

**The Word of Truth Ministry Presents**

**MORE Special Studies**

**#MSS12**

**THE COMING**

**GREATER EXODUS**

*A STUDY AND COMPARISON OF THE  
FORMER AND THE FUTURE EXODUS  
OF GOD'S PEOPLE ISRAEL*

**By David R. Hettema**

**[ Ed. Note: Two Charts also appear as a separate attachment to this Study, and should be downloaded separately to look at while reading this material. These Charts are Identified as**

**MSS12.1 - Coming Greater Exodus Charts ]**

# **GOD'S WORD ON ISRAEL'S FUTURE**

**"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD,  
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah,  
not like the covenant which I made with their fathers  
in the day I took them by the hand  
to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke,  
although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.**

**"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them,  
and on their heart I will write it;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

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**"And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor  
and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'  
for they shall all know Me,  
from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD,  
"for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no More."**

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**Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day,  
and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,  
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar;  
the LORD of hosts is His name:**

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**"If this fixed order departs from before me," declares the LORD,  
"Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease  
from being a nation before me forever."**

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**Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured,**

**and the foundations of the earth searched out below,  
then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel  
for all that they have done," declares the LORD.**

**Jer. 31:31 - 37**

# FOREWORD

By John C. Ribbens

Beginning with the call of Abram from Ur of the Chaldees, God embarked upon a major program destined in time to produce a people called the Israel of God. In his dying blessing to the twelve families or tribes of Israel Jacob said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days." Following two hundred and fifteen years of dwelling in Egypt, most of which was under the cruel bondage of Egyptian Pharaohs, God extricated the people of Israel and brought them into the wilderness and sustained them for over forty years.

In a dire warning to the nation of Israel, Moses declared , "And it shall come to pass , if you shall hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command you this day, that the Lord your God will set you on high above all the nations of the earth" Deut. 28:1. And, if they failed to heed the word of the Lord, that "It shall come to pass, that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and to multiply you; so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you, and bring you to nought ...and the Lord will scatter you among all people, from one end of earth even unto the other" Deut. 28:63-64.

As the result of their capitulation in the days of Solomon they became a divided nation and later were taken into captivity. Now some 2700 years later the people of Israel are scattered abroad the length and breadth of the earth. There they will remain until God speaks from heaven and declares, ... "Behold, I, even I will search my sheep and seek them out. 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 deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the dark and cloudy day" Ezekiel 34:11-12.

This miraculous activity on God's part will result in the greatest exodus and migration of a people that the world will ever see, the people of Israel returning to the land long promised, where they will become the most dominant nation in all the earth in a world governed by God.

# THE COMING GREATER EXODUS

Throughout all times of God's dealings with man, God has, in the written record of those times made it very clear that there is a day coming when the heavens would again rule this earth and the nations upon it. Paul told those gathered on Mars hill in Athens that God has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead (Acts 17:31). We longingly wait for this divine intervention, the day when His righteous government will speedily and manifestly bring peace, justice, light and life to the inhabitants of this world, a world that will be free of all the curses that have been imposed upon it by sin and death. Among the many awe-inspiring events that are a part of His assumption of sovereignty, the living generation of all nations will witness an event of universal significance, the promised fulfillment of God's second recovery of His people Israel, this time seeking them out of every nation of earth and openly bringing them into the land promised to their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (who's name was changed to Israel).

God brought about the nation of Israel out of the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, three important generations often mentioned together in the scriptures. The Old Testament record states that as the result of a lengthy famine the entire family of Jacob, amounting to seventy souls, went down into Egypt. After years of peaceful living, especially in Joseph's time, their increasing numbers were viewed as a threat and they eventually became the slaves of the Egyptians, a cruel burden they endured for most of the two hundred and fifteen years of servitude in Egypt. It was their cry of affliction that God heard and caused to be put into motion one of the great historical events in the history of the Jewish people; the night of Passover in the land of Egypt, that memorable time when all the families of Israel came out of Egypt by God's miraculous power.

