of his family went there to live during the time of Joseph (a son of Jacob). Exodus 1:7 records that which then took place: ***"And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them."***

This took place over a period of approximately four hundred years, a time followed by the coming of Moses into Egypt with a message from God to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, saying, "Let my people go!" This was the appointed time in history when God was to bring His people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt and into their own land. Time and space are not available to review all the details of those days relating to the exodus, but from the seventy of Jacob's seed which went into Egypt over four hundred years earlier, it is estimated that more than three million were led out by Moses under the national banner Israel. What a tremendous impact this should have upon our hearts!

Here was a nation created and destined by Almighty God in His sovereignty to a high calling of preeminence among the nations of the world. Concerning these people of Israel, the Scripture says in Numbers 23:9, ***"For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations."*** God has set apart the people of Israel as His own personal inheritance, and, according to His Word, they shall be a channel of blessing to the entire world. Do you recall God's original promise to Abraham that his seed would be a blessing to the entire world — "ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH"? (Genesis 12:3).

How can we, among the nations today, give anything short of worship, honor and praise unto Almighty God for His faithfulness in fulfilling this promise? We must remember that it was through the seed of Israel, the Jewish people, that the world was given the Book of books, the Bible. It was the descendants of Jacob, and not Ishmael, who were anointed by the Spirit of God to write the sacred Scriptures.

It is the Bible which gives us proper understanding about the origin of all creation as well as ample facts about events which occurred in the eons of the distant past. We are not left in the dark, for God has given us understanding in His Word about the great conflict over this world and over all mankind — the conflict between God and the rebellious and powerful angel Lucifer, now called Satan, who led one third of God's angels (Revelation 12:4) in establishing a rival kingdom opposing in every way God's revealed will.

We don't need to know every detail about the conflict existing between these two universal kingdoms in past eternity, prior to Adam's day, but we are clearly told that approximately 6,000 years ago, after Satan's successful attack upon Adam and Eve, God did pronounce a final curse upon Satan and his kingdom. But in His love and mercy toward fallen mankind, God stated that a seed of woman would arise and bruise the head of the serpent Satan (Genesis 3: 1-5). Here was an amazing declaration that One born of a woman would be the vessel God would use to destroy both Satan and his entire kingdom.

When we link this promise of God with the call of Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3, we are more readily able to understand the purpose of God pertaining to the nation of Israel. This was the chosen nation through which God would raise up a seed of woman (the Messiah) who would be a blessing to all families of the earth. Yes, God promised that a seed (singular), a man, a Saviour, would be born who would be able to bless all mankind by delivering man from sin. Not only that, He would also destroy the works of the devil, Satan.

One has to stubbornly reject the clear message of God's Word and its proof in history in order to fail to see and accept the capstone of all Old Testament revelation — the coming to this earth of God's eternal Son, Messiah, the promised seed of the woman (Jesus Christ of Nazareth who was born of the Virgin Mary in a manger at Bethlehem over 1,900 years ago). He came in perfect fulfillment of hundreds of Bible promises from the lips of the Jewish prophets of old.

In Jesus' time, the majority of the Jewish people were expecting the promised Messiah to straightway establish a glorious earthly kingdom when He came, not realizing that He had to first deliver mankind from Satan and the power of sin. It required a sacrifice acceptable to God. Blood had to be shed, not the blood of an animal, but of a man, a sinless and perfect man — Messiah Himself. It would take this to redeem mankind from the effects of sin.

The Bible states that the natural man receiveth not the things of God, for they are spiritually discerned; hence, millions upon millions have rejected God's revealed way to salvation and eternal life. But, praise God, other millions, both Jews and Gentiles, have acknowledged and accepted the Son of God, Jesus Christ the Messiah, as their own Saviour and Lord. They know assuredly that Jesus, as the sinless Lamb of God, went to the cross of Calvary for their sins - they know He was buried, that a seal was put on His tomb, and that His Spirit was taken captive into Hades. They also know that He triumphed over all the powers of darkness and that the angel of God came on the third day and rolled back the stone to prove He had arisen. Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, arose from the dead in total triumph over sin and all the works of the devil. Since then, millions of human beings, both Jew and Gentile, have become living proof of God's fulfillment of His promise to Abraham that his seed would be a blessing to all families of the earth — they know Him as Redeemer and Lord because He LIVES in their hearts.

