

DOES THE NATION OF ISRAEL HAVE ANY PART TO PLAY IN BIBLE PROPHECY TODAY?

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Bible; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

Many Protestant Christians believe and teach that the literal nation of Israel will have the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled to them at the end of time, and that the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, was ordained of God, to prepare the way to fulfil these prophecies to the nation of Israel.

Based upon the following Biblical principles, this popularly held belief is a misapplication of the Bible prophecies: -

- ❖ The promises that the Lord made to ancient Israel were **conditional upon their obedience**. No obedience on their part – no fulfilment of the promises made to them.

Exodus 19:5 & 6: - "Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** for all the earth [is] mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These [are] the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

Jeremiah 18:5 - 10: - "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay [is] in the potter's hand, so [are] ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. **[At what] instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy [it]; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And [at what] instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant [it]; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.**"

Please read Deuteronomy 28 to see the Blessings and the Curses that the Lord promised Israel, dependant upon whether they obeyed or disobeyed his Commandments.

- ❖ Because the Jewish nation Israel rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah, Jesus said that the Kingdom of God would be taken from them, and given to another nation bringing forth fruit. The Gentiles who accept Christ by true faith.

Matthew 21:42 - 44: - "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? **Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.** And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."

When Jesus left the Temple precincts just before he was crucified, he pronounced the Temple and the City of Jerusalem as being **desolate – forsaken by the Lord**. Israel and Jerusalem are **no longer** holy places.

Matthew 23:37 & 38: - "**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,** [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**"

The 70 Weeks prophecy of Daniel 9 indicates that when the 70 Weeks of Years were fulfilled, the probation for the Jewish nation was finished, as far as being the people of God. This harmonises perfectly with Jesus' statements referred to previously in Matthew.

Daniel 9:24 - 27: - **"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."**

- ❖ The true Israel of God are **not** the literal seed of Abraham; but the **spiritual seed of Abraham**. Those who have true faith in Christ are the **true Israel of God**, and will inherit the promises made to the literal Israel.

Romans 2:28 & 29: - "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: **But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter;** whose praise [is] not of men, but of God."

Romans 9:6 - 8: - "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. **For they [are] not all Israel, which are of Israel:** Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, [are they] all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, **They which are the children of the flesh, these [are] not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**"

Galatians 3:7: - "Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**"

Galatians 3:29: - "**And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"

Therefore when we read in the Old Testament prophets concerning passages that apply to Israel and to God's people **after** the death and resurrection of Christ, we should understand that the Bible writers are **not** referring to literal Jews or to the literal land of Israel, but to the true followers of Jesus Christ being the people of God. Such is the teaching of the apostle Peter.

1 Peter 2:5 - 10: - "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by **Jesus Christ**. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. **Unto you therefore which believe [he is] precious:** but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, [even to them] which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. **But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. **Which in time past [were] not a people, but [are] now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.**"

- ❖ Perhaps the following statement sums up this issue clearly and simply: -

Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology, Selected From Manuscripts of William Miller with a Memoir of his Life; By Joshua V. Himes, p. 71: - "... that "Israel" means the whole household of faith,

whether among the Jews or Gentiles, whether under the law or gospel. And Paul has given us this rule in Rom. ix. 6 and 7: "For they are not all Israel that are of Israel. Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children; but in Isaac shall thy seed be called." ... Therefore, wherever I find a prophecy unfulfilled when the gospel was preached by Christ and his apostles, I am constrained to understand the word Israel to mean the children of Christ, except where they plainly declare they mean Israel in the flesh."

- ❖ Some sincere Christians think that the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 & 39, where Gog and Magog attack Israel in the last days, will be fulfilled when literal Israel is attacked in a war by the countries that now occupy the territory occurred by Gog and Magog when Ezekiel wrote this prophecy. But, once we understand the previously listed Biblical principles concerning the **true Israel of God being the true followers of Christ**, and that since the death of Christ, **the literal nation of Israel** is no longer God's chosen covenant people, then we can see that the application of these prophecies to the **literal land of Israel, and literal Jews** is completely false.

This whole battle is being made by Gog and Magog (a symbol of the wicked) against "my people of Israel" – Ezekiel 38:16; against "my people Israel" – Ezekiel 39:7; and that the Lord will pour out his Spirit upon "the house of Israel" – Ezekiel 39:29. If we understand the principle of who are the **true Israel of God**, then we can see that this prophecy is applying to the wicked world making war upon the saints of God during the Time of Jacob's Trouble, just before Jesus' 2nd Coming. This is further highlighted by comparing the following passages from Ezekiel 38 & 39 with passages in the book of Revelation.

HAILSTONES – THE 7TH PLAGUE: -

Ezekiel 38:22: - "And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that [are] with him, an overflowing rain, **and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.**"

Job 38:22 & 23: - "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? **or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?"**

NOTE: - Notice the hail that the Lord has reserved for "the day of battle and war". This is exactly what is being described in Ezekiel 38 & 39.

Revelation 16:21: - "**And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent:** and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

THE BIRDS ARE TO FEAST UPON THE DEAD BODIES OF THE WICKED AT THE END OF THE WORLD: -

Ezekiel 39:17 - 20 :- "And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; **Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, [even] a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.**"

Revelation 19:17 - 21: - "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, **saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of**

mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all [men, both] free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which [sword] proceeded out of his mouth: **and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**”

*** Clearly, these chapters are describing “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” – Revelation 16:14, when the entire wicked world attempt to exterminate the saints of God (Israel) through the Death Decree, in the Time of Jacob’s trouble. We can see this when we allow the New Testament book of Revelation to explain these Old Testament prophecies. ***