

MSB203

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BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

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THE RESTORATION OF THE DAVIDIC SCENE

by John C. Ribbens

One of the least understood questions relating to the future restoration of the nation of Israel is found in **Acts 1:6**. The Apostles came to Jesus and asked Him "... *Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*" There can be no doubt but that the burden upon their hearts was concerned with those myriad prophecies spoken of by the prophets of old; a time when Israel would command a position of recognition among the nations; a time when the ancient promises first communicated by God to Abraham and subsequently to his son Isaac, and to Jacob, his son, would be fulfilled. Beyond all doubt, this question envisioned the fulfillment of that glorious and magnificent covenant God made with David, in short, the restoration of the Davidic scene.

A proper appreciation of these great promises God made with Abraham is not possible without carefully reading and believing **Genesis 12: 2,3; Genesis 13: 14-17; and Genesis 17: 6-8**. The enormity of these blessings and the scope of these unilateral covenants defy description.

Consider statements such as these "*...and I will make of thee a great nation...I will bless thee, and make thy name great...in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed, "... " all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever (in respect to the Eon), "... " I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed be numbered, "... "I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant... " Gen 12: 2,3; 13:15,16; 17:7.*

The mere contemplation of these blessings is mind boggling. Think of the enormous wealth, the riches, the honor and glory which God has determined upon that nation of Israel. There is no nation today nor has any nation existed in the annals of history that has been the recipient of such a vast array of physical, material, or spiritual blessings.

The inescapable conclusion is that at this point in time these promises simply have not been fulfilled. Many well meaning Christians have been led to believe that these blessings have not and never will materialize because of Israel's unbelief. Conclusions such as these fail to recognize that no sin in Israel's national life could possibly make null and void these awesome covenants.

Hebrews 6: 13-20 speaks of the "*...immutability of His counsel.*" God, determined to show the unchangeableness of His resolve, i.e., the divine purpose, interposed an oath between the promise and the fulfillment showing that it was impossible for God to lie. Thus by "*...two immutable things*" i.e., his promise and his oath, God provided for the consolation of these first century AD believers. In this passage Paul points to the anchor of soul, namely our Lord Jesus Christ, upon whom these promises remain unshakeable, inviolable, and secure.

Consider the facts pertaining to Israel's future glory as set forth in the Davidic covenant. **1 Chronicles 17: 7-14** reveals the substance of this covenant. Note these definitive statements; "*... also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more... Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. "... "I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne forever.*" (In respect to the Eon).

These words spoken by God to David were His promise that He would exercise His sovereign power to establish the Davidic throne. Note also **2 Samuel 7: 10-13**. David will yet one day be resurrected from the dead and assume the position of king over Israel. The authority and power that David will exercise will be the direct result of Jesus Christ in heaven exercising His right to govern over Israel and all nations upon the earth. Note **Ezekiel 34: 22-31**.

The absolute guarantee of that divine purpose can be clearly seen in such passages as **Psalms 89: 34-36**: "*My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me.*

Consider **Jeremiah 33: 20-22** and **Jeremiah 33: 25, 26**. In those oft ignored but most important prophecies the Lord provides the most positive truth to be found anywhere in scripture confirming His intention to multiply the seed of David.

These words were spoken some fifteen hundred years after the death of Abraham, some four hundred sixty years after David's death. Yet they are as irrevocable as

when God first spoke them. The Davidic covenant speaks of a time when God will appoint a place for His people Israel and plant them in the earth. See **1 Chronicles 17: 9**. Many believe that the recognition given by the United Nations in 1946 of Israel giving her sovereignty marks the fulfillment of these blessings. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is absolutely no correlation whatever between that little land of Palestine occupied by the Israelis today and the borders of that land as revealed in **Ezekiel 47**.

Israel's borders as specified in Ezekiel describe the land of promise extending from the River Nile on the west to the River Euphrates on the east. It encompasses the land from the Mediterranean Sea on the north to the Persian Gulf on the south. Any modern map would show that this great land of promise includes present day Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and a significant portion of Egypt.

Title to this land belongs to Abraham and his descendants. It is this land and not this tiny country of Palestine that is the subject of the great prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Read **Ezekiel 11: 17-20, 20: 33-42, 34: 11-16, 34: 23-28, 37: 21-22, 39: 27-28, Jeremiah 32: 37-41, 33: 12-14**. Language would be absolutely futile if God did not mean what He has said. God says repeatedly, "*I will*," in affirmation of His Holy Word. As a man of faith, I believe that God will fulfill His word to the very letter. It cannot be denied that since the days of Solomon when the nation became divided into the ten northern tribes and the two tribes in Judah that the nation as a whole has been scattered, not lost. Any suggestion of the ten lost tribes of Israel is foreign to the word of God.

Israel's sin in departing from God and her involvement with idolatry caused God to punish her severely. God's indictment of that nation is clearly set forth in **Isaiah 1: 1-4**. Within the space of one hundred years from the time that those words were spoken, Jerusalem was sacked, the palaces were gutted by fire and the goodly vessels destroyed. Note **2 Chronicles 36: 15-21** and **2 Kings 21: 12, 13**. These passages make abundantly clear the extent of destruction which God permitted Nebuchadnezzar to heap upon Jerusalem and her people.

For seventy years Judah would be in servitude to the king of Babylon. Note **Jeremiah 25: 11,12**. Following this captivity Israel was once again allowed to return to her land. But the fact remains that Palestine would not be the physical home of the majority of Jews. Streams of Jews would migrate into Egypt and other countries outside the land of Palestine. By the time of the birth of Christ the number of Jews living abroad would far exceed the number remaining at home.

In spite of those deportations into Babylon and her exile from the land of promise, Israel has a great future. God in His sovereign wisdom will yet act openly and manifestly to regather that nation. Hearts hardened through unbelief will yet turn to God. In the momentous words of Jeremiah the prophet God declares,

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah...After those days, saith the Lord I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31: 31-33.

The fulfillment of this promise will result in a great reawakening of the heart and mind of every Israelite. Those long dead will respond to the divine call when God speaks and declares, ***"Behold , O my people, I will open your graves,... and bring you into the land of Israel... and shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land."*** Ezekiel 37: 12-14.

Israel long scattered will be regathered. Note **Ezekiel 20: 33-42** ***"...I will bring you out from the people and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered..."*** This passage describes in the clearest language possible God's intention to denationalize the nation of Israel and return her... ***"into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers."*** It is nothing less than this majestic scene that filled the mind of the Apostle James as he spoke in **Acts 15: 13-17**.

Note verse **16** ***"..After this I will return, and build again the tabernacle of David, (the Davidic scene) which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up. "***

These words were spoken almost two thousand years ago. To this day they remain unfulfilled. This long delay was neither understood nor contemplated as the prophets spoke. For while their eyes were allowed to see ***"...the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow,"*** **1 Peter 1: 11**, they could not comprehend the secret hid in God, that long display of grace which has characterized God's dealings with mankind for the past two thousand years of human history.

The sand in the hourglass of God's grace is soon to run out. Next is the divine assumption of sovereignty, God speaking from heaven and causing the great river of prophecy to flow once again. When that happens, every promise of God and every prophetic utterance relating to the future of Israel and the restoration of the Davidic scene will come to pass. At long last, God will fulfill to the very letter every promise and every word He spoke to the nation of Israel.

In the words of the prophet Amos, "*...I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.*" Amos 9: 11-15.

This is what I believe. What do you believe?

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