

GATHERING OF NATIONAL ISRAEL

Many are puzzled over the prophecies concerning the descendants of national Israel being collected and brought to the land of ancient Israel. Some feel that these prophecies are simply analogies, but others believe that these prophecies will have a literal fulfillment; although, they may not know when and why the descendants of Israel will be gathered. Do you understand the importance of these prophecies?

If not, you might want to pay careful attention to the information contained in this broadcast. Because, you will not find very many who know or understand what I am about to tell you. And this information is necessary in order to understand the Sovereign Father's covenant relationship with national Israel after Christ returns to rule the earth.

The Bible tells us that after Christ's return and the Battle of Armageddon that, the modern descendants of ancient Israel who are still alive will be gathered from among the nations of the world where God has scattered them. These Israelites will be brought to a place called the wilderness where Jesus Christ will separate the rebellious from the obedient prior to taking them to the land of their inheritance and establishing them as a new nation.

In order to understand the prophecies concerning the gathering of the tribes of Israel, one must first understand how this gathering relates to the time of God's wrath upon humanity and why God wants to establish a new nation of Israel under his care and protection.

Very few people understand that the Creator God brought the Israelites out of Egypt because he had a job for them to do and a purpose for their existence as a nation. These people were called to be a nation of priests who would represent God and his plan for the salvation of humanity. Moreover, the Israelites were chosen to be a righteous example of God's way of life, which other people could follow in order to obtain salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom and Family of God.

After Christ's return to establish the Kingdom of

God on earth, the descendants of Israel will be brought to the land of their inheritance where they will be formed into a world power in order to fulfill their national destiny.

During this future age, the nation of Israel will again assume its responsibility as an example to the world of God's way of life. The city of Jerusalem will again become the focal point for the worship of God, and Jesus Christ will administer his and his Father's government and religion to the nations of the world, while offering the opportunity of salvation. See Deut.30:1-6; Mic.4:1-7; Joel 3:16-21; Zech.8:1-3.

With the return of Christ, much of the literal, prophetic, and symbolic meaning of the sacrificial system, the commanded observances and holy convocations contained in Israel's first covenant with God will have been fulfilled. However, the prophecies clearly show that, under the new agreement with national Israel, there will be a sacrificial system of worship, along with commanded observances and festivals, which also existed under the first agreement with national Israel.

Although national Israel disobeyed God and did not fulfill the purpose for which they had been freed from the bondage and slavery of Egypt, God has no intention of casting them away and beginning with another people. Keep in mind that, centuries before Israel became a nation, God made unconditional promises to the Patriarchs, and some of these promises included their descendants among whom are the Israelites:

The Creator God promised this to the Patriarch Abraham

"That in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed my voice" (Gen.22:17-18 Para.).

The promises to Abraham assured him multitudes of descendants and that, through these descendants, all the inhabitants of the earth would be blessed.

Although the peoples of national Israel failed to live up to their agreement with God, they still have an opportunity for national greatness and salvation. Because of God's unconditional promises to the Patriarchs, he will continue to work with the nation of Israel until his purpose for humanity is realized (See 2.Chron.6:14; Psa.89:34; Zech.2:10-12):

The Creator God said of the 12 tribes of Israel:

"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be his own treasure out of all the people on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love on you or choose you because you were more in number than any people; for you were the fewest of all peoples. But because the Lord loved you, and because he kept the oath which he swore to your fathers, the Lord has caused you to go out with a strong hand, and redeemed you from the house of slaves, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Because of this, know that the Lord your God, he is God, the faithful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to those who love him, and to those who keep his commands, to a thousand generations" (Deut.7:6-9 Para.).

King David and King Solomon said the following about God's faithfulness in keeping his agreements and promises:

David said, "He will ever be mindful of his covenant" (Psa.111:5 Para.).

Solomon said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like you in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keeps covenant, and shows mercy to your servants, that walk before you with all their hearts" (2.Chron.6:14 Para.).

A New Agreement Promised

Because national Israel had great difficulty in obeying God and broke their initial agreement, which they had made with him at Mount Sinai, God

promised that he would someday make a new covenant with them, and that this new agreement would be much easier for them to keep. because it would have much better terms and conditions.

Jeremiah chapter 31, verses 31 through 33 tells us of this new agreement with national Israel, beginning in verse31:

"Behold the day comes, says the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of mine they broke, although I was a husband to them, says the Lord" (vs.31-32).

Because ancient Israel of the original covenant is not a nation today, and her descendants are scattered throughout the nations of the earth, as prophesied by Isaiah and Jeremiah, when and with whom will God establish this new contract?

