The Truth Shall Make You



TIMOTHY TOW

The Truth Shall Make You See

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To the Session

of
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church
who
have stood with
me
through thick and thin
for the
Faith of the Gospel
this book
is
affectionately dedicated
SOLI DEO GLORIA
* * *

"And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Signs In The Sky

One day our Lord said to the Jews, Learn a lesson from the sky: When red clouds rise after the dews, Then say ye the rain is nigh, But when it's pink in the evening 'Twill be a bright, sunny morning.

Or when it's clouding in the west
We'll soon expect a shower,
Or when the South Wind shows his crest
'Twill soon be warmer weather.
With such vivid illustration
He teaches our generation.

One day after the Autumn Rains
The twilight glowed roseate!
I said the days would surely change
From these showers on my head
To golden sunshine like summer:
And true it dawned bright and warmer!

So returned summer with the sun

Till red clouds dimmed this morning.
I said for sure the rains would come

And they did come by evening!
We tell the weather by these signs,
But not His Advent by the times?

Scripture: Matt 16:2,3; Luke 12:54; 1 Thess 4:13-18.

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Preface

This booklet, *The Truth Shall Make You See*, is a follow-up to *The Story of My Bible-Presbyterian Faith*. Especially, to Chapter II, "Bible-Presbyterianism and the Premillennial Doctrine of Israel".

Now, while it is held by B-Ps that Israel will play a prominent role in the Second Coming of Christ fulfilling the promise that God will bring them back to their land, there are those who reject this doctrine in favour of its inheritance rather by spiritual Israel, i.e., the Christian Church

By taking a page out of Biederwolf's *The Second Coming Bible*, you will see there are primarily two schools of interpretation on the land promised to Abraham's descendants. One believing in Israel's literal inheritance is represented by Scofield and Campbell Morgan and the other believing in the inheritance falling rather to spiritual Israel, the Church, is represented by Lange and Gerlach.

We believe with Scofield and Campbell Morgan that Israel, which is now returned to their Land for 50 years since her becoming a State on May 14, 1948 is fulfilling before our eyes the promise God gave to Abraham. To show the strength of our position, we have gathered together 34 Scripture passages from the O.T. prophets alone, with commentary, without referring to the N.T. This should be an eye-opener to those who say Israel has forfeited her inheritance by rejecting Christ.

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," yea, make you see!

"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." (2 Cor 13:8). Amen.

(For further enlightenment, read my first book on this subject, *Prophescope on Israel*, available from FEBC Bookroom.)

Timothy Tow May 1999



Psalm 122

A Song of degrees of David.

¹I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

²Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

⁴Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD.

⁵For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. ⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

⁸For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

Preface 7

O Jerusalem

T. Tow Indonesian Air



Chapter I

A Page from Biederwolf's Second Coming Bible

THE BOOK OF

GENESIS

(-B. C. 1689)

CHAPTER TWELVE

Now Jehovah said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house. unto the land that I will show thee: 2 and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing: 3 and I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I curse: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Vers. 1-3. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT FORMED.

"I will bless them that bless thee, and him that curseth thee will I curse." This seems to have been wonderfully fulfilled in the history of the dispersion. It has invariably fared ill with the people who have persecuted the Jews, and the favor of God seems to have been with those who have given the Jews protection. Will the future still more remarkably fulfill this prediction? (Deut. 30.7; Isa. 14.1,2; Joel 3.1-8; Matt. 25.40, 45.)

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

14 And Jehovah said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward and southward and eastward and westward: 15 for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. 16 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 may thy seed also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it: for unto thee will I give it. 18 And Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built there an altar unto Jehovah.

Vers. 14-18. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT CONFIRMED.

Ver. 15. "for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever." Does the latter part of this promise pertain to Abraham's literal seed or to his spiritual seed?

Says Keil, "The possession of the land is promised forever. The promise of God is unchangeable. As the seed of Abraham was to exist before God forever, so Canaan was to be its everlasting possession. But this applied not to the lineal posterity of Abraham, to his seed according to the flesh, but to the true spiritual seed, which embraced the promise in faith and held it in pure, believing heart. The promise therefore neither prevented the expulsion of the unbelieving seed from the land of Canaan, nor guaranteed to existing Jews a return to the earthly Palestine after their conversion to Christ."

Scofield, on the other hand, remarks, "The gift of the land is modified by prophecies of three dispossessions and restorations (Gen. 15.13, 14, 16; Jer. 25.11,12; Deut. 28.62-65; 30.1-3). Two dispossessions and restorations have been accomplished. Israel is now in the third dispersion, from which she, the literal seed of Abraham, will be restored to Palestine at the Second Coming of the Lord as King under the Davidic Covenant (Deut. 33.3; Jer. 23.5-8; Ezk. 37.21-25; Lu. 1.30-33; Acts 15.14-17)."

Ver. 16. "I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth",—To Abram, accustomed to the petty tribes that then roamed over the pastures of Mesopatamia and Palestine, a people who should fill the land of Canaan would seem innumerable.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

15 And the angel of Jehovah called unto Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said, By myself have I sworn, saith Jehovah, because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, 17 that in blessing I will bless thee, and in mul-

tiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is upon the sea-shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Vers. 15-18. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT AGAIN CONFIRMED.

