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What's Next for Israel in Prophecy? (Part 2)

Romans 11:25, 26: *For 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 fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:*

Special Guest: David Stein We strongly recommend first listening to Part 1 and follow along with its Rewind. A quick recap:

1. Why is Israel important?

The obvious answer is that the Apostle Paul says it is important. We recommend a review of all of **Romans 11** to see what God is going to do with both earthly Israel and spiritual Israel. **Romans 11:1,2.**

2. Why would God direct them since they don't believe in Jesus?

God fulfills His promises, and He promised Abraham that his seed would be blessed and would be a blessing. **Romans 11:28:** Paul acknowledges that God gave a promise to Abraham that will be fulfilled. Whether or not the Jews in Israel are doing things God likes or dislikes does not negate the fact that they are descendants of Abraham.

What about the idea that Christianity "replaces" Israel and its promises? God's promise had two parts - sand (earth) and stars (heaven). He fulfilled the promise to the fleshly seed of Abraham and then to Jesus and his disciples as the heavenly seed. **Galatians 3:29:** We are able to grasp onto this in an additive sense - not as replacements. Israel as a nation is still God's chosen people. Spiritual Israel - those who are called out of the world to follow a life of sacrifice in Jesus' footsteps - are also God's chosen people. This divergence was actually part of the original plan when we look at that promise given to Abraham.

3. Has Bible prophecy already been fulfilled for Israel?

Jeremiah 30:3 Hosea 2:15: Prior to 1878, Jewish people were not allowed to own land in Israel. The establishment of the first Jewish kibbutz (agricultural settlement) in 1878 was called "Petah Tikvah!" Jerusalem wasn't originally a part of Israel, but this too was part of a prophecy that has since been fulfilled. This builds our faith to know that all God promises comes to pass in His due time. **Zechariah 12:6:** This wasn't fulfilled until after the 6 Day War in 1967 when Jerusalem was regained. It had not been part of Israel after the War of Independence in 1948.

4. What's next for Israel according to the Bible?

The following Psalm is prophetic. It may have had partial fulfillment with wars Israel has had with its Arab neighbors, but when the prophecy is fully complete, there is no more threat from Israel's neighbors. **Psalms 83:6-7 Psalms 83:3-5:** This is a group of nations that want to cut Israel off from being a nation. The immediate neighbors around Israel have made no pretense that they want Israel off the map. By action, we see there are nations that fulfill this. But we also want to look at them geographically to see where these tribes were physically located and look at who is there today.

Where were these tribes located in ancient times?

1. Edom - Southwest Jordan
2. Ishmaelites - Southern Jordan
3. Moab - Jordan
4. Hagarenes - Lived east of Israel; Jordan, possibly including Damascus
5. Gebel - Lebanon; also called Byblos
6. Ammon- Jordan; Ahman, the modern spelling of Ammon, is the capital of Jordan. (While the government of Jordan has a peace treaty with Israel, we should remember that some 70% of



Jordan's population is "Palestinian" and in fact the country was originally formed to be the Palestinian home land.)

7. Amalek - South of Israel, Sinai area; the Amalekites lived in Israel's southern desert and Philistia settled in Gaza on Israel's southern border.

8. Philistines - Gaza (Hamas)

9. Tyre - Lebanon (Hezbollah)

Today these are all Israel's nearest neighbors, they all have animosity towards Israel, and all of them are sworn to Israel's destruction.

What will be the result of this conflict?

Psalms 83:9-18: Several battles are mentioned that happened in ancient times. In each example, Israel totally defeats all of their enemies so that they never trouble Israel again. What we think these Psalms mean in their fulfillment that the military threat against Israel will be dismantled by modern Israel. Ezekiel 38:8,11,14 Ezekiel 38:2-6

Contrasting the list of nations in Ezekiel 38 with the nations in Psalms 83, they differ from one other in one fundamental feature. All of the nations (except the one not directly involved but is helping the other nations in Psalms 83) are nations of Semitic origin - descendent through Shem - one of the three sons of Noah. The nations given in Ezekiel 38 are Aryan nations. (Wikipedia definition of Aryan: Self designation of the Indo-Iranian languages and their speakers.) These descended from a different son of Noah, Japheth. This tells us that two different battles are being described, one preceding (Psalms 83) the other one (Ezekiel 38).

1. Persia - Iran

2. Ethiopia - Sudan (Cush or Ethiopia of ancient times)

3. Libya - Libya

4. Gomer - Ancient Cimmerians - Northeast Asia Minor

5. Togarmah of the north quarters - Eastern Turkey

6. "and many people with thee" - a mixed company from elsewhere

A Word on the "Observer Nations"

1. Sheba - Saudi Arabia (who probably has the least antagonistic view towards Israel)

2. Dedan - Saudi Arabia

3. (merchants of) Tarshish - Spain, which was way out to the west at that time → Western Powers (including the United States, in an economic, political or military situation that they cannot help Israel.)