It was Abraham that God tested by asking him to sacrifice his own son, Isaac, upon an altar on the mountain of Moriah. Yet, it was God in His great love and mercy who stayed the hand of Abraham and provided a substitute ram for the sacrifice in Isaac's stead. Here was a beautiful picture of the time coming when God would send His own Son, the Messiah, to the cross as a substitute sacrifice for the sin of mankind. You haven't really lived until you've experienced the love of God in the factual realization that Jesus Christ was your substitute — that He died on Calvary's Cross to pay the price for your sin.

There is one thing that all men, Jews or Gentiles, have in common — all have sinned (Romans 3:23). We all know down deep in our hearts that something is wrong and evil within us. We can try to ignore it, but the voice of our conscience comes through loud and clear to convict us. The Bible says, **"...There is none righteous, no, not one"** (Romans 3:10), and **"...there is none that doeth good, no, not one"** (Psalm 53:3). But, thanks be to God, He made a way where there was no way — salvation is of the Lord! Through the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, millions have found forgiveness of their sins, peace of mind and assurance of everlasting life. It's not because of a religious theory or doctrine of man, but a true relationship with One who lives

within their heart. Yes, He lives — the tomb of Jesus Christ is empty. After His resurrection, He appeared among His own Jewish people and showed Himself to be alive by many infallible proofs over a period of forty days (Acts 1:3).

It was then from the Mount of Olives, amidst a large group of people, that He ascended to the right hand of the Father. Prior to His ascension, He commanded His Jewish followers to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father — the descent of the Holy Spirit, through whom they would be empowered to be His witnesses, telling of the promised blessing to all families of the world. Ten days after Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit descended upon the 120 people gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem (obviously a Jewish group), and it was these Jewish believers in the Messiah Jesus Christ who delivered the message of salvation, not only to their own people, but also to the Gentiles throughout the world, praise the Lord!

The message about Jesus Christ being the Redeemer and Saviour of the world isn't a Gentile religion. In fact, it isn't a religion at all — it is the loving and saving message of God to a lost world in need of deliverance from sin. Thank God, this message went out equally to Jew and Gentile. And when it was accepted, these two people became one. There was no more wall between them. I'm thankful to God that we of the Gentile nations have been presented with the truth as passed down from faithful Jewish witnesses of the first century. The early church which took the message of Jesus Christ to the world was not a Gentile body — it was Jewish — and rightly so, for this was God's plan. The Jewish Apostle Paul, in Romans 1: 16, tells us that the gospel of Christ is for everyone who believes, ***"...to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."***

Now, we of the Gentile nations today have a responsibility to continue preaching and sharing this good news of Jesus Christ so that others may receive forgiveness of their sins and be given everlasting life. You would think that such a wonderful message of truth would be readily received everywhere, but it has been strongly opposed. Those people out of all nations who have accepted the message of salvation and have followed the Messiah, Jesus Christ, have often been a marked

and persecuted people. The real enemy of their souls, Satan and his kingdom, has opposed them on every hand, and will continue to do so.

But God in His faithfulness continues to bless and sustain His own, because their life is built on a rock, established on a stone (Jesus Christ), exactly as foretold in Isaiah 28:16, ***“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation. he that believeth shall not make haste.”***

Of unparalleled importance today is the continued proclamation of this universal message of salvation. But in addition, one needs to also acknowledge and embrace the clear pronouncements of Scripture concerning God’s unconditional promises to national Israel. It is historically true that the Jewish people were driven from their homeland and dispersed throughout the world, the name Israel then losing its significance as the name of a nation until the astounding and glorious events of this century. The Word of God emphatically and unconditionally promised that despite God’s judgment upon His people for their flagrant rejection of His ways, this in no way abrogated His solemn promise to make of Abraham’s seed a great nation, and to give to them the Holy Land as an everlasting possession.