Ver. 17. "thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies",—i. e., be masters and rulers of their cities and territories. (K. Mu.)

Lange says, "But the gate here points to a deeper meaning. The hostile world has a gate or gates in its susceptibilities through which the believing Israel should enter (Ps. 24.7-9), and the following words prove that this is the sense here."

Ver. 18. "and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed",—This great promise was first given without reference to his character (Chap. 12.3); now it is confirmed to him because he has proven himself to be actually righteous after the inward man.

Campbell Morgan says. "This prophecy has never been realized, except to some extent in the first advent of Christ, but it awaits complete and very literal fulfillment in the Millennium age. All Gentile nations are to come into a place of blessing as a result of this restored nationality of Israel. The same truth is taught in Isa. 56.6.7."

"The conquests of the seed of Abraham", says Gerlach, "are those of the Christian Church", and, says Jacobus, "the multiplying of the seed looks beyond mere natural posterity to spiritual progeny".

Again it is a question of literal or spiritual fulfillment.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

By many Isaac is taken as a type of the Bridegroom (Christ) who goes out to meet and receive His Bride (verse 63 and I Thess. 4.14-16), the Church; and the servant is a type of the Spirit bringing the Bride to the meeting with the Bridegroom. (I Thess. 4.14-16.)

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

3 sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed. I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father: 4 and I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these lands; and

in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

23 And he went up from thence to Beer-Sheba. 24 And Jehovah appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

Vers. 3, 4, 23, 24. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT CONFIRMED TO ISAAC.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

13 And, behold, Jehovah stood labove it, and said, I am Jehovah, the 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; 14 and thy seed shall be as the 10r, beside him.

dust of the earth, and thou shalt 2spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the south; and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

2Heb., break forth.

Vers. 13, 14. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT CONFIRMED TO JACOB.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came from Paddanaram, and blessed him. 10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel. 11 And God said unto him, I am God Al-

mighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; 12 and the land which I gave unto Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

Vers. 9-12. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT CONFIRMED AGAIN TO JACOB.

William E. Biederwolf, "a well known and respected evangelist who also served as President of the Winona Lake School of Theology" has written an immortal book, *The Second Coming Bible*. It is a book that quotes the complete text of every Scripture passage concerned with the Second Coming of Christ, plus commentary on each verse.

This Edition is reprinted 1972 by Baker Book House Company from the original printing entitled *The Millennium Bible*. The Bible text used in this work is the American Standard Version.

Now, what we want to find out from Biederwolf's *The Second Coming Bible*, is which

... argument on each side of any portion of Scripture bearing upon the subject in hand, where differences of opinion as to its meaning exists, and thus make it possible for every interested reader to intelligently form his own conclusions as to what such Scriptures doubtless teach.

The portion of our study here concerns the ancient covenants and the promises made by Jehovah to Israel, and the many prophecies concerning Israel's future at the Second Coming of our Lord. There are two schools of opinion, primarily, presented by the author — the historic premillennial view / amillennial view and the dispensational view. The former believe that the covenants and promises made to Israel will be fulfilled not in a literal Israel, since they have rejected their Saviour, but by a spiritual Israel which is the Church. The dispensational school, however, believes that though Israel has rejected Christ, the God of Abraham, who graciously promised them the good land, will keep His unchanging Word forever. So Israel will be restored in the end-times and become the premier nation in the premillennial rule of Christ on earth (Rev 5:10).

²And 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. ³And 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**. ⁴And 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)

From the first page of Biederwolf's *The Second Coming Bible*, note that there is "The Abrahamic Covenant Formed" and "The Abrahamic Covenant Confirmed". Now, the commentary under the second heading is as follows: v.15 "For all the land which thou seest to thee will I give it, and thy seed forever". Does the latter part of this promise pertain to Abraham's literal seed or to his spiritual seed?

Says Keil, "The possession of the land is promised forever. The promise of God is unchangeable. As the seed of Abraham was to exist before God forever, so Canaan was to be its everlasting possession. But this applied not to the lineal posterity of Abraham, to his seed according to the flesh, but to the true spiritual seed, which embraced the promise in faith and held it in pure, believing heart. The promise therefore neither prevented the expulsion of the unbelieving seed from the land of Canaan, nor guaranteed to existing Jews a return to the earthly Palestine after their conversion to Christ."

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From here we come to:

Vers. 15 - 18. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT AGAIN CONFIRMED.

Ver. 17. "thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies", — i.e., be masters and rulers of their cities and territories. (K. Mu.)

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Campbell Morgan says, "This prophecy has never been realized, except to some extent in the first advent of Christ, but it awaits complete and very literal fulfillment in the Millennium age. All Gentile nations are to come into a place of blessing as a result of this restored nationality of Israel. The same truth is taught in Isa. 56:6,7."