Let's move on to our lesson in Part 2. All of these prophecies are in sequence. What happens in one prophecy prepares us for what happens in the next. At the end of Ezekiel 38, we find simply the enemies of Israel comes against it, God fights for Israel, and they are liberated. The aggressor nations are defeated. (*verses 18-23*) We will expand how and why God is doing that for the Jewish people. The next Scripture is a part of the Ezekiel big picture: Zechariah 14:1-3: We wouldn't expect a loss for Israel in the opening of this battle. To put that in context with today:

"With God's help, the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine...By God's will, we will witness the destruction of this regime in the near future..."
Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Remember, modern Iran is Persia. When Gog of Magog brings these nations down, they have the same spirit as Ahmadinejad had - this desire to take Israel off the map and take her spoils.



And when they do come down, it says something unexpected: "...the city shall be taken..." Why would God permit this development with Jerusalem?

The literal city applies, but we should also look at Jerusalem as a larger symbol of the Jews, the nation of Israel, and their experiences.

As a reminder from Part 1:

Ezekiel 38:2: Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him.

Some Christians believe Russia will be involved and they point to the Hebrew word "Rosh." In the King James Version, this reads "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal."

There seems to be some debate as to where Rosh was as a real geographic location in ancient times. So the application of the name to geographical Russia is interesting although some may challenge it. The bottom line is that this is a group of Aryan nations to the north and somewhat to the east of Israel that come down.

Zechariah 14:2: Our suggestion is that this represents two portions of the Jewish nation. There are those within the Jewish population that have the faith of Abraham. They believe in the promises and expect them to be fulfilled. There are also secular Jews that are Jewish in name but without faith. There is an important principle that applies to the Jews and to us for that matter: **God is going to deal with the faithful, those that believe.**

In fact, the word "residue" is translated "remnant" in many other places in the King James Version. The word "remnant" is usually in the context of faith, such as "the REMNANT of faith." The other half would be the unfaithful or non-believing Jews.

Summing up these scriptures, at some point there will be war in which Israel may lose not only Jerusalem but also a large portion of their land. There is a separation work going on between those Jews who have held onto the promises of God vs. those who have not. We believe there is a separating work for Christians as well right now. (Wheat and the tares). We believe this Zechariah prophecy illustrates that same separating. Zephaniah 3:11-13: This is a parallel to Zechariah 14, but it gives us a little more information.



Observations:

- There was a class of shameful transgressors in Israel - those that are "haughty" and rejoice in their pride;
- They are removed by God;
- A faithful remnant is left who trust in God;
- God works with them.

We are applying various scriptures under the umbrella of the Ezekiel 38 scriptures. How do we know they apply to Ezekiel 38? We are taking a piece of scripture here, a piece of scripture there...why didn't God write it all in order?? We said earlier that God is interested in dealing with those who have faith. If He wrote everything in order, anybody could put it together and there would be no character qualification to understand the truth.

How do we know how the scriptures fit together? We look for common elements. Get your concordance out, for example, and look up "remnant." Find every scripture that uses the word remnant. You notice the Hebrew word is also translated "residue," so you look up scriptures that use the word residue. You proceed like that, bringing common elements together. As you do so, you begin to see patterns and applications.

Let's take a specific example. Zechariah 14 said the city shall be taken and there would be two groups. In Zephaniah 3 we find something very parallel. How do we know it all fits? We don't exactly, but it seems so obvious that they link together because they deal with two different groups and both use the same residue/remnant. We begin to understand a bit more. Why is the city broken into two parts? Because of faith. It is the Zephaniah 3 scripture that gives us that





clue, because it isn't so clear in [Zechariah 14](#). This is the way God works. He has spread the truth throughout the Scriptures, and He expects people of faith to go in there, ferret it out and put it together. As you put it together, the fog lifts and you start to see these things much more clearly.

[Ezekiel 20:33-38](#): This speaks of "rebels" in the sense of non-believers. Israel's sin they repeated over and over again was called by the Apostle Paul, "the sin of unbelief." God can't work with them if they can't believe what He can do. The purpose of the loss of this battle appears to be setting up the separation so that those who have faith can find each other and stick together and God can work with them. God is setting things up for the next step. Other scriptures provide more insight into what God is doing for those of faith.

[Isaiah 4:3,4](#): "*he that remaineth*" is the remnant - hopefully this is a large group. "Half the city" doesn't necessarily mean 50 percent. The word "remnant" doesn't have to mean "little bit," but rather it could mean, "that which remains."

- "*washed away the filth*" - God's view of the unfaithful is not positive.
- The spirit of Judgment is why the Lord permits this initial loss. Those taken away will be dealt with later. God loves them, too, but He can't work with them at this point in the prophecy.
- The enemy is in their land and it looks like the enemies of the Jews are going to have a victory again. So from the standpoint of Israel, the situation is now dire!