It is true that even many Bible scholars began to (and still do) dismiss this reality of God’s promise about national Israel. This became especially true as the years of their dispersion lengthened. However, because the Bible, God’s Word, was and is a reliable and infallible declaration of truth, something eventually had to happen, for dozens upon dozens of Scriptures foretell the restoration of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob back to their homeland in the last days. This subject is one of the major themes in all of Scripture, and it is linked to the second coming of the Messiah to this earth, at which time He will come not as a Lamb, but as the great and wonderful King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

One must literally close his eyes to the truth in order to miss what God is doing in this hour. We are beholding a greater miracle today than when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt. This fact

is recorded in Jeremiah 16:14- 15, which says, ***“Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 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.”***

We also read in Jeremiah 32:37-38, ***“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”***

Sure, Satan is exercising every weapon he can to oppose God’s plan of restoring His chosen people to their ancient homeland. But the dried up and withered bones of Jacob’s descendants are being restored and are now a living reality in the Holy Land. They are not all back yet, but they continue to return from around the world. Both the clear declarations of God’s Word and the historical reality today point to the fact that God is not through with Israel, for that nation has a high calling of God, and His ultimate purpose can never be thwarted. In the next chapter, we will consider the fascinating subject entitled “Israel Today.”

# CHAPTER THREE

## ISRAEL TODAY

We have previously stated and confirmed from God's Word that the reestablishment of Israel as a nation on May 14, 1948, was a preordained event long ago etched into God's prophetic calendar. Psalm 102:13-16 is one of many descriptive texts relating to this subject. It declares, "(13) ***Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion. for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.*** (14) ***For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof*** (15) ***So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.*** (16) ***When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory."***

Please note that Verse 13 makes reference to a set time in history when God would arise and have mercy upon Zion and favour her. The term Zion is the name of a mountain in Jerusalem, but it is often used in the Bible as a representative term for the nation of Israel. It is within this context that God reveals there is a set time in history

when He will arise and favour Israel. It is important to emphasize that He promises to do this as an act of His mercy. The twentieth century miracle of the restoration of a large number of Jewish people back to their homeland, the subsequent establishment of the nation, and its continued growth and prosperity is really not difficult to understand. We of the nations today are simply beholding an act of God's mercy we are seeing God's faithfulness to His Word.

God doesn't owe an explanation to any individual, nation, or group of nations as to why He is today extending mercy to Israel. We must remember that God has already extended His love and mercy to the people of all nations through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, who went to the Cross for the sins of the world, providing opportunity for all men to receive forgiveness of sins and to obtain everlasting life. Not one of us by our works merits this kind of treatment — it is extended to us as an act of God's mercy. Likewise, isn't God equally as free to extend His mercy to an entire nation — Israel? Indeed so, for Israel is set apart by His Divine will to bring glory to His name in this earth, not only in times of past history, but in the days ahead. I am indeed thankful to be alive in such a tremendous hour of prophetic fulfillment as today.

In Verse 14, the psalmist foresaw and spoke of our day when God's servants would again be privileged to stand upon the sacred soil of the restored nation of Israel. Reference is made to those who would take pleasure in her stones. This may have a varied application because Israel is a land of many stones, but this could not be made more real to me than by the blessed experience of standing upon the stone walls of the city of Jerusalem and viewing the city of God. I will not soon forget that memorable day in March, 1974; it was indeed a great pleasure, an unforgettable experience.

I wholeheartedly agree with the proclamation in Verse 15 that the miracle of modern-day Israel should incite all nations and their kings to fear the Lord. Then, in Verse 16, a declaration is made that is indeed staggering in its dimension, for here we are told that the rise of the nation Israel is a specific and undeniable announcement of the immanency of Jesus Christ's second coming. Never before in over 1,900

years has any generation of Bible believers been given such a precise and clear sign of that soon coming day.