Continuing in verse 33

"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, declares the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (v33). See also Ezk.16:59-62.

Notice that the new contract will be made "after those days." The phrase "after those days" refers to the time after God's wrath is poured out on humanity at the end of this age, and after Christ returns as conquering King. Therefore, this new contract will be made with a new nation of Israel.

The following are some facts that shed light on God's new agreement with national Israel.

1. With the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D., all laws that were practiced through the Levitical Priesthood and the sacrificial system were suspended.

2. Many scriptures show that after Christ's return, all peoples of the earth will eventually come under the rule of the government of God.
3. The prophecies of Ezekiel and Zechariah clearly show that a temple worship system with a priesthood and animal sacrifice will exist during Christ's rule on earth. See Ezk.chps.40-46; Zech.14:16-20.
4. During the rule of Christ, the temple system will be officiated by the male descendants of Zadok who is descended from Eleazar, Aaron's third son.
5. The sacrifices will be performed similarly to the way they were performed under the first agreement with Israel.
6. The commanded observances and holy convocations will be observed, but they will be significantly changed to fit the people, times, and circumstances of the new agreement with national Israel and the rest of humanity.
7. The new agreement with national Israel is not made only with Israelites, although there are specific areas of the agreement that only apply to them. The new agreement also contains promises that apply to all of humanity as the plan of God progresses through the centuries toward its ultimate completion.

Although the Bible gives few details regarding the new system of worship which will be performed at the new temple in Jerusalem, it does document the fact that the laws, precepts, and principles that God has ordained for the purpose of worshiping him and regulating human behavior will still be in effect during Christ's rule.

There is no doubt that God has promised to again offer salvation to Israelites on a national and individual basis and to make a new agreement with them. It is also clear from scripture that the first

agreement with national Israel has been canceled, and that Jesus Christ has initiated the process whereby a new agreement will be formed with them:

The first agreement that God made with national Israel at Mount Sinai was canceled on the Passover in 30 A.D. with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The events surrounding this Passover and the death and resurrection of the Redeemer of humanity ratified a new agreement with Israel and the rest of humanity. In this same year, on the Festival of Pentecost, many of the various terms, conditions, and promises of the new agreement went into effect for all those called to salvation during the gospel age.

The writer to the Hebrews said this about the new and old covenants with national Israel:

"By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear" (Heb.8:13 NIV).

Because a united national Israel containing all of its various tribes does not exist today, when will salvation be offered and when will the new agreement be formalized? The prophet Ezekiel said that the new agreement with national Israel will be ratified after the return of Christ.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks of a future time when all of the tribes of Israel will be gathered out of the nations and the wicked will be purged from among them:

Notice this in Ezekiel chapter 20:

"And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and you shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezk.20:38 KJV).

Ezekiel chapter 34, verses 12 and 13 says this:

"As a shepherd seeks 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. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land. . . ." (Ezk.34:12-13 KJV).

A formal presentation and ratification of the new agreement with national Israel cannot be made until they are a nation again. Therefore, it seems that this will happen some time shortly after the return of Jesus Christ and the gathering of national Israel.

A Nation Born in One Day

In Isaiah chapter 66, the prophet records that God intends to establish a new nation of Israel after Christ returns.

The Creator God said concerning this new nation that is to come into existence:

"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? says the Lord; Shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? says your God" (Isa.66:8-9 Para.).

In Jeremiah chapter 30, God promises to restore national Israel as a great nation. God said:

"For, lo, the days come, says the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, says the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it" (v3). See also Jer.12:15; 16:14-15; 23:1-8.

The Creator God promised to remove the House of Israel and Judah from captivity and return them to the land of their inheritance. Throughout the centuries, the descendants of ancient Israel have been captive to various nations and some will

become captives in the end of the age; however, the captivity that Jeremiah speaks of primarily pertains to being captive to sin and the Babylonian governmental and religious system.

The Land of Inheritance

The land promised to Abraham's Israelitish descendants lies between the Nile and Euphrates rivers. A very conservative estimate of this geographical area would be well over a million square miles of territory. See Gen.13:14-17; 15:18; Ex.23:31; Deut.11:24; Ezk.ch.47;48.

This is the land that the Israelites will be given after Christ returns as conquering King, and after he has established Jerusalem as the headquarters of his heavenly Father's government on earth.

The prophet Hosea records this promise to Israel by the Creator God:

"So I am going to take her into the desert again; there I will win her back with words of love. I will give back to her the vineyards she had, and make Trouble Valley a door of hope. She will respond to me there as she did when she was young, when she came from Egypt. Then once again she will call me her husband—she will no longer call me her Baal. I will never let her speak the name of Baal again. At that time I will make a covenant with all the wild animals and birds, so that they will not harm my people.