The fascinating Biblical record of that first Passover can be read in the twelfth chapter of the book of Exodus. This awe-inspiring event became a God ordained memorial that belongs solely to the children of Israel. Even today in Judaism, once a year they gather as families to recall the events of Passover. It is a worldwide observance called Seder. The commemoration includes the reading of the Haggada and the oft repeated story is told again. The traditional celebration is concluded with the words, "Next year in Jerusalem." This is not an empty prayer or wish, for God, who cannot lie, has spoken many times through His prophets concerning the future of the city of Jerusalem, where the children of Israel, brought back to the land by God, will celebrate the appointed feasts while experiencing peace and safety in the land that God promised to their forefathers.

Jehovah's manifest dealings with Israel as a nation had its beginning at the burning bush in Mount Horeb. Here God commissions Moses to be the leader of His people and charges him "to bring forth my people, the children of Israel out of Egypt." He gave Moses his own brother, Aaron to be His spokesman before the Pharaoh, ruler of Egypt.

When Moses and Aaron entered into Pharaoh's presence they petitioned the ruler to let the people go. The rehearsed miracles were displayed as instructed by God, but the Pharaoh emphatically denied their request. At God's direction the request was repeated at each meeting with greater signs and increasingly devastating plagues, but each time the hard-hearted Pharaoh was adamant in his refusal to let the people go. The Egyptians and the land of Egypt suffered terrible loss at each of the confrontations; they were humbled and hurt by the humiliating plagues from God, but Pharaoh was not moved. The overwhelming judgment that broke Pharaoh's resistance was the terrible night of Passover, which brought the death of all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. The Biblical record states: And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. (Exodus 12: 30).

That night in the land of Goshen, where the tribes of Israel dwelt, the families of Israel who followed God's instructions were passed over safely. Each family instructed by God through Moses, had selected on the tenth day of the month, a lamb without blemish. It was killed on the fourteenth day. The heads of the families then placed the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their houses to be kept safe, as God had promised, when the angel passed over. All families obediently remained in their houses until the morning.

At first light the next morning the people moved out with such haste that they could not complete the normal daily bread-making. The bread dough, still without yeast, was hastily bound up in the kneading troughs, as they evacuated their dwelling places: And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders. (Exodus 12:34). The unleavened bread that was later baked from it became the symbol of their hasty exodus out of Egypt. The seasonal celebration of Passover is also referred to as the "Days of Unleavened Bread."

In one memorable day, God brought out of Egypt over two-million men, women and children with all of their cattle and belongings. Tucked in among the baggage of these emancipated slaves were the Egyptian's jewels of silver, gold, precious stones and fine garments. God had instructed them earlier to ask these of their Egyptian neighbors, who looked with favor upon them and willingly gave of their precious things. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent

unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians (Exodus 12:35-36).

The final deadly judgment that God brought upon Pharaoh and his armies came at the miraculous dividing of the waters of the Red Sea. God's presence was manifested in the fiery cloud that stood between Pharaoh's armies and the fleeing people. A great miracle took place at the edge of the sea. The people of Israel were perilously trapped between the sea and the advancing armies of Pharaoh when God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea, And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever (Exodus 14:13). Moses obeyed, held Out his rod and the waters of the sea were divided, allowing the fleeing Israelites to miraculously cross over the dry sea bed with all their cattle and baggage. When the last of the people had safely crossed over, they turned to see the Egyptians with their chariots and horsemen following in hot pursuit. Again Moses was instructed to stretch out his hand over the sea and it closed in upon their pursuers; Pharaoh and his armies were destroyed.

The children of Israel were finally separated from the oppression and slavery of Egypt but now found themselves in an inhospitable wilderness where they must learn to be dependent upon God or perish. The record in the book of Exodus is that of Jehovah's abiding presence in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. He was constantly with them in everything they experienced during their forty years of wilderness wanderings.