Israel Today! Yes, indeed, this is a most exciting subject. Approximately three million descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have returned to their homeland in a very short time. Looking back to the relatively recent year 1881, only approximately twenty-five thousand Jewish people lived in the Holy Land. Then, in 1896, Theodor Herzl, father of the modern Zionist movement, issued that famous proclamation calling for the establishment of a Jewish state in the Holy Land. Many called Herzl a dreamer, yet he tenaciously proclaimed that within fifty years the Jewish state would become a reality.

It was in the year 1917 when English forces under General Allenby took the Holy Land from Turkey. Zionist hopes were then officially recognized by the Balfour Declaration. The Jewish population in Palestine continued to grow, and by 1939, despite Arab hostility and English restrictions on immigration, it reached a total of four hundred thousand.

World War 11 brought about the terrible slaughter of six million Jews in Europe and resulted in the ever-increasing feeling that the Jewish people deserved a homeland for their refugees. They continued to return to Palestine despite persistent British limitations on immigration. The Arab league was also formed in 1945 to oppose Jewish expansion in the Holy Land. Then, after World War 11, Britain turned the very difficult Palestine problem over to the United Nations, which saw fit to partition the land into separate Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the British hastily withdrew from Palestine, and before the day was over, the Jewish people in the land proclaimed statehood in accordance with the United Nations' recommendation — and Israel was reestablished as a nation.

Immediately, the surrounding Arab states launched a united military attack against the infant nation of Israel in an attempt to annihilate the Jewish people and to take total possession of the Holy Land. It is a fact of history that the tiny nation of Israel has had to fight for its life four times in just over twenty-six years of statehood. Much time could be spent reviewing the military conflicts of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1974, but most people are well aware that none of these

wars could deter the continued growth and prosperity of the nation Israel. Theories vary as to how and why Israel has survived-and continued to grow in spite of overwhelming odds against her, but we cannot find a more satisfying answer than that which is clearly set forth in the Word of God.

One of the major themes contained in the Bible is the latter-day restoration of the Jewish nation Israel. We are given an overabundance of Bible texts depicting Israel during the very time in which we are now living. Much of Chapter 41 of Isaiah is one such example. In Verse 8, God calls Israel His servant, and then He links this statement to the time in history when He promises to bring the Jewish people from the ends of the earth, when He will then comfort them by saying, “***...I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.***” (Isaiah 41:9) At no time in all their past history have the Jewish people ever returned to their homeland from every direction of the compass, even as Verse 9 says, “***...from the ends of the earth ... from the chief men (corners) thereof.***”

Regarding the nation Israel in this present hour, God continues in Verse 10, “***Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.***” In Verse 11, God then makes the profound and stern declaration that all nations which become incensed against Israel at this time of history “***... shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they ... shall perish.***” It is dangerous for any nation to defy God’s purpose in Israel today. Verse 12 adds, “***...they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.***”

In Verse 14, God promises the men of Israel that He will help them. After twenty-six difficult years and four wars, who can say that He hasn’t done this? Many miraculous events have accompanied Israel’s great military victories, and they all bear the stamp of Almighty God’s strong hand. It is indeed a shame that Israel’s existence as a nation is being so strenuously contested by her enemies. This has become such a reality that an almost constant military alertness has become a way of life in Israel.

The following two Scriptures are but a portion of the many texts which aptly depict this military status of present-day Israel. Isaiah 41: 15 says, ***“Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.”*** Also, Micah 7:15-16 tells us, ***“According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things. The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf.”***

Here are two references, out of many, which reveal that in the plan of God, Israel will be militarily strong in this hour of history. In Jeremiah 31: 10, God promises to not only gather Israel, but keep him. No nation, or even super power, is big enough to destroy Israel in defiance of God’s promise in Malachi 3:6, ***“For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”*** Because of all their past years of heartache and sorrow, it may have appeared that God forgot the Jewish people, but the Bible declares in Isaiah 49:15-16, ***“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.”***

Today, the volatile subject of who holds legal rights to the Holy Land has involved almost the entire world. Yet, I believe there is one vital Bible text which explains most clearly God’s position in this matter. It is found in Deuteronomy 32:8-9, which says, ***“When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord’s portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.”***

Here is presented an abiding principle in God’s relationship to the nations of this world. Their inheritance and blessing is dependent upon God’s people Israel having their inheritance. When God separated the sons of Adam that they might form into nations, He did it with the plan in mind that His people Israel would be a recognized nation within their God-given boundaries. This is not difficult to understand. God is simply telling us that there will never be peace

upon this earth among nations until Israel is able to live within her rightful boundaries. The devil knows this, hence he stands diametrically opposed to Israel — past, present and future. This is the simple answer for current questions about the great conflict in the Middle East today.