"The conquests of the seed of Abraham", says Gerlach, "are those of the Christian Church", and, says Jacobus, "the multiplying of the seed looks beyond mere natural posterity to spiritual progeny".

Again it is a question of literal or spiritual fulfillment.

Commentators here who say the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled by his spiritual seed, the Christian Church, are Keil and Gerlach. Commentators, taking the promises of God literally, that they will be fulfilled by Abraham's natural descendants are Scofield and Campbell Morgan.

Campbell Morgan says,

This prophecy has never been realized except to some extent in the first advent of Christ, but it awaits complete and very literal fulfillment in the Millennium age. All Gentile nations are to come into a place of blessing as a result of this restored nationality of Israel. The same truth is taught in Isa 56:6,7."

Isa 56:6,7 says,

⁶Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; ⁷Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Notice further that under Chapter Twenty-six, verses 3, 4, 23, 24, The Abrahamic Covenant [is] Confirmed to Isaac, under Chapter Twenty-eight, verses 13, 14, The Abrahamic Covenant [is] Confirmed to Jacob and under Chapter Twenty-five, verse 9 - 12, the Abrahamic Covenant [is] Confirmed again to Jacob.

Chapter II Which Interpretation is Right?

There is a spiritual interpretation and there is a literal interpretation. We take the literal interpretation.

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense. Therefore take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual literal meaning. (D.A. Waite)

Our argument is, if it is the spiritual descendants of Abraham to inherit the Promised Land, how will it accommodate the whole Christian Church at Christ's Second Coming? There are well over 150 nations in the constituency of the United Nations, and there are Christians in every nation. Without counting the United States, there are today 60 - 80 million Christians in China alone. Let us say there are a billion Christians (from all denominations) in the world today. Should Christ come at the turn of the millennium, how will these billion Christians inherit the Land of Israel? To live in the land is the only way to inherit it. If it is apparently impossible for a billion Christians to live in Israel, to inherit it, then we must take the literal view. Remember Israel is the firstborn (Ex 4:22) and which father will reject his son, even the prodigal son?

That Israel today is become a super power in the Middle-East with a population of six million of which nearly five million are Jews, points irresistibly to the fruition of God's promise to Abraham's children. There are about 15 million Jews in the world today (Paul Lee Tan), so one third of Jews is returned to the land of their fathers.

The regathering of Israel to their Land still goes on relentlessly which is foretold by at least 34 Scripture passages. It is marvellous that we are seeing this fulfilled right before our eyes. In the return since May 14, 1948 (Israel became a nation) we have witnessed the part-fulfillment of the regathering and the full fulfillment of the wars they must fight (Isa 11).

By listing the 34 Scripture passages (with commentary), 25 according to Homer Duncan (Paul Lee Tan), foretelling the Restoration of Israel as part of the plan of Christ's Second Coming, and showing how each passage is fulfilled, part-fulfilled or yet to be fulfilled, we believe we have given the right answer as to who shall inherit the Land of Promise. The spiritual descendants of Abraham or the natural? May you also decide.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free". And make you see.

Chapter III Each Passage of Scripture in its Plain Sense is Irrefutable

1. Isaiah 11:10-16

¹⁰And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. ¹¹And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. ¹²And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. ¹³The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. ¹⁵And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Commentary

The first recovering of the remnant of His people took place after Judah was exiled 70 years in Babylon — under Zerubbabel and Joshua, 536 BC (to rebuild the Temple) under Ezra, 458 BC (to restore the Law) and under Nehemiah, 445 BC (to rebuild the Wall.)

After this, the Jews were dispersed to the ends of the earth a second time because they rejected Jesus. The destruction of Jerusalem occurred under Titus in AD 70. Following the destruction of the Temple and City in 70 AD, a large number of Jews were sold to distant countries. When another revolt occurred in the reign of Hadrian 132-35 AD, the scattering of the Jews from their homeland was complete. This is now known as the *Diaspora*.

Situated at the junction of three continents the Land of Israel has been vulnerable to invasions by stronger powers. Here is a table of the succession of conquests of Israel.

| 1. Romans | AD | 70-313 |
|-----------------|----|-----------|
| 2. Byzantines | | 313-636 |
| 3. Arabs | | 637-1091 |
| 4. Seljuks | | 1091-1098 |
| 5. Crusaders | | 1099-1291 |
| 6. Mamelukes | | 1291-1516 |
| 7. Ottoman Turk | S | 1517-1917 |
| 8. British | | 1918-1948 |

While the Land was under foreign rule, the Jews were indeed become a scattered people, "from one end of the earth even unto the other," as predicted by Moses (Deut 28:64). Wherever they went the Jews had a hard time. They were persecuted from pillar to post. The curse they had brought down on themselves and their children burst forth with hellish fury when Hitler had six million of them gassed during WW II. A million and a half of them were innocent children.

While these poor souls tried to eke out a bare subsistence in their ghettos before they were finally taken by the Gestapo (more ruthless than their Japanese counterpart the Kempeitai), how the words of Moses came ringing in their ears: "In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see." (Deut 28:67)

Photographs taken in the Warsaw ghetto by a German war correspondent. Oct. 1, 1940 - June 1, 1941. Courtesy Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.