After the Red Sea crossing, there is a period of "stop and go travel," spanning three months from the day of their leaving Egypt until they come into the Sinai and camp before Mount Horeb. That three months was filled with memorable experiences for this newly-freed nation. God gave them a miraculous victor}' over the Amalekites and it was here where Jehovah began the miracles of the "manna" for each day and water from the rock, graciously supplied to that great company of people for the entire 40 years until they came into the promised land. Yet in Your manifold mercies you did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them on the road; nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way they should go. You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst. Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness, they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell (Neh 9:19-21).

Just as He had promised, God leads them to Mount Horeb (Sinai), keeping His promise to Moses at the burning bush where He said: Certainly I will be with you;

and this shall be a token unto you, that I have sent you: When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain (Horeb) (Exodus 3:12).

While God's presence was visible to everyone, even their enemies, in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night giving the people shade in the daytime and the ability to walk about at night in their daily lives, the Holy Spirit has seen fit to include in the record this very mundane instruction to the people from God who was present with them every mile and was their unseen companion for 40 years, day and night. You shall also have a place outside the camp and go out there, and you shall have a spade among your tools, and it shall be when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and shall turn to cover up your excrement Since the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you lest He turn away from you ( Deut 23:12-14)

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses reviews before Israel the great power and glory of God that was displayed, when He brought about the events that had passed: For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it? Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live? Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? (Deut. 4: 32-34).

Clearly, this nation of Israel was God's possession and it was to them that He gave His laws and ordinances, including the "feast of unleavened bread," or Passover, a national ordinance to be observed annually, to recall among their families this great event in their history, a memorial that marked out their miraculous exit from Egypt.

But as great and miraculous as it was, God tells of a greater and more glorious exodus for His people Israel which is still future: Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD lives, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD lives, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands wherever he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers (Jeremiah 16: 14-15).

This promise of another but greater future exodus for the people of Israel is often spoken of by the Old Testament Prophets and confirmed by the Psalmists. They tell of Israel's future gathering out of all nations, their future return and restoration to the promised land: 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. For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all (Jeremiah 31:10-12).

In these prophecies it also becomes evident that the next exodus will take place very soon after God has established His government in the earth. For instance, in the passage above from Isaiah 11, following a description of changed animal life and mankind's new Edenic conditions brought about by divine intervention. It is then that God, ruling from the heavens, will set His hand the second time to recover His scattered people: 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 (Isa 11:11-12).

## **THE EARTH'S MESSIAH WILL RULE FROM THE HEAVENS**

"The LORD has prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom rules over all," (Ps. 103:19) It is from this throne that God will exercise His authority and sovereignty; Say among the nations that the LORD reigns: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the peoples righteously ( Ps 96:10).

When by His Spirit God invades the earth, He takes full control and assumes sovereignty over all nations, the earth itself and every living thing upon it will be subject to Him. God's Spirit will touch everything and everybody, changing everything and every individual. Truth and righteousness will become the order of His realm. This positive declaration is found in the Old Testament in Isaiah 42: 1-

4, and also the New Testament in Matthew 12: 18-21. Here we have a description of the silent invasion of the earth when Jesus Christ assumes sovereignty over His inheritance, the nations of the earth: Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the nations. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the nations trust (Matt. 12:18-21).

The prophet Joel tells how this intervention begins: And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions (Joel 2:28). The Kingdom of God suddenly becomes a reality to the very ends of the earth, forcefully putting great light and convicting introspect into the mind and heart of every living person upon the earth. In every nation of the earth this favorable intervention will flow out from God, bringing great physical changes in the human body as well as in the earth itself. The Spirit of God enlightens the minds of all living: All the ends of the world shall remember (an awakened God consciousness) and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD's: and he is the governor among the nations (Ps. 22:27-28). This enlightenment brings everyone of the six billion living inhabitants of earth under great personal responsibility and divine judgment. Some will be eliminated as Psalm 37: 9 makes clear.