God's people need to wake up and realize that it is important to proclaim this great reality about the nation Israel. In the Lord's prayer, we are led to pray, "...thy kingdom come." The preaching of the gospel can save and convert individuals, establishing the kingdom of God in their hearts, but peace among nations will come only when Israel is living within her God-given boundaries. As Americans, it is important that we pray for our nation that it will stand with, and not in opposition, to God's revealed will for Israel, especially as the intensity of the conflict increases in the days immediately ahead. For our country to do otherwise would bring certain judgment from God.

One cannot conclude a chapter entitled "Israel Today" without making mention of the tremendous restoration of the physical land of Israel itself. Much of this can rightly be called the result of planning and hard work by the Jewish people, but it could never have been accomplished without the blessings of God, as clearly set forth in Scripture.

Isaiah 27:6 tells us, ***"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."*** Also, Isaiah 35:1-2 says, ***"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."*** Isaiah 41:19-20 declares, ***"I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it."***

The rebuilding of ancient cities and the restoration of the land for beauty and for agricultural purposes is glorious to behold. The task is far from being completed, but from its desolation at the beginning of this century, a miracle has unfolded in the land of Israel. To me it is best summarized by a Scripture which the Lord spoke to my heart on a beautiful March morning when our El Al jet was coming in over the Mediterranean, descending to land at the airport outside Tel Aviv. The scene below — the greenness of the fields and the life which was so evident — seemed to be a reflection of Psalm 68:34, ***“Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds.”*** I’ve come to see and believe that the excellency of God’s presence is truly over Israel today.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## THE FUTURE

The final two chapters in the Bible, Revelation 21 and 22, give us a beautiful insight into the reality of the new heavens and a new earth. Thank God, we don't have to depend on conjecture or opinions of men about this important subject, for we are given an abundance of clear and reliable statements in the Word of God. I rejoice that we can know and serve a merciful God who is totally omnipotent and omniscient — the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

When our God speaks in His Word about events in the future, His declarations contain just as much accuracy and clarity as recorded history does about events already past. Our great opportunity and obligation is to unreservedly place our complete faith in the revealed Word of God. Hebrews 11:6 says, ***“But without faith it is impossible to please him...”***

God's Word emphatically declares that in the future there shall be new heavens and a new earth. This earth on which we live and this present world system which is so leavened with sin and filled with rebellion will someday pass away. We are told in II Peter 3:10, ***"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*** Then, in Verse 13, Peter says, ***"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."***

Concerning the new heavens and the new earth, John proclaims in Revelation 21:1-4, ***"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I Jo/in saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall' be his people, and God himself shall be wit/i them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."***

Here is the promise of God about a future time upon this earth when there will be perfect communion between God and man. Much could be written about this exciting subject, but our remarks must be limited in scope to our present subject, the nation Israel as it relates to the future. First we shall scripturally establish that the nation Israel definitely has a place in the new earth of eternity. Then we shall conclude this chapter with a brief outline of upcoming events, as set forth in the Word of God, which reveal His plan for the nation Israel from this present hour to that future time.

From the lips of one of Israel's greatest prophets, Isaiah, we are told in Isaiah 45:17-19, ***"But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end. For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord, and there is none else. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right."***

Here is one of Almighty God's clear pronouncements about the nation Israel in the new earth. The only way this precise statement could be otherwise interpreted would be to claim or infer that the term Israel means something or someone other than the descendants of Jacob comprising that specific nation known as Israel. But, surprisingly enough, some Bible expositors do just that, expressing the view that the term Israel could refer to the church of Jesus Christ in the world today, composed of people with both Jewish and Gentile genealogy. Hence, these men largely refuse to accept the position that national Israel will experience a specific and blessed outpouring of God's grace, distinct from the church, beginning in these last days and reaching on into eternity.