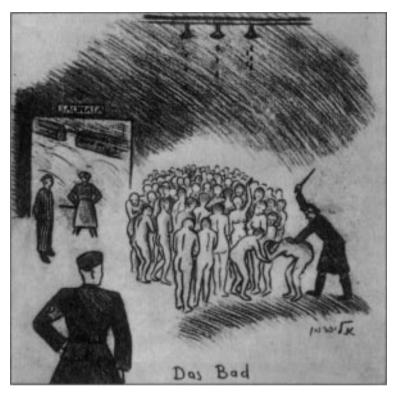


Youngsters



Old man

Two drawings from a series depicting daily existence in a concentration camp, by a young girl from Berlin, Elia Lieberman, who lived through the horrors of Polish ghettos, Auschwitz and Ravensbrueck. The drawings were made from memory after her liberation in May 1945. She later settled in Israel. Courtesy Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.



Das Bad means The Bath (of Death). This was a gas chamber, disguised as shower room facilities, with shower room notices in various languages. Zyklon B, a gas employed to destroy insects, was used. Those marked for Selektion were forced to run to the "showers" to the accompaniment of a band playing music. Between 700-800 men and women, elderly people and children were crammed into a chamber measuring 25 sq metres (225 sq ft). The cylinders of gas were emptied into the chamber through the showers; the gasing took about four to five minutes, depending on the number of persons in the chamber. Terrible shrieks could be heard from the hermetically sealed chamber when those inside began to suffocate and their lungs burst. When the doors were reopened the Sonderkommando entered

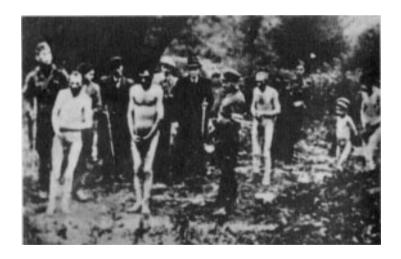
to take out the corpses. If anyone was left alive he was beaten to death. The contorted and entangled bodies were separated with axes and sorted, and after rings and gold teeth were removed and hair was shorn, they were piled in tens for inspection and taken out to be burned. Later furnaces and cremating pits were constructed. As the rate of extermination increased, heaps of ashes accumulated by the pits, whose smoke was visible from far away. The economic exploitation of the corpses involved the extraction of tons of gold teeth and rings, which were sent to the Reichsbank and credited to the SS account; the hair and bones were employed in industry; the ashes were used as fertilizers; and the clothes were sent to other camps after fumigation (p.85-87, Israel Pocket Library, Holocaust).



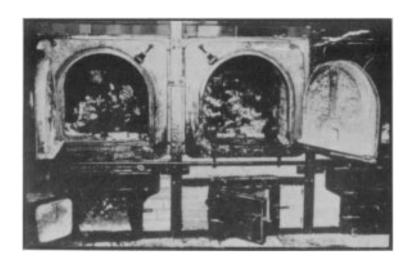
Die Strafe means The Punishment



Mass execution. Photograph taken from a German prisoner of war.



Mass execution. Lithuania, c. 1940. Courtesy Yad Vashem Archives, Jerusalem.



One of the crematoria.



Sculpture in memory of concentration and death camp victims, Yad Vashem

¹⁶ All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it. 17 The LORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused *thine* enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries. 18 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease. 19 Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street. ²⁰ Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord? ²¹ The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied. ²² Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the LORD'S anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed. (Lam 2:16-22)

When would Moses' promise of the restoration of Israel from their wanderings and the words of the prophets on the revival of Jerusalem be fulfilled? After nineteen hundred long years of Diaspora, suddenly on May 14, 1948 Israel was reborn before our eyes! An independent sovereign State among the nations!

In 1914 at the outburst of WW I the Jewish community, called the *Yishuv*, numbered only 90,000 in "Palestine." By 1932 there were 180,000. By 1935, 300,000. By 1937, 430,000. By 1945, 500,000. And when independence came in 1948 there were 650,000.

After independence, immigration became a flood. The new State's first year's total immigrants numbered 204,000. By 1965 the total Israeli population was 2.2 million. By 1976, 3.5 million. By

1985 Israel's population pierced the 4 million mark of which 83 percent were Jews, and 17 percent non-Jews. Thanks to Gorbachev's *Perestroika* and *Glasnost*, the gate of immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel flew wide open. 300,000 from Soviet Russian flowed like a tidal wave to the Fatherland by plane and ships. Today (1999) the total population of Israel is six million of which five million are Jews. Jerusalem, the capital city has now a population of 600,000.

This is "the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

V. 13 talks of the healing of the separation of the divided Kingdom, Ephraim representing the northern ten tribes and Judah the southern two tribes. Thus Israel was restored in 1948 as a United State, no more as two, a prophecy fulfilled again before our eyes.