The Kingdom of God is called "The Judgment" (Matt. 12:36,41,42), because when divine intervention comes, Jesus Christ in His great power and righteous judgment will immediately begin to set the order for both the living and the dead. Those living upon the earth will be the first to experience this great flow of life and perfect health even while Christ determines on an individual basis who will be a part of His great kingdom and who will not. Those found unworthy to live under His government will be cut off: For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more (Ps 37:9-10).

The Apostle Paul revealed to Timothy Who would be the judge and that this event would mark the beginning of Christ's kingdom: I charge thee therefore before God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing (Gk. epiphaneia, blazing forth) even his kingdom (2 Timothy 4:1).

The Kingdom of God is also called "the Resurrection." Under God's government there will begin an orderly resurrection of all those presently in the state of death. A witness to this is found in the gospel of Luke: ....and you will be blessed, since they (men) do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.' And when one of those who were reclining (at the table) with Him heard this, he said to Him, 'Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!' ( Luke 14:14-15).

Again, it is under these marvelous kingdom conditions, already working in the earth that God sets His hand the second time to recover His scattered people. The timing of this great event of Israel's return is not contingent upon the parousia of Christ but upon His ongoing epiphaneia.

Jesus Christ who is the Jehovah of the Old Testament said of Himself I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep (John 10:11). Here, the one who became God in the flesh to give His life for the world was referring to the words He had spoken through the Prophet Ezekiel 600 years earlier: For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. 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 (nations), 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 (Ezek. 34:11-13).

Jeremiah, often called the weeping Prophet, lamented his people's suffering, captivity and scattering due to their sin of rebellion. He writes of a joyful reuniting when God restores Israel to himself and places them in the promised land: Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: 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 (Jer. 32:37-39).

The facts supporting two distinct gatherings of the nation of Israel are positively affirmed by scripture. Both events have to do with one family of people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. One is past history, the other is still future and it will be a greater and more glorious event than the first exodus as promised from the mouth of God.

Just what is it then, and where in the scriptures is the evidence that tells of how the second exodus will so exceed the first in miraculous wonders and greater glory so as to overwhelm the memory of that first exodus?

In the pages that follow there are assembled references that have to do with certain aspects or experiences that are common to both of the events.

Some of the differences and similarities between the first exodus and the coming exodus that are recorded in the scriptures are set forth here for your comparison and consideration.

## **THE EXIT PLACE OF THE FIRST EXODUS. THE EXIT PLACES OF THE FUTURE EXODUS AND HOW GOD MANIFESTLY BRINGS HIS PEOPLE OUT**

**THE FIRST EXODUS.** Moses reviewed for the new generation about to enter the land what God had done for them: And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders (Deut. 26:8). He is instructed by God to remind them of His great power: Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself (Exodus 19:4).

Moses' eye-witness account was rehearsed before the new generation of the children of Israel, who after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness are about to enter the promised land. The "mighty hand" speaks of God's great skill, and the "stretched out arm" tells of His extended strength and power. The statement concerning how He "bore them on eagle's wings" refers to the miracle of moving the whole nation in a single day.

**THE COMING EXODUS:** When the call goes out for Israel to return to the promised land, God will work openly with great power to bring all of them from every country in the world to a special gathering place, a place of separation away from the nations where He will deal with them face to face: As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out 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 wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. (Ezek. 20: 33-34). 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 travails with child together a great company shall return thither. 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 (Jer 31: 8-9).

## **THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED**

**THE FIRST EXODUS:** Coming out of Egypt, according to Numbers 1:46, there were over 603,000 fighting men, not counting any one from the tribe of Levi. Also not counted, were the wives and families of all men over 20 years of age and up. The best calculation seems to set the total number at over two million people: And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed unto the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations (Exod. 12: 41- 42).

**THE COMING EXODUS:** The call for Israel to return to the land will include both the living and the suddenly-resurrected dead. This gathering will involve an incalculable number of people to deal with, yet God declares that not one will be left among the nations and all of them will be gathered together into the place of separation. Here He will lay out all of the facts of their past and future relationship with Him: And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of 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 ye shall know that I am the LORD (Ezek. 20: 35-38).

