

ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION

A RESTORED NATION, A HEALED LAND

By Arlen L. Chirwood

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

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

And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God” (Amos 9:13-15).

A major issue and problem among many Bible teachers and students of the Word today concerns *how one is to look upon and treat the present existence of an Israeli nation in the Middle East.*

This nation, some 6,000,000 strong, in one respect, *CAN'T* be there, though it is; but in another respect, this nation *MUST* be there, which it is.

This nation *CAN'T* be there in fulfillment of God's numerous promises throughout the Old Testament to one day restore His dispersed people back to their land; but this nation *MUST* be there to bring about the fulfillment of the final seven years of Daniel's Seventy-Week prophecy.

And this is where numerous Bible students, *NOT* properly understanding the whole overall issue — particularly as the issue, dealt with throughout the numerous types, beginning in Genesis, is understood

in the light of the Prophets — get completely off track and commit mayhem in Biblical interpretation.

In many instances, the present existence of an Israeli nation in the Middle East has been made to be *something which it isn't at all.* This present existing nation has been erroneously associated with a fulfillment of or a beginning fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament concerning a regathering of the Jewish people from among all the Gentile nations where He has scattered them.

Sections of Scripture such as Deut. 30:3-5; Jer. 30:3, 18; Ezek. 34:11ff; 36:24ff; 37:1ff; 39:25ff; Amos 9:14 are cited, and it is stated that God is presently regathering His people and restoring their land to a fruitful condition in accordance with His promises (e.g., Deut. 30:9; Ezek. 36:29, 30; Amos 9:13).

However, *this is NOT what Scripture teaches at all.* The present nation of Israel *CANNOT possibly exist as some type fulfillment or beginning fulfillment of God's promises to restore His people; NOR can the present productivity of parts of the land of Israel have anything to do with God's corresponding promises to restore the land as well.*

After Two Days, on the Third Day

The Jewish people, in time past, *because of disobedience,* were removed from their land, with the land left desolate; and these same people, over time, were subsequently scattered among the Gentile nations of the earth.

Israeli *disobedience,* covering centuries of time, was climaxed almost two millenniums ago by the ancestors of remnants which had been allowed to return to the land over five centuries earlier — *the Jewish people slaying their Messiah.*

Israel is *the Slayer* (Acts 2:23, 36; 5:28-30; 7:52), removed from her land and scattered among the nations. *And, BECAUSE Israel is the Slayer, the Jewish people CANNOT return to their land UNTIL two points in time:*

1) UNTIL after two days (2000 years), on the third day (the third 1,000-year period [Num. 19:11ff]).

2) UNTIL after the death of the High Priest (which *can ONLY* refer to the termination of Christ's present high priestly ministry in the antitype [Num. 35:15-28]).

There can be NO healing for either the people or the land UNTIL this future time.

(For information on the preceding, refer to Appendixes I, II, “The Intractable Middle East Problem” and “The Death of the High Priest” in the author's book, *The Time of the End*; also see the author's books, *Israel — from Death to Life and Middle East Peace — How? When?*)

Following Repentance

Further, *Israel CANNOT be restored to the land UNTIL the nation has been brought to the place of repentance.* Israel must *FIRST* be dealt with concerning that which resulted in the nation's dispersion among the Gentile nations. *THIS fact* is plainly set forth in connection with prophecies pertaining to the Lord regathering and restoring His people (e.g., Deut. 30:1, 2; Isa. 1:16-20; cf. Isa. 1:2ff).

FURTHER, Israel being brought to the place of repentance, according to Scripture, will NOT occur UNTIL the latter part of the coming Tribulation, during the latter part of Daniel's Seventieth Week. This time of trouble which will befall the Jewish people — “the time of Jacob's trouble” (Jer. 30:7) — results from Israel's disobedience and the necessity of bringing the Jewish people to the place of repentance.

This will be a time of unparalleled trouble, designed by God to bring the Jewish people to the end of themselves. During this time they will be brought into such *dire straits that they will have NO place to turn OTHER than to the God of their fathers* (Ex. 3:1-10).

ONLY THEN will the nation repent; and ONLY FOLLOWING REPENTANCE can the nation be restored, with the land being healed.

Messiah's Return, Jewish Festivals, O.T. Saints

Further, *Israel CANNOT return UNTIL the nation's*

Messiah returns at the end of the Tribulation. According to the sequence set forth in the seven Jewish festivals in Leviticus chapter twenty-three, the Jewish people must look upon their Messiah (with the nation being saved, fulfilling the Passover, the first festival) *BEFORE the nation can be regathered* (fulfilling the feast of Trumpets, the fifth festival).