V. 14, 15 predicted a War which Israel must wage against her enemies and subdue them. This was fulfilled by the War of Independence (1948), Suez (1956), The Six-Day War (1967) whereby Israel captured the Gaza Strip from Egypt (the Philistines toward the west), Golan Heights of Syria, "them of the east" (2 Kings 13:17). Simultaneously Israel defeated Jordan which comprises the ancient kingdoms of Edom, Moab and Ammon. The Yom Kippur War (Day of Atonement) 1973 in which Israel crossed the Suez Canal and advanced to 25 miles from Cairo was another fulfillment. Is it not marvellous that these battles won against Israel's enemies are fulfilled before our eyes?

2. Isaiah 14:1-3

¹ For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. ² And the people shall take them, and bring them to

their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. ³ And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

Commentary

To be fulfilled when Israel will become the premier nation under Christ's Millennial Rule.

3. Isaiah 27:12, 13

¹²And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. ¹³And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem

Commentary

To be fulfilled.

4. Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ 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. ² When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³ For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. ⁴ Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee:

therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. ⁵ Fear not: for I *am* with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; ⁶ I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; ⁷ *Even* every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

5. Jeremiah 16:14

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;

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

6. Jeremiah 23:3-8

³ And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴ And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. ⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; ⁸ But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the

north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

7. Jeremiah 29:14

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

8. Jeremiah 30:10,11

¹⁰ Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, 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. ¹¹ 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.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

9. Jeremiah 31:8-10

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, *and* with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. ⁹ They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead

them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim *is* my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare *it* in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd *doth* his flock.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

10. Jeremiah 32:37,38

³⁷ 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: ³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

11. Ezekiel 11:17

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

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

12. Ezekiel 20:34

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.

Commentary

13. Ezekiel 20:40-44

⁴⁰For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel. all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. 41I 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. ⁴²And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers. ⁴³And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ve have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed. ⁴⁴And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

14. Ezekiel 34:11-13

¹¹ For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, *even* I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep *that are* scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

Commentary

15. Ezekiel 36:34

And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

16. Ezekiel 36:28

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.

Commentary

To be fulfilled.

17. Ezekiel 36:33-38

33 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. 34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. 35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. ³⁶ Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. 37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock. 38 As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem in her solemn feasts; so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Commentary

18. Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, ² And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. 9 Then said he unto me. Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11 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 for our parts. 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; 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. 13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

19. Ezekiel 37:21, 22

²¹ And say unto them, 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: ²² 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:

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

20. Ezekiel 39:25-28

²⁵ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; ²⁶ After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made *them* afraid. ²⁷ When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; ²⁸ Then shall they know that I *am* the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

Commentary

21. Hosea 1:10, 11

¹⁰ Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people, *there* it shall be said unto them, Ye *are* the sons of the living God. ¹¹ Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

22. Amos 9:14, 15

¹⁴ And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. ¹⁵ 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.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

23. Micah 4:1-7

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. ⁵ For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. ⁶ In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; ⁷ And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Commentary

To be fulfilled. Notice that the first 4 verses tally with Isa 2:2-4 almost word for word. Two are a confirmation in prophetic language. This leaves no doubt that it is on earth (not in heaven according to ammillennialists) that all wars shall cease during Christ's millennial rule. V. 14 which describes an idealistic idyllic setting further emphasises the earthly realm of Christ's reign.

24. Zephaniah 3:18-20

¹⁸ I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are of thee, *to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. ²⁰ At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Commentary

25. Zechariah 8:1-8

¹ Again the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, ² Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. 3 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. 4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. 5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. 6 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. ⁷ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; 8 And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

Commentary

In the course of fulfillment.

26. Zechariah 8:20-23

²⁰ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; *It shall* yet *come to pass*, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: ²¹ And the inhabitants of one *city* shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. ²² Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. ²³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that* God *is* with you.

Commentary

Jerusalem, Centre of Worldwide Missions

The Jews today think they are fulfilling this part of Isaiah's prophecy by sharing their scientific knowledge and expertise with other nations. Far from it! We believe rather in Jerusalem attaining to this high status in the millennium in the realm of the spiritual. Jews, now all converted to Christ at His Second Coming (Rom 11:25, 26), will be foremost missionaries to the ends of the earth to bring in Gentile converts. For, even now, half the earth have yet to hear the Name of Christ. Though the Bible is translated into 1,800 languages and dialects, 3,000 more languages and dialects have yet to have a part of the Bible translated to them. My good friend, Rev Dan Ebert III, missionary to the Philippines, went into the jungles of Palawan for 12 years to translate the Bible. But he could complete only the New Testament. So there's much work to do for Jesus in the millennium.

Many Gentile converts, from many remote nations, such as the hinterland of China and Mongolia, from all the Muslim nations that are clamped tight against Christ, from hermetically sealed countries like Vietnam, will come to worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

With supersonic air travel becoming a reality in a matter of years, the transportation of pilgrims to the Holy City by rocket-planes in an hour or two will pose no problem. Since there will be no more defence spendings, all energies will be concentrated on peaceful enterprises. That includes rocket-travel, and that will be Item Number 1 in our opinion. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Dan 12:4)

27. Zechariah 10:10-12

¹⁰ I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and *place* shall not be found for them.