There will not be one individual overlooked in God's gathering methods: 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; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the nations: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there (Ezek. 39: 27-28).

The context of these scriptures makes it clear that this meeting between God and the descendants of Israel is a one-time only, all must be present situation which must include every worthy child of Israel who has ever lived. The statement in Ezekiel 20:38 indicates that the special place of gathering is not in the promised land, but a place away from all nations. Those of the gathered ones who transgress or rebel against God are cut off here and will not enter into the promised land.

In the order of events that will take place upon earth when God assumes His sovereignty, the call for Israel's return to the land will be among the early important events, but not the first or earliest. The judge of all the earth must first set the order for the living of all nations.

At that same time many important individuals will be raised from among the dead to take their God designated positions in relation to His government, and to extol the glory of His grace throughout the earth.

With the entire earth under His control and the nations placing their trust in Him (Matthew 12: 18-21), very quickly then, as God has indicated, the commandment will go forth (probably from Jerusalem) "to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, and the foundation of the Temple will be laid." Daniel 9: 25, Isaiah 44: 28. This is the commandment that Israel has been waiting centuries to hear, the divine signal to go back to the land. The Psalmist wrote of this event, Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion (Jerusalem)! When God brings back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad (Psalm 53:6). He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd does his flock (Jeremiah 31:10).

The 15 million Jews who are currently living among all the nations of the earth will hear the call to return to the land. The enlightened nations also will hear and understand; they will aid in every way possible to bring the people of Israel to the place of gathering, the "wilderness of the peoples."

But what of the dead of Israel? They too must be alive and at the place where God will talk to the whole nation face to face. If this is not done, then God will have failed in His promise to the whole house of Israel, and Jesus Christ's death and victorious resurrection falls short of its completeness. The one who is the Resurrection and the Life will do what He promised for those in the graves, He will raise them to life and bring them into the land. Jesus said: Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29).

## **A SPECIAL RESURRECTION FOR ALL OF ISRAEL'S DEAD**

Of all the nations upon the earth, no other nation, like the people of Israel has been so widely scattered throughout other nations and peoples. A great number of graves throughout the world hold the dead of Israel; many go back for centuries, and only God knows who they are. Everyone of these will be raised from the dead to participate in the great gathering and return to the land promised to their fathers. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as David who will become their king. The Twelve Apostles, who are to sit on twelve governmental seats of authority will be upon the scene, as well as the "out-called (ekklesia) ones" of the Acts period, trained, experienced and ready to be positioned in their appointed places under God's government.

There are those who died in Egypt during the 215 years before Israel's great exodus, and many that perished in the wilderness during the forty years of wandering.

God has knowledge of those who died in the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, those who died in other nations and the land of Israel. The soil of almost every nation of the world also holds some of the dead of Israel. God knows all about them, including the more than six million who died in the holocaust of World War II. He knows them all by name and will call them up from their graves, giving them life and breath, and He will bring them into the land of Israel: 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 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, 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 (Ezek 37:12-14).

When all of God's people Israel, the living and the resurrected dead are gathered together into that place of separation that Ezekiel 20:35 describes as the "wilderness of the peoples," the number of the living descendants of Abraham will indeed be as innumerable as the dust of the earth (Gen. 13:15-16). Ezekiel describes this resurrection scene as an "exceeding great army."

The vision that God gave Balaam of Israel's future gathering was of an organized, peaceful, innumerable host: For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the

hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations. Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? (Numbers 23: 9-10).

When the call has gone out for God's people Israel to return to their land, and they are gathered one by one, this gathering place, "the wilderness of the peoples" is where Elijah will be fulfilling his great work of restoration (Matthew 17:11), a task that Elijah has been preparing for in heaven, where God took him to be instructed for this very purpose (2 Kings 2: 11). The disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus Christ, a scene that also involved Moses and Elijah, asked the Lord Jesus about the promised sending of Elijah, as the prophet Malachi had written: Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse (Mal. 4:5-6).