I will also remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, and will let my people live in peace and safety. Israel, I will make you my wife; I will be true and faithful; I will show you constant love and mercy and make you mine forever. I will keep my promise and make you mine, and you will acknowledge me as Lord. At that time I will answer the prayers of my people Israel. I will make rain fall on the earth, and the earth will produce grain and grapes and olives. I will establish my people in the land and make them prosper. I will show love to those who were called "Unloved," and to those who were called "Not-My-People" I will say, "You are my people,"

and they will answer, "You are our God" (Hos.2:14-23 GNB).

In the 20th chapter of Ezekiel beginning in verse 33, the prophet records God's promise to gather the Israelites.

"As I live, says the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries in which you are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out" (vs.33-34). See also Isa.27:12.

God says that he is going to bring Israel out of the countries where they are scattered with great power and fury. The fury that is spoken of here refers to God's wrath that is poured out upon Israel and the rest of humanity just before the return of Christ as conquering King.

Continuing in verse 35

"And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I enter into judgment with you face to face. Like as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, says the Lord God" (vs.35-36).

The Israelites who survive God's wrath during the end of this age, will be brought into a wilderness just as their ancestors were brought out of Egypt into the wilderness. And just as with their ancestors, God will also teach them his ways. Only this time, he will not teach with symbolism and difficult concepts. This time, he will teach them in very clear language in order to reveal who he and his Father are, what their plan for humanity is, and what national Israel's part in this plan will be. With this information firmly established, Jesus Christ will begin the process of sorting the Israelites into two categories: those who want to come under God's rule and those who do not.

Notice what the Creator God says through the

prophet Ezekiel about the sorting process:

"And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel; and you shall know that I am the Lord" (vs.37-38).

Remember that the ancient Israelites were taught what God expected of them before being allowed to enter the promised land, and that the rebels among them influenced others to rebel against God, which caused a forty year punishment and a delay in entering the promised land. This time it will be different; in that, those who are rebels will be removed more quickly from among these Israelites.

Although we are not told how long this process of separation will take, we are told that each individual will be dealt with on a personal level. What is perfectly clear is that all who enter into the promised land under the new covenant will be in harmony with God the Father and Jesus Christ—no rebel will enter into the promised land and become a part of the new nation of Israel.

After the Punishment Jeremiah 50:4-5, 19-20 KJV

In Jeremiah the 50th chapter the prophet also foretold a time when the descendants of Israel will be gathered out from among the nations after the wrath of God has been poured out upon the earth and the Babylonian system of government under which they lived for centuries:

Beginning in verse 4

"In those days, and in that time, says the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping; they shall go, and seek the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces toward it, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten" (vs.4-5).

Here, we see the tribes of the houses of Judah and

Israel united into one nation as they were before the death of King Solomon. We also see that these combined tribes will again seek to learn the ways of God and will establish a national agreement with him that will stand the test of time.

Continuing in verse 19

"And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon Mount Ephraim and Gilead. In those days, and in that time, says the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve" (vs.19-20).

Here, we see a repentant people, who have been washed of their sins and desire to follow the ways of God, being brought into the land of their ancient ancestors.

Washed Clean

In Ezekiel chapter 36 the prophet records God's promise gather the Israelites and wash away their sins, God says:

"For I will take you from among the heathen nations, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also I will give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them. And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God." Ezekiel 36:24-28 KJV

How will their sins be washed away? It will be done in the same way that it is done today for the Sovereign Father's elect children. It is done through one's repentance and acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of one's sins and one's subsequent baptism with water and the receipt

of the holy spirit.

Few Will Survive

According to the prophet Zechariah Relatively few Israelites will survive God's wrath to live in the time of the gathering of Israel. Some of those who do survive will be judged unworthy to be a part of the new nation of Israel because of their rebellious attitude and refusal to repent of their ways.

Zechariah records this, "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, says the Lord, two parts in it shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them as gold is tested: 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" (Zech.13:8-9 Para.) See also Jer.25:31-33; Isa.13:6-13; Ezk.5:12.

The population of the tribes of Israel will be greatly reduced from the hundreds of millions that live in the end of the age. Perhaps only a tenth of their original number will survive because of their refusal to repent and worship the God of their ancestors.

Notice these warnings in the Books of Revelation, Joel, and Acts

Revelation chapter 18, verses 3 to 5 says this:

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (Rev.18:3-5 KJV).