The twentieth century restoration of the Jewish people back to their homeland — the pronouncement of statehood in 1948 and the continued prosperity of the land and its people — has served to literally and visibly destroy this unscriptural position. The future of Israel as an entity distinct from the church is one of the major themes of Bible prophecy, and by no reasonable assessment of truth can the overwhelming multiplicity of Bible passages pertaining to this subject be misunderstood.

The history of God's dealing with the nation Israel reveals a distinct and unique calling unlike that of any other nation. To this one nation only, Almighty God made specific promises of everlasting and eternal duration. Many Scripture texts

establish and clarify this fascinating truth. Isaiah 66:22 says, ***“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.”*** This tremendous verse, when examined in context, can be understood in only one way — God is speaking about the nation Israel. This fact is further confirmed for us in Jeremiah 46:28, which declares, ***“...for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee...”***

The current restoration of the Jewish state is but the beginning of a marvelous work of God in the days to come. God promises in Ezekiel 37:26, ***“Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.”*** Scripture further confirms this same reality in Jeremiah 32:39-40, ***“And I will give them ‘one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after 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.”***

God’s eternal association with the nation Israel is vividly described in Hosea 2:19, ***“And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgement, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.”*** It is true that during the past 1,800 or more years of worldwide dispersion, the Jewish people have suffered a double portion of shame and confusion. But the Word of God declares, in Isaiah 6 1:7, that the nation Israel will ultimately receive something which must constitute God’s richest and fullest eternal blessing: ***“... everlasting joy shall be unto them.”***

David — a king and a prince among his people, one of the greatest Jews who ever lived, truly a man after God’s own heart — declared in Psalm 131:3, ***“Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever.”*** In Deuteronomy 4:40, God

long ago spoke through Moses that same exact fact: that the inheritance of the nation Israel upon this earth would be for ever. You can rest assured that God is going to have the final say. ***“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*** (Isaiah 40:8)

The final destiny of the state of Israel is inseparably linked to the sovereign choice of God, for they are a special earthly inheritance of the Lord. Deuteronomy 7:6 says, ***“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”*** This is God’s will and cannot be changed, but we want to emphatically state that this fact in no way takes away from God’s high calling and purposes for His church.

Other texts could be cited, but we will conclude this theme with the declaration of God in Jeremiah 31:35-37, ***“Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me ever. Thus saith the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.”***

What a marvelous description of God’s eternal faithfulness to His promise made to the nation Israel. We have some brilliant scientists in the world today, and some amazing facts have been uncovered, but to plumb the depths of truth in these tremendous areas of challenge is beyond the present ability of man. Who can contend with God? The depths of His wisdom are unsearchable; so it is in God’s dealings with the nation Israel. I can’t give you every reason why God has said that He will do thusly with Israel, but I can state unequivocally that He will fulfill His promise to eternally perpetuate that nation

— for certainly no one is wise and powerful enough to fully meet all the conditions and accomplish all the feats which God specifically set forth in these verses.

In the third chapter, we dealt with the theme “Israel Today,” and thus far in this fourth chapter, we have considered what the Scriptures reveal regarding national Israel’s place in the coming new earth of eternity. Our concluding emphasis will deal with Israel’s near future, linking the present time of history with that great eternity to come.

From our perspective today, the future of Israel is unfolding at a rapidly accelerating pace. And God has aptly summarized His step-by-step dealings with Israel in Ezekiel 37:21-26, wherein He declares, ***“...Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.*”**

***“And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt, and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children’s children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.”***

It is not incidental that in this same exciting and well-known 37th chapter of Ezekiel we find the often mentioned incident involving the dry bones. God showed the Prophet Ezekiel an open valley full of very dry bones, and he was told in Verse 11 that these bones represented ***“the whole house of Israel”*** God then told Ezekiel to prophesy His Word to these bones, and when he did so, there was a great shaking, and the bones began to come together, and then flesh came upon them. After Ezekiel prophesied again, breath came into them, and they lived and stood upon their feet and became an exceeding great army.