Most of organized religion has no place for the future work of Elijah in their prophetic programs, yet the scriptures make it very plain that this prophet must come upon the scene before the Day of the Lord, which has its beginning before the Great Tribulation period.

Here I would quote from the writing of Otis Q. Sellers who in his Seed & Bread pamphlet number **SB091**, THE MISSION OF ELIJAH, explains this subject very well. Mr. Sellers begins with the Lord's answer to the disciples question concerning the sending of Elijah: And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things (Matthew 17:11).

Mr. Sellers continues: "From this we know that the work of Elijah is not to be insignificant. He will "restore all things," and this will be done before the beginning of the great and notable day of the LORD. It must be noted here that Elijah does his great work in the time period and under the conditions brought about by the divine assumption of sovereignty which inaugurates the government of God upon the earth. He is the one who will indicate the exact boundaries of the land God promised to Abraham, the boundaries of the land allotted to each tribe, the division of Israel according to their tribes, the identification of the Aaronic family, the three divisions of the tribe of Levi, the restoration of the judges and counselors as promised in Isaiah 1:26, the identification of historical sites, the restoration and proper observance of the feasts. Today no one knows how Passover was observed in the time of Christ. All this will be restored by Elijah when God governs the earth."

The work of Elijah in the coming exodus is a reflection of the work that Moses did for Israel in the exodus out of Egypt and after. The first exodus was not mass confusion; it was an orderly process under God's control and instruction. When the Israelites reached Horeb the Mount of God where they were to meet with God and be given the law, they camped in an orderly plan by tribe and by family, as Moses later describes the camp, and the tribal positions relating to the newly completed Tabernacle: Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house: far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch (Numbers 2:2).

Isaiah writes with great wonder at such a future gathering: Who hath heard such a thing? who hath 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 (Isa 66:8). Our God is a God of order, the redemption of the entire earth and the restoration of Israel in every way, will be a marvelous order of beauty and not confusion. The inspired psalmists wrote in many of their songs that men will be speaking of these great events from one generation to another.

## **THE MIRACLE OF GOD GIVEN HEALTH**

**THE FIRST EXODUS:** Every individual who came out of Egypt was miraculously an able bodied person, old or young. God supplied their every need, their safety, their food and water, even anticipating the need for the Egyptian's gold, silver and precious raiment for the soon to be built Tabernacle and its furnishings: He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes. Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them fell upon them (Psalm 105:37-38). During God's face to face dealing with Israel at Mt. Horeb He sought their singular faithfulness to Himself. To do this would bring great reward: And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil (Exodus 23:25-26). Sadly, Israel failed to obtain this status.

**THE COMING EXODUS:** A greater and more glorious series of events will take place when God's government comes into this earth. Because of Christ's victory over sin and death, perfect health and life flowing from God will be the portion of all that the Kingdom of God touches. The nations as well as Israel will experience this benefit of Jesus Christ's great salvation. When the call goes out for Israel's return to the land, those living upon the earth at that time will already be experiencing the benefits of Christ's salvation. Every sickness, physical handicap and even their stony heart will have already been removed: A new heart also will I

give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God (Ezek 36:26-28). He who scattered Israel will gather them: 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 travails with child together: a great company shall return thither (Jeremiah 31:8). Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5-6).

## **MESSIAH BRINGS THESE GIFTS FOR MEN**

Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them (Ps. 68:18).

In Psalm 67:1-2 the Psalmist declares that the coming intervention of God would bring "His saving health to all nations." The prophets, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah, as well as many other inspired writers of the Old Testament foretold the great signs and healing miracles that would be the identifying credentials of the promised Messiah. Scripture portions such as those above are good examples. If we compare these statements with the Gospel record of the many signs and wonders performed by Jesus, we are looking at solid evidence that He indeed was the promised Christ. Every sign and miracle that has been recorded in the Gospels is an indication of what men could expect when Messiah governs the earth, that period in time in which the coming exodus will take place.