[Psalms 20:7-9](#): We would suggest that it is at this point that the conversion of Israel occurs. At some point they will have to come to an understanding of Jesus.

[Romans 11:25-27](#): There is a time when their faith will enable them to have their blindness taken away - when the fullness of the Gentiles Times be come in. At the appropriate time, their belief system in Jesus will develop. This is the time for a New Covenant with them.

[Ezekiel 20:37](#); [Jeremiah 31:31-33](#): God establishes a New Covenant to replace the old Law Covenant. "*I will cause you to pass under the rod*" - this also shows a separating work. A shepherd would make selection of sheep using a rod.

[Zechariah 12:9,10](#): When is this? In the day that all nations come against Jerusalem! The separating work is over, there are those in Jerusalem who have lost everything except their faith, the military is gone, and they are praying. God now pours upon them, the House of David, the "spirit of grace." Grace is undeserved kindness. God is doing this because He loves them and because He promised Abraham he would. He also pours upon them the "spirit of supplications." A supplication is a request. But they were already asking for something ([Psalm 20:9](#): *Let the king hear us when we call*). What changes is what they are asking for! God lets them know who their King is...and it is Jesus.

[Zechariah 12:10](#): The blindness is removed and they see Jesus as the one who will deliver them. God works according to His own time and not ours. The Scriptures show us this will happen, but only after some very specific difficulties come to Israel so their faith can be tested. The magnitude of God's plan will be revealed!

[Micah 5:5-9](#): Peace will come when the enemy is in the land (Assyria was in the north) and "treading in the palaces." They take the city with an overwhelming victory! But *then shall we raise* (the faithful Jews that are praying for a dramatic deliverance) *seven shepherds* (the Church - those truly faithful Christians who follow in Jesus' footsteps. By this time, these true believers have been gathered to their heavenly home and are with Jesus. They are ready to assume the roles of kings and priests; seven is a number that always refers to spiritual completeness.) *and eight principal men*. This can also be translated *eight princes of men*. The word "princes" is often a reference in prophecy to the "ancient worthies." These are all the men of faith that lived before the time of Jesus. The list begins with Abel to and including John the Baptist. (See [Hebrews 11](#) for a partial list.) They will be resurrected on earth at that point in time to help save Israel.

We understand that in God's plan there is going to be a heavenly salvation for the Church - (called kings and priests in Revelation) and an earthly salvation for the world of mankind. It will be a



process by which mankind grows when they walk along the Highway of Holiness to perfection. But because the Ancient Worthies were so faithful, they are resurrected as perfect human men with the power of God to help deliver Israel. Hebrews 11:35,40

Isaiah 1:25-27: This talks about the separation with the dross removed. In ancient times, these faithful men of old were deliverers, judges and counselors of Israel. They come back to fulfill that same role in the deliverance of Israel *and her converts* - we already saw the conversion of Israel back in Zechariah 12.

Isaiah 66:19,20: *I will set a sign among them* - we suggest this sign is the resurrection of the Ancient Worthies.

those that escape - they will leave the battlefield and return to their homes and tell of what they saw in Jerusalem - that Abraham and Jacob and Joseph and others were all wielding the power of God to deliver Israel!

Those not attached to Christ - the vast majority of mankind who are not Christians - these are in God's plan, too.

John 3:16: What world did God love? The whole world of mankind. He wants them to have an opportunity for deliverance.

Zechariah 8:23: By this point, the Jews have recognized Jesus as their long awaited Messiah. Jewish expectation for thousands of years was that the Messiah would come to deliver them and establish his kingdom. Now it has happened in this future frame of reference. The blessings that will flow will be incredible and all the nations will be able to see it and want to get involved.

Isaiah 60:5: *the sea* - symbolically, the restless masses of mankind. The world of mankind will see who Jesus is for the first time. This includes the pagans and those that never even heard his name; they will see the tangible results of Jesus' kingship in Israel.

be converted - they will accept this;

the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee - all of the world of mankind coming to the kingdom of God centered in Jerusalem.

5. How long before these things occur?

We believe it is not too far into the future. As you watch developments in Israel right now, watching the enemies rallying against her for the last sixty years, it will come to a head quickly. The next development will be a final war between Israel and their Arab neighbors. Many Christians today are not expecting Israel to lose any battle and it might be very disruptive of their faith if they are alive at that time and see what is happening in Israel. But now seeing what God is doing, they will be able to stand and realize that when we get to that point, we are on the very precipice of God establishing the kingdom on earth.

Israel is significant in our lives. It is spoken of, prophesied about, and its future is given to us to look at as a barometer for an establishment of God's plan.

WATCH ISRAEL
and watch God's plan unfold!

*So what's next for Israel in prophecy?
For Jonathan and Rick (and David!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*