The prophet Joel recorded this in chapter 2 verse 33::

"And it will come to pass, that whosoever will call on the name of the Lord will be delivered: for in

mount Zion and in Jerusalem will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, and in the remnant whom the Lord will call" (Joel 2:33 KJV).

In the Book of Acts we read this about the end of the age:

"And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord comes: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:19-21 KJV). See also Rom.10:13.

When Jesus Christ begins to pour out his wrath upon the Babylonian governmental and religious system that will control this earth in the end of the age, the people of Israel will have been warned of the things to come and how to survive the seven trumpet plagues. Any person who calls on the name of the Lord as the remaining plagues are being poured out will be protected and spared from physical death, just as those of ancient Israel were protected from the last plagues that were poured out upon ancient Egypt.

As a result of the seven trumpet plagues, the earth and its population will be devastated and in a state of utter chaos. Those who survive will have come out of the most horrible and terrifying period of human history. They will be frightened, confused, apprehensive, and in need of food, clothing, and shelter. It is into this world of confusion that Christ sends his angelic host to gather the people of Israel from among the nations where they were scattered centuries ago. These Israelites will be gathered together and brought into the wilderness to be judged either worthy or unworthy to enter the land of their ancestors.

Into the Land of Inheritance

After the gathering of Israel into the wilderness, and the rebellious individuals are removed, and the formal presentation of the new covenant, the Israelites will be brought into the land of their

inheritance. This is where they will begin to fulfill their national destiny under the care and protection of Jesus Christ who will rule the entire earth from Jerusalem:

The Creator God Said through the prophet Jeremiah:

"Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, wherever I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they will be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they will not depart from me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. For this says the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil on this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them" (Jer.32:37-42 KJV).

After Christ's return to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth, the descendants of Israel will be brought to the land of their inheritance. They will be formed into a world power in order to fulfill their national destiny.

During this future age, the nation of Israel will again assume its responsibility as an example to the world of God's way of life. The city of Jerusalem will again become the focal point for the worship of God, and Jesus Christ will administer his and his Father's government and religion, while offering the opportunity of salvation to the nations of the world. See Deut.30:1-6; Mic.4:1-7; Joel 3:16-21; Zech.8:1-3.

This is when the Creator God's promise to Abraham will begin to be fulfilled in its entirety. God told Abraham:

"That in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying

I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed my voice" (Gen.22:17-18 Para.).

The Great Harvest Begins

The great spiritual harvest that is pictured by the God's command observance of the fall harvest of Palestine will only begin after Christ returns, and the gathering of the tribes of Israel into the land that the Creator God promised them. One of the primary reasons Jesus will return again is to bring peace to the earth; so that, God's plan for the salvation of humanity can go forward, unimpeded by Satan who is the god and ruler of this present world. See 2.Cor.4:4; Rev.12:9.

The vast majority of those who will live through the great tribulation at the end of this age or those who will be born after the return of Christ will enter into a world transformed into a physical utopia: a world of peace and prosperity in which they will be given the opportunity to learn and live by the laws and ways of God.

This is the time spoken of by many of the prophets in which the world will be at peace and all nations will come to Jerusalem to learn God's way.

In Isaiah chapter 2, we read:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it" (vs.2-3).

The government of God is symbolized as a mountain that will be above all other governments and people will look to this government of God for guidance. Verse 3 of Isaiah chapter 2 and many other scriptures tell us that the central authority of this government will be located in the city of Jerusalem.

The prophet Isaiah said, "And many people shall go and say, Come you, 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" (v3).

Zechariah chapter 8:verses 20-23 captures the essence of what will happen in the new nation of Israel shortly after Christ's return and the establishment of God's government on earth.

Verse 20

"People from around the world will come on pilgrimages and pour into Jerusalem from many foreign cities to attend these celebrations. (The celebrations that Zechariah speaks of are the commanded observances and holy convocations of God, which are the annual festivals and the Passover). People will write their friends in other cities and say, 'Let's go to Jerusalem to ask the Lord to bless us and be merciful to us. I'm going! Please come with me. Let's go now!' Yes, many people, even strong nations, will come to the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem to ask for his blessing and help. In those days ten men from ten different nations will clutch at the coat sleeves of one Jew and say, 'Please be my friend, for I know that God is with you.'"

There is a tremendous difference between what the Bible actually says concerning the tribes of Israel, the Sovereign God's worship system, what will happen after Christ's return, and what is popularly believed and taught by most people today by most professing Christians.

However, you can know what the Bible actually says about these things if you will study the Bible for yourself.

I see that my time is up. If you want to know more about Bible prophecy or the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible research .org..

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