Sickness and death will be under the control of The Messiah, and the gift of perfect health, the experience of being "made whole" will also be the portion of every son and daughter of Israel, living or resurrected. This gift of being "made whole" is a universal truth for all people living in all nations upon the earth when God brings His rule to the earth. The other side of the coin is that while all receive the gifts of Messiah's victory, many who are judged unworthy by Him, will lose everything due to their own sins.

## **THE INSTANT CHANGE FROM MORTALITY TO IMMORTALITY**

Ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And 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 (Isa 27:12-13). Resurrection, the restoration of life to one who is dead, is a truth that is greatly expanded in the New Testament gospels and epistles: Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Cor 15:51-52). "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is {the} Son of Man. (John 5:25-27).

This fact should be emphasized; the gift of life, light and perfect health will be the portion of all living in all nations when the great change comes, or it will become their portion at their resurrection, all men, even the rebellious will be beneficiaries, this is the gift of Jesus Christ, bought with His victory over death. Whether individuals will continue to live to enjoy this life in God's kingdom will be determined as their record is reviewed by the Judge of all the earth (1 Tim.4:1).

## **FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER**

**THE FIRST EXODUS:** These items are said to be the basic needs of mankind. To this most men would agree, it is our special interest in this study to search out the record of the first exodus as to how God answered these needs for the people that came out of Egypt. They were under His care and responsibility for over forty-years in a cursed wilderness. He took care of every detail. And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet; you have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink; that you may know that I am the LORD your God (Deut 29:5-6).

The prophet Nehemiah writes a prayer of praise: Yet in Your manifold mercies you did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them on the road; nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way they should go. You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst. Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness, they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell (Neh. 9:19-21).

In Psalm 78 the Psalmist makes mention of the miraculous things that God did for Israel in the Egyptian exodus and the days that followed: Marvelous things did

he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan (Egypt). He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap. In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. He cleaved the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers (Psalm 78:12-16). He commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven, and had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full (Psalm 78:23-25).

**THE COMING EXODUS.** Will the glory of the coming exodus exceed these marvels? It will be greater and more glorious for many reasons, some of which have been pointed out, but also consider the greater numbers of people involved and the multitude of exit points from which God's covenant people will come. Also, God states that His reputation is at stake, and even though Israel had failed Him so many times before, He will accomplish what He set out to do; His promises are always kept. The manifest power and the glory of the coming exodus of Israel from among the nations will so exceed the first that the memory of the first exodus from Egypt will dim in comparison.

"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 'but, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. "Behold, I will send for many fishermen," says the LORD, "and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks" (Jer 16:14-16).

Another important reason is that God will restore them for His own reputation's sake: But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the nations, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land (Ezek. 36:21-24).

## **A NEW HEART ATTITUDE FOR ISRAEL**

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your

filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will also save you from all your uncleanness: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the nations. Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. (Ezekiel 36:25-32).

## **THE ABUNDANCE OF A CURSE-FREE EARTH**

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 built. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. 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. (Ezek 36:33-35). The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid. I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD (Ezek 34:27-30 (NTV)).

## **SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE TEMPLE**

In pointing out the greater glories of the coming exodus, the restoration of the city of Jerusalem and the existence of a new Temple accepted of God must be set forth as most important to the center of His government: For the LORD shall comfort Zion: (Jerusalem) he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody (Isa 51:3).

If God should unveil Jesus Christ to the world today, His authority over the nations would instantly become manifest and extend to the ends (most remote places) of the earth, including Jerusalem and the Temple site where the new Temple will stand. There is of course no Temple at the present time but many of the prophets refer to its existence when speaking of the time of Heavens government in the earth.

The prophet Ezekiel instructed by God's Spirit was given a detailed description of the new Temple that will be built according to the plans given by God, as was the wilderness Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple: "Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. "And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. "This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple. (Ezek 43:10-12).