The whole context of this chapter is a latter-day setting involving the Jewish people, the whole house of Israel. One must blatantly deny current facts of history in this century in order to fail to relate the events of this chapter to the miraculous restoration of the modern-day house of Israel. Nevertheless, some have sought to show that the primary application of the dry bones should be directed to the restorative work which God is today doing within the church of Jesus Christ. It is true that God is performing a great work of unity today within the worldwide church, but repeated emphasis must be placed upon Ezekiel 37:11, where we are told that this prophecy pertains to ***“the whole house of Israel,”*** not the church.

Further clarification of this fact is found in Verses 15 to 20 of this same chapter. Here, the Bible proclaims that the Jewish people will be brought together as one stick, meaning one nation, and will not be as two separate sticks, the two sticks referring to their former division into the ten northern tribes (Israel) and the two southern tribes (Judah). Praise God, we are today seeing this clearly fulfilled before our very eyes.

From the concise summary of events given by God in Ezekiel 37:21-26, we see that the near future of Israel can basically be divided into two sections. The first section includes the events leading up to and involving their national salvation

through recognition and total acceptance of Jesus Christ as their true Messiah. The second section pertains to Israel's part in the Messianic kingdom which Christ will establish upon this earth, with Israel as the head of the nations. Then, David, under the Messiah, will be Israel's king during a one-thousand-year reign of peace upon the earth. This period, commencing at Christ's second coming, will be culminated by the final rebellion of Satan, his destruction, and the final Great White Throne judgment of all the ungodly, after which God will create the new heavens and a new earth. The nation Israel's place in the ensuing endless eternity has already been set forth at the beginning of this chapter. Now, let us examine in more detail the aspects of these two portions of Israel's near future.

The first portion leads up to and includes Israel's future national salvation, an event clearly taught in the Bible. Time wise, it is unalterably linked to and dependent upon the second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. Isaiah 59:20-21 reveals, ***“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.”*** The Apostle Paul likewise declares in Romans 11:26, ***“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion (Zion) the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”***

We also read in Ezekiel 39:25 that God will have mercy upon ***“... the whole house of Israel ...”*** Jeremiah 31:34 adds to the picture these words, ***“... they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest ...”*** In Zechariah 10:6, God says, ***“... and they shall be as though I had not cast them off...”*** This all agrees with Numbers 23:10, where the Prophet Balaam blesses Israel and cries out for his latter end to be like theirs. Let us conclude this thought with the words of Isaiah 45:25, which says, ***“In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.”***

It is very true and important to emphasize that current events which are fulfilling Bible prophecy involving Israel's continuing restoration are not yet due to any national repentance or acceptance of Messiah on their part. Rather, these events totally reflect the sovereignty of God as well as His great mercy and faithfulness. Ezekiel 36:17-34 makes this precise point very clear and easily understood, as follows: ***“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.***

***“Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: and I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land. But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went.***

***“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name 's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.”***

From this present hour to the coming glorious hour of Israel's national salvation, we can expect God's hand to be mightily upon the nation of Israel through many great works. But also, God will permit a time of severe purging, that through it all, His people might be fully prepared and

determined to serve Him. Many Scriptures foretell a growing opposition to Israel's existence as a nation, followed by a false and deceptive effort toward peace wherein Israel will be deceived by a coming world ruler, the Antichrist.

These events will culminate in a terrible time of great tribulation for the nation, called in Jeremiah 30:7, "**...the time of Jacob's trouble.**" Jesus referred to this upcoming time as being the darkest hour of tribulation the Jewish people would face in their entire history (Matthew 24:2 1). This time of great trouble will be terminated by Christ's second coming. Praise God, out of this period of tribulation will come a surviving remnant of Jewish people who will in mass recognize and turn to their Messiah.