(Note that Israel has slain the Lamb, but has yet to apply the blood. The Lamb was slain at Christ's first coming; *Israel though will NOT apply the blood UNTIL Christ's second coming.*

ONLY THEN will the first festival in Leviticus chapter twenty-three be completely fulfilled. And these seven festivals [*Jewish festivals, having to do first and foremost with Israel*] *MUST be fulfilled in a sequential order.*)

Further, Old Testament saints are to be raised from the dead and be restored to the land along with the living at this time. *Both the dead (resurrected) and those living at that time will return to the land together* (Ex. 13:19).

The resurrection of Old Testament saints is set forth in the third of the seven festivals in Leviticus chapter twenty-three — the feast of First Fruits. *And this will be fulfilled following the fulfillment of the Passover but prior to the fulfillment of the feast of Trumpets.*

Israel possesses a promise which God gave to Solomon almost three thousand years ago concerning repentance, the nation's healing, and the land being healed:

"If my people [the Jewish people], which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; *THEN* will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14).

And *EXACTLY* the same thing is seen in a promise given through Moses almost five hundred years preceding the promise given through Solomon:

"If they [the Jewish people] shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that

also they have walked contrary unto me;

And that I have also walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

THEN will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land" (Lev. 26:40-42).

Israel can return to the land, with both the nation and the land being healed, *ONLY following the nation's repentance.* And the nation's repentance is placed in Scripture at a time near the end of the Tribulation, in connection with Christ's return.

Those comprising the present existing nation in the Middle East are there *in unrepentance and unbelief, BEFORE the time.* And the remaining unrepentant Jewish people (most of the Jews alive today) are still scattered among the Gentile nations, with the Old Testament saints still in their graves.

In this respect, *it is simply NOT possible that the present remnant returning to the land and forming the existing nation in the Middle East can have anything to do with the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies pertaining to Israel's restoration; NOR can a reclamation of parts of the land have anything to do with Old Testament prophecies pertaining to the land being healed.*

If either had anything to do with the fulfillment of God's promises to restore His people to a healed land, *God would be acting contrary to His revealed Word — an impossibility.*

The remnant of Jews presently in the land is *a remnant from the Slayer*, which has gone back *BEFORE the time.* And *NOT ONLY* are the Jewish people *still unclean* through contact with the dead body of their Messiah (the two days are not yet complete), *BUT* a remnant from this unclean nation has gone back *PRIOR to the time* Christ completes His high priestly ministry.

And, according to the type in Numbers chapter thirty-five, *the Slayer CANNOT return in this manner PRIOR to the time Christ completes His present ministry in the heavenly sanctuary* (Num. 35:28).

The present remnant in the land — *a part of the*

Slayer, returning before it is time to return — leaves this remnant open to *great danger.* In actuality, it leaves the Jewish people forming this remnant open to *experiencing EXACTLY the same thing of which the entire nation is guilty.* It leaves them, *as the slayer, open to being slain themselves* (Num. 35:26, 27).

And this is *EXACTLY* what is about to happen to the present existing nation of Israel in the Middle East.

Antichrist is about to appear and make a seven-year covenant with the Jewish people. And after three and one-half years, he will break his covenant, come against Jerusalem with his armies, and seek to wipe this nation off the face of the earth.

The rebuilt temple will be desecrated and destroyed, Jerusalem will be destroyed, and the Jews who do not escape into surrounding Gentile nations will either be slain or sold as slaves throughout the Gentile world. The present existing nation in the Middle East will be completely destroyed, *slain as it were* (cf. Dan. 9:26, 27; Joel 3:1-8; Matt. 24:15-22; Luke 21:20-24; II Thess. 2:3, 4; Rev. 12:5ff).

During the latter half of the Tribulation, an Israeli nation, as we know it today, *will NOT exist* in the Middle East. Conditions will *NOT ONLY* have become similar to those seen in Europe during WWII (Jewish persecution under the Third Reich, prior to the existence of the nation in the Middle East), *BUT they will have become FAR, FAR worse.*

It will be during this time — days which, unless shortened, no flesh would be saved (Matt. 24:22) — that the Jewish people will be brought to the end of themselves, to a place where they will have no recourse other than to call upon the God of their fathers. *ONLY THEN* will God hear, remember "His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob" and send His Son back to deliver His people (Ex. 2:23-3:10).

ONLY THEN — NOT BEFORE — will events pertaining to the restoration of Israel and the healing of the land occur.

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