¹¹ And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up: and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away. ¹² And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

Commentary

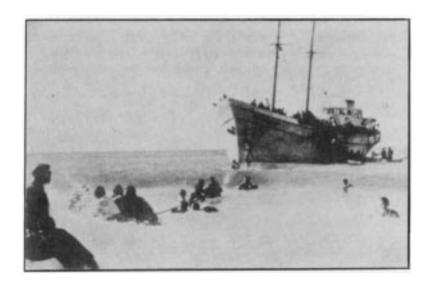
Partly fulfilled by illegal immigrants landing on the Lebanon coasts in the 1940's before Independence.

28. Zechariah 11:1-6

¹ Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. ² Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. ³ *There is* a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. ⁴ Thus saith the LORD my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; ⁵ Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed *be* the LORD; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not. ⁶ For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver *them*.

Commentary

This was fulfilled in the Lebanon War 1982-5. Following the return of Israel by sea through the Lebanon Coast (Zech 10:10-12) the prophet is led in spirit to announce an open invasion of Lebanon (Zech 11:1-6). The high and mighty, the barons and tycoons described as cedars and fir trees are burned. The fire is the fire from guns and rockets. The War of Lebanon echoes across the Sea of Galilee to Bashan to the east.



"Illegal" immigrants disembarking from the S.S. *Shabbetai Luzinski* at Ashdod, 1947. Courtesy Haganah Historical Archives, Tel Aviv.



"Illegal" immigrants entering life rafts from which they boarded the Haganah ship *Unafraid*. Italy, 1947. The ship was intercepted by the British and the passengers sent to detention camps in Cyprus. Courtesy Associated Press.

This is marvellous in our eyes! Within 40 years of Israel's return, three prophecies have been fulfilled — Israel's becoming a nation 1948, the Six-Day and Yom Kippur Wars in the south 1967, 1973, and the Lebanon War 1982-5 in the north. What next?

29. Zechariah 12:1-9

¹ The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and laveth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. ² Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. 3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. 4 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. 5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God. 6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem. ⁷ The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah. 8 In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them. ⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Commentary

To be fulfilled.

30. Zechariah 12:10-14

¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. ¹¹ In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. ¹² And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; ¹³ The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; ¹⁴ All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

Commentary

To be fulfilled.

31. Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein. ⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Commentary

To be fulfilled immediately before Christ's coming to save Israel.

32. Zechariah 14:1-8

¹ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. ² For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city

shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Commentary

To be in fulfillment of the Angels' word to Jesus' disciples, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

33. Zechariah 14:9-15

⁹ And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. ¹⁰ All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and *from* the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. ¹¹ And *men* shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. ¹² And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite

all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. ¹³ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. ¹⁴ And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. ¹⁵ And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.

Commentary

To be fulfilled in the setting up of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ on earth.

34. Zechariah 14:16-21

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ²⁰ In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. ²¹ Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein; and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

Commentary

To be fulfilled in the economy of the Millennial Kingdom.

A Thousand Golden Years





Chapter IV Israel's Restoration Over the Gentile Church at Christ's Second Coming By St. Paul

¹I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ve not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, ³Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 4But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded 8(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. 9And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: 10Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. 11I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. ¹²Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches

of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? ¹³For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. ¹⁵For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead? ¹⁶For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; ¹⁸Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. ¹⁹Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be graffed in. ²⁰Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. ²²Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. ²³And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again. ²⁴For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree? ²⁵For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. ²⁸As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. ²⁹For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance. ³⁰For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: ³¹Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32For God

hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

³³O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ³⁴For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? ³⁵Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? (Romans 11:1-36)



The Olive Tree

Chapter V Israel a Great Nation

Israel at the Centre of Three Continents



Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her. (Ezek 5:5)

Since the end of World War II, many young and vigorous nations have been born, one after the other, which were once colonies of the Great Powers. From the ASEAN Bloc have "emerged" the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Many nations have arisen in Africa with new names that old-timers have a hard time to follow. Among all these new nations there came into being on May

14, 1948 the State of Israel. The majority of Israel is made up of returnee Jews, after 2,000 years of exile.

In land area Israel is one of the tiniest. The only country in the world, to which she can boast of comparative bigness, perhaps, is Singapore. Population-wise Israel has 6 million souls, not much bigger than Singapore either. Indeed, Israel is but a speck on the globe, a little dot on the world map. If you stand at a vantage point in the Holy Land on a fine day, say, on the hill of Samaria, you could see almost the four corners of the country. How does a tiny country like Israel become such a great nation as she is today?

Israel is in the news, front page world news, more often than any other of the new-born nations. Israel is in the news side by side with the super powers, most frequent with the United States. How has little Israel gained such global prominence?

In an issue of the *Straits Times* 1981, the story was told of former Israel Prime Minister Menachem Begin meeting with former US President Ronald Reagan. This is what Begin said of a joke he cracked with the American President. Begin said President Reagan told him he had three phones on his desk. One was white to call British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. One was blue to call France's Francois Mitterrand. The third which was a red one was for God. But added Reagan, "I don't use it too much, as long distance is so expensive."