Their salvation at that time is described in Ezekiel 36:25-28, which says, "***Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you, to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.***"

For those who are interested in pursuing to a greater degree the immediate events leading up to and linked with Israel's hour of great tribulation and their national repentance, we suggest the following booklets: **Antichrist, Flee into the Mountains, An East Wind** and **Armageddon**. These are available by writing to Liberty Publications, 6210 Ward Road, Arvada, Colorado 80004.

The second portion of Israel's future commences at the second coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah, accompanied by the establishment of a kingdom of peace upon earth for one thousand years, during which, according to Revelation 20, Satan will be locked in the bottomless pit. Many Bible texts

expound upon this fascinating subject. We would like to now share some of those Scriptures which reveal Israel's part.

In II Samuel 7:16, we read a specific promise made by God to David, king of Israel. God said to David, ***“And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”*** It is true that Jesus Christ was born of David's lineage, and He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but this takes nothing away from God's specific promise made to David that he would be king over Israel. God's Word is also clear in II Samuel 7:10, which says, ***“Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as before- time.”***

There is no way that God's Word can be misunderstood regarding the question asked in II Samuel 7:23, ***“And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?”*** These verses simply magnify and clarify previous texts about the eternal destiny of the nation Israel upon this earth.

As previously mentioned, the establishment of this kingdom will be in connection with the second coming of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Micah 4: 1-3 pictures the millennial kingdom for us thusly: ***“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.***

***“And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among***

***many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any, more."***

An abundance of Bible texts vividly describe this coming era of righteousness and peace on earth, which will last for one thousand years (Revelation 20:3). Under the Messiah Jesus Christ, righteous judgment and justice shall be executed in the entire earth (Jeremiah 23:5-6). Israel will be a blessing to all nations of the world (Zechariah 8:13). People of all nations shall look to Jerusalem, the city of righteousness, the faithful city (Isaiah 1:26, Zechariah 14:16). The temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem and worship of Jehovah restored (Ezekiel, Chapters 40-48). This shall be a time of peace and rest, as the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth (Isaiah 11:9-10). The Gentile nations will behold and respect the great blessings of God upon the Jewish people (Zechariah 8:23). There will be an abundance of crops (Amos 9:13), and the land of Israel will become like the garden of Eden (Ezekiel 36:35). The blessings of God will extend to all of creation, even to the animal kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-8).

In Revelation 20:7-9, we are given a clear picture of the Satan-led rebellion at the close of the 1,000 years and its inevitable results, as follows: "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."

This climactic struggle between good and evil will then be followed by the final Great White Throne judgment of all the ungodly, after which will come the creation of the new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness

— with Israel’s place therein being as previously set forth in the early pages of this fourth chapter.

It is my prayer that your heart will be excited and stirred about the will and purposes of God concerning this specific nation. It is a story of the sovereignty and faithfulness of Almighty God. Think of it — over 3,800 years ago God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:2, ***“And I will make of thee a great nation...”*** and in Genesis 17:8, ***“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 and I will be their God.”*** And let’s remember that ***“God is not a man, that he should lie”*** (Numbers 23: 19).

Recently, along with a large group of Americans, I had the privilege of standing atop the Golan Heights in Israel and viewing the fantastically beautiful scene below me around the Sea of Galilee. As we stood together around and upon a former Syrian gun emplacement bunker which had been used for many years to shell Israeli settlements in the valley below, we were inspired to collectively pray for this nation so beloved of God. With outstretched hands, we besought God for His blessings upon the land and its people. What a glorious and memorable occasion that was.

During that time, the Lord inspired and gave to a young lady in our group a precious chorus based on those memorable words spoken long ago by Almighty God to His servant Abraham in Genesis 12:3, ***“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...”*** As she sang this anointed chorus unto the Lord, we joined in with full hearts and tears streaming down our faces, forever joined with cords of love to God’s dear Chosen People and His Holy Land — Israel.

Since that time, this song has been a great blessing to many in Israel, and now it has been heard in other parts of the world. Let God put a song in your heart and richly bless your life as you remember to love and pray for Israel.



**Bethel Biblical**  
9785 West 9th Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
303.445.9391