The questions should be asked "Where does Israel worship during the building of the new sanctuary?, where do the representatives of the nations coming to Jerusalem present themselves during the years of construction?" There are no easy answers to the question, but the Lord will provide. There could be the provision of a temporary Tabernacle, made again by the skill of the resurrected Bezaleel (Ex. 38: 22-23) and others of the children of Israel. The existence of another temporary Tabernacle carried by the Priests in the march into the promised land would be in keeping with the pattern displayed by God of retracing Israel's footprints of failure with His success. There will be no ark of the Covenant housing tables of stone this time as the new Covenant will be written on their hearts: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when 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 that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer 31:31-34).

"Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days," says the LORD, "that they will say no more, 'The ark of the covenant

of the LORD.' It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore (Jer 3:16).

## **THE PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE OVER JERUSALEM**

When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering. (Isa 4:4-5).

Jerusalem will be the center of the earth for all nations, the Temple will be God's footstool where appointed representatives of the nations will seek for wisdom and instruction from the God of all nations: Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain (a government) of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isa 2:2-4).

## **THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE MEETING PLACE. (SOME ENLIGHTENED SPECULATION).**

We know from Ezekiel 20: 37-38, that the place called "the wilderness of the peoples" where God will meet with the whole nation of Israel is not in the land that God promised to bring them into, but in some other geographical location that is within walking distance of that promised land. I believe that when God has completed His face to face meeting with the nation of Israel, brought them into the bond of the new Covenant, the rebels and transgressors who are not allowed to enter the land will have been purged, the new nation, a united redeemed people will begin their march to enter and possess the land. This time it will be an absolute success: Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. (Deut 11:24). (There are eleven days' journey

from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.) (Deut 1:2)

## **CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF MOUNT HOREB**

As to the geographical location of the "wilderness of the nations" meeting place, I would offer this enlightened speculation: in this study there are many parallels between the first exodus and the coming exodus have been disclosed where God is going to successfully accomplish in the new gathering what Israel failed to do in the old. While no man today knows the exact location of Mount Horeb, could it be that God once more wants to start with them at this special place in the wilderness of Sinai? The important events that have occurred at Horeb give us good reason for thinking that God may possibly use this "holy ground" again. Here are some facts for your consideration:

1. When Moses kept the flock of Jethro his Father in law, the priest of Midian, we are told in Exodus 3:1,5, that he led the flock to backside of the desert and came to "the mountain of God, even to Horeb." This is where he encounters God at the burning bush. Moses is instructed to stay at a distance and to remove his shoes "for the place whereon you stand is holy ground."

2. Mount Horeb became the meeting place for Moses and Aaron when God brought Aaron out of Egypt to aid Moses: And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him (Exod 4:27).

3. God's assurance to Moses that He would cause them to return to Horeb "when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain." Exod.3:12. In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain (Exod 19:1-2).

4. Horeb is the place where God instructed Moses to strike the rock to give the people water: "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink" And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel (Exod 17:6).

5. Horeb, the Mount of God is the site where both Moses (Exod. 33: 18-23), and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8-12), witness the power and glory of God.

In the case of Elijah going to Mount Horeb, it was God who wanted him there for His own reasons and so arranged for him to go there. Elijah has a big commission to fulfill relating to the gathering of Israel. This visit may have been part of the preparation.

6. It is on Mount Horeb that God gave Israel the Law and makes the first Covenant with them. (See Exodus, chapters 19 and 20). Will God parallel the first giving of the Law in Horeb, by bringing Israel into the bond of the New Covenant in the same setting?

7. Moses did not enter the land the first time. Will God give him the privilege of leading the people on foot into the redeemed promised land? As it says in Isaiah: And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Isa 35:8-10).

No man today knows the exact location of Mount Horeb, and it does not matter where God chooses to meet with His people, at Horeb or some other location, but this we do know that there is yet to be an orderly gathering of the nation of Israel. This final exodus from around the world will bring millions of Jews now living and those made alive in resurrection back to the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No nation on earth in that day will fail to grasp the significance of this divine act. The Lord will be exalted in that day as David has declared: Yours, O lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. (1 Chr 29:11-12).

**MAY GOD SPEED THE DAY**

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