Mr Begin told his host he too had three phones. One was for Mrs Thatcher, one for Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and also one for God. "But," added Begin, "I use it all the time as, in Jerusalem, it is considered a local call."

Israel is a great nation because it is so closely linked to God. Israel is a great nation not by her own prowess. Not because the Jews are a smarter people, a superior race. Israel is a great nation because that is what God had graciously promised Abraham, that his descendants would so become (Gen 12:2). The same promise that Israel would be a great nation he confirmed in Jacob (Gen 46:3) and

with the Israelites under Moses (Deut 26:5). Israel's greatness is solely from God.

Now, may we ask, "How does Israel become great?" Israel has become great by being God's receptacle, God's chosen vessel, to receive His Special Revelation.

Sin had polluted the whole world and blinded the eyes of the nations to the light of the truth. Instead of seeking the Creator God that had made them, they groped in the darkness of idolatry. This is particularly condemned by St. Paul in the first chapter of Romans. In the midst of such Egyptian darkness, God came first to Abraham, and after several generations to Moses. God took Israel out of the land of their slavery and gave them the Law. This Law which is summarised in the Ten Commandments God delivered to Moses on two tables of stone. By the light of these two tables Israel was delivered from the pollutions of the world, from sins against God and sins against her fellowmen. And it is through Israel that the moral Law, as given in the Ten Commandments, has become the pattern of all modern legal codes of the nations of the world. Thus declared Moses to Israel on the eve of their entry to the Promised Land to remind her of her holy obligations to greatness,

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when

the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. (Deut 4:5-10).

We who live under the justice of a good Government in Singapore must remember the British who gave us our law. But, how did the British possess such good laws? Where did they get it? From the Bible and from the Law of Moses.

In contrast with little Israel, there is that gigantic country China, the land of our ancestors. For hundreds of years until the Manchu Dynasty she had sunken into the depths of poverty and misery, of backwardness in science and technology. And all this because our ancestors had departed from the Creator God, being devoid of His Law. Our ancestors were steeped in idolatry, not knowing the Living and True God. Hence flourished all the social evils that outgrew from their sin without restraint. As recent as the last two generations, the Chinese people did not enjoy such a divine right of man as the weekly Sabbath. The weekly Sabbath had been enjoyed in the West with the advent of Christianity from time immemorial. The keeping of Sunday as a Holy Day was particularly strong in the days of the Puritans in Great Britain. How both man and beast rested from their servile work in the Light of God's Law! This is but one blessing to mention that comes to the whole world from Israel, yea, even from the Law of Moses. How is it we have no need to go to office or factory when Sunday, our Christian Sabbath, comes around? We in Singapore today are enjoying the blessings of a Law which God first gave to Israel! This law that distinguished Israel from the Gentiles, that made Israel great!

Secondly, Israel is a great nation because not only has God's Law been given through her, but also God's Son. Jesus our Lord and Saviour was born a Jew, through the house of David from the stock of Abraham. The greatness of Israel, as we have observed, is not in her mental powers, but rather in her spiritual heritage. Through her is the Promised Seed given whereby all the families of the earth are

blessed (Genesis 12:3). We Christians must remember that we owe the Jews this great debt. Israel was not only, as St. Augustine had said, the Librarian to the Christian Church (she has given us by her prophets the Bible). Through her has come to us the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ, the only way to God. A young Jewess, the Virgin Mary, was the chosen vessel through whom Jesus Christ was born.

But alas! The Jews who were the very recipients of the Salvation of God rejected Christ and had Him crucified. Their Church leaders were not afraid of the guilt of their crime. They even challenged God to take the Blood of the Spotless Son of God upon themselves and their children (Matt 27:25). Of the Jews that believed in Jesus and were gathered together as a Christian community there were not more than 120. Apart from those 3,000 and 5,000 (Acts 2:41; 4:4) who believed the Lord at Pentecost, the rest of the Jews rejected the Gospel. Therefore the Gospel was preached to the Gentiles. The Jews who rejected Christ were rejected of God. Hence their Diaspora or dispersion, their scattering, to the ends of the earth. Israel the great nation became a small nation, a stateless nation.

By the mysterious decrees of God Israel, like the olive branch, was cut off when they rejected the Saviour. The Gentiles who believed, like a wild olive branch, was grafted in her place. Today salvation is still given to the Gentiles, so this Gospel continues to be preached freely and without restraint to us who live in a free country like Singapore. But soon our time will be up when "the fullness of the Gentiles be come in," ie. when the predestined number of Gentiles to be saved will be counted. Then Israel, the outcast Olive branch, will be reinstated when "all Israel shall be saved" (Rom 11:26).

One reason why Israel must be reinstated is God's unchangeable promise to Abraham. The promise given him and his descendants is forever vested in them. Another reason why Israel must be restored to her former glory is that the promise God gave to David of a throne that must remain forever must be fulfilled. And that throne to be set

up again is by none other than Christ, the Messiah, David's Greater Son.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isa 9:6,7)

In the light of these promises, no wonder we see Israel gathered back together to her land as a nation. Israel is become a great nation again, a super power among the larger but weaker Arab nations.

Satan does not like to see Israel restored to her previous greatness as in the days of David and Solomon. Satan has therefore instigated the Arabs to fight Israel. Five wars were fought: In 1948 the Arabs tried to prevent Israel from becoming a nation but they failed. In 1956 there broke out the Second War. Again the Arabs were defeated. In 1967 Egypt, Syria and Jordan were gravely wounded in the Six Day War. The fourth one, fought in 1973 known as the Yom Kippur War or War of the Day of Atonement, again saw Israel victorious. All these victories against her neighbours are foretold by Isaiah.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off. Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east

together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. (Isa 11:11-15).

The fifth war was waged over Lebanon 1982-85. Israel's invasion of Lebanon is foretold by the prophet Zechariah.

Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled; a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. Thus saith the Lord my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter; Whose possessors slay them, and hold themselves not guilty: and they that sell them say, Blessed be the Lord; for I am rich: and their own shepherds pity them not. For I will no more pity the inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord: but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbour's hand, and into the hand of his king: and they shall smite the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them. (Zech 11:1-6).

How is it that the Arabs, like a platoon of soldiers charging on a teenage boy walking alone in the lane were on the contrary thrown back one after the other like in a *Kung Fu* drama? The secret of Israel's greatness as a nation is God.

And as God is behind the descendants of Abraham His "friend", so has He helped Israel in the epic Entebbe raid, saving over 100 hostages hijacked by Palestine Arabs. Moreover God has enabled His chosen race to carry out the destruction of the atomic plant in Iraq. Iraq retaliated in the recent Gulf War with Scud missiles, but to no avail. Israel continues to be helped by the United States the greatest power in the world in a new age of peace-making according to Daniel's prophecy. That Rabin had shaken hands with Arafat under Clinton's patronage surprised the whole world except students of

prophecy. All this is in order that Israel might play her role in the coming of Jesus Christ. As Christ, like an airplane, needed Israel to land in the First Advent, and the aerodrome was the Virgin Mary, so must He need Israel, a restored nation, a second time to return to earth to judge the nations.

Israel is bound to be a great nation again, because God has set this seal upon her in Abraham: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee" (Gen 12:3). Thus those who have persecuted Abraham's descendants the Jews have lost out. Yea, they have been thoroughly extinguished. The sad ending of Hitler, Jew-baitor and arch anti-Semitic is notorious. Then there arose Nasser, who wanted to throw every Jew into the sea before the Six Day War. He soon died in the War's aftermath. How we thank God for Sadat, his successor, who so bravely stood alone to make peace with Israel. Sadat who fell a martyr for world peace died a glorious death.

With Israel's southern borders secure she can face the enemy with her back to the wall. But war will erupt again culminating in the Battle of Armageddon. In this final Battle the Messiah must come to save Israel. According to the prophecy of Zechariah on the climax of that last Battle:

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, it is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God. Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. . . . (Zech 13:8 - 14:4).

What is your attitude to Israel? If you have that anti-Jewish feeling like the rest of the world, change over to a lover of Israel. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: They shall prosper that love thee." Make peace with Israel! Such a heathen chieftain had the wise insight into the goodness of making friends with Israel: Thus Abimelech, Chieftain of the Philistines, came to Abraham: "God is with thee in all that thou doest..." And thus did Abimelech say to Isaac, "We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee: and we said, let there be now an oath betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee; That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the Lord" (Gen 21:22; 26:28,29). This wise choice is what King Soloman had observed: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Prov 16:7). Make peace with Israel because she is destined to be great. She will be the greatest when our Lord comes back to earth, to sit on His father David's throne in Jerusalem.

Jesus will rule this wartorn earth with peace for a thousand years.

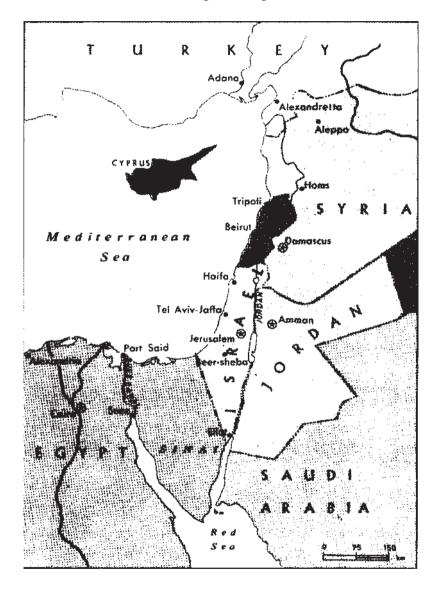
And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (Rev 20:4)

No more will there be a United Nations Headquarters in New York. The capital of the world will be shifted to Jerusalem, as seen by the Prophet Isaiah.

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. (Isa 2:3,4).

Israel, indeed, is destined to be a great nation when she turns to her Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, whom her people have blindly rejected all these centuries. Let Israel now say: Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Israel and Neighbouring Countries



In The New Jerusalem

