

### **Mountain Peaks on the Prophetic Horizon**

As Jeremiah looked across the prophetic landscape, three events towered like mountain peaks on the horizon: the return of Israel from worldwide diaspora, the time of Jacob's trouble, and the kingdom of Messiah. Like Moses from Mt. Pisgah, Jeremiah could only glimpse that utopic kingdom land. His line of sight could not fathom the distance to nor the length of the valleys in between these events. The unimaginable news that his people, who were still in Babylon, would be scattered worldwide before tasting the millennial milk and honey is now historic record 2500 years later.

### **The Return from Worldwide Dispersion**

The indicator that the prophetic clock has started ticking again is the rebirth of the nation Israel in 1948. The river of Jewish people returning home is perpetually flowing. A Jewish friend of mine recently moved to Israel. The catalyst for this unexpected *aliya* was his son's move to Jerusalem to study in a Yeshivah/rabbinic seminary. They, like millions before, have been drawn by the magnetic purpose of the Sovereign: "*I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers,*" Jeremiah 30:3. The re-emergence of the nation of Israel is God's super-sign of end day events predicted in this text. "A great body of Old Testament prophecy is concerned with the restoration of the nation to the land since the covenants could not be fulfilled apart from this re-gathering."<sup>1</sup>

### **The Passover was "so yesterday."**

Jeremiah must have been astounded when he first heard that the magnitude of this event would surpass even the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. "*The days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.*"<sup>2</sup> In the margin of my Bible, above the phrase, "*lo the days come,*" Jeremiah 30:3, I have written, "the days came - May 14, 1948." Yet we have become indifferent concerning this fulfillment, partially because Israel possesses a mere percentage of the plot deeded to Abraham; "*Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.*"<sup>3</sup>

### **The Time of Jacob's Trouble**

Israel's modern existence was foreseen as; "*trembling...of fear...and not of peace,*" Jeremiah 30:5. Israel has endured five major wars and numerous military conflicts, not to mention the perennial terror and rocket attacks. Add to that the threats of annihilation from Iran. Their ancient birth was an emancipation from the bondage of Egypt. Their modern birth was an emergence from the ovens of the Holocaust, and their millennial rebirth will be an extrication from the apocalypse. As difficult as their modern existence has been, sadly their darkest hour is still to come.

## Israel regather for the Glory of God's Name

Over seventy years ago, Israel crested the summit of that first mountain peak. They are now in the final descent down the trail that skirts the treacherous slopes toward the valley of decision. This passage is a flashing road sign reading; tribulation just ahead. Verse six reveals a bizarre description of Israel's future; birth pangs *after* the delivery of a child, not before. Not only is the reverse order puzzling, the prophet is perplexed by the vision of men not women grasping their loins in agony, "*as a woman in travail*," Jeremiah 30:6. The prophet cried, "*Alas! For that day is great*." Hardly believing his eyes, he exclaimed, "*none is like it!*" Jeremiah 30:7. Why are all the "faces turned into paleness?" Jeremiah 30:6. Because they profaned His Holy name among the gentiles. What is the purpose? To be sanctified in them, and be glorified among them before the watching world. "*And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.*"<sup>14</sup>

## The Beginning of the End of the Times of the Gentiles

Verse seven makes it clear that while the whole earth is in view, "this time that is coming has particular reference to Israel."<sup>15</sup> Jesus affirmed that Israel would be dominated by other nations until He returns. "*Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*"<sup>16</sup> Verses eight and nine give Israel the promise of freedom from her aggressors. "*I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him.*" Verses ten and eleven foretell the destruction of all nations where the Jews sojourned for almost 2,000 years. "*I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee,*" Jeremiah 30:11. God will end the satanically inspired abuse by gentile nations and release her from, "*the chastisement of a cruel one,*" Jeremiah 30:14. The phrase "*all thy lovers,*" Jeremiah 30:14, includes her fondest allies. America is not an exception to "*all nations,*" Jeremiah 30:11. According to the text, Israel will have "*lovers*" up into that time, who will "*chastise*" her and even give her "*the wound of an enemy,*" Jeremiah 30:14.

## Cursing Israel, the beginning of America's End

It is often preached that if we turn our back on Israel, then we are finished as a nation. Until recently, we have lived under the delusion that it could never happen. One of our national political parties has already elected rabid anti-Semites to the Senate and Congress. They have even accepted presidential candidates who are anti-Israel. Almost half of the world's Jewish population, until now, has lived safely and prospered in America. Sadly, a dramatic increase in anti-Semitism seen in synagogue defamations and shootings is chilling evidence of the coming global pandemic of anti-Semitism. Consider how this could worsen if America's economy were to crash. History is full of nations that suffered hard times and turned on "the Jews" as scapegoats of blame. We need not think it implausible that America could go from ally to enemy, even before the tribulation begins.

The prophetic descriptions of the final days of wrath are unbearable enough without her lovers betraying and attacking her in the midst of birth pains. Israel's devourers "*shall be devoured,*" her

"adversaries will go into captivity," and her spoilers "*shall be a spoil.*" Those that "*prey upon thee*" shall become "*a prey,*" Jeremiah 30:16. God, her covenant husband, will "loose the faithful lightening of His terrible swift sword"<sup>7</sup> and will destroy the nations that are gathered to wipe out His chosen in the battle of Armageddon. We, as Christians must pray for and stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people as the political winds reverse against them, regardless of their national unbelief. It is even more urgent that we get the message to them that these chapters were partially fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth and will be completely fulfilled when He returns as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah."<sup>8</sup>

### **Only in the Tribulation will "all these things be seen."**

While describing the events of the Tribulation, Jesus gave the key to understanding last day signs. He said that only the generation that shall see "*all these things*" can know that it is "*near, even at the doors.*"<sup>9</sup> The full proof that His second advent is near will be the totality of these sign events happening in the Tribulation simultaneously. That time is approaching as evidenced by an increase of similar foreshadowing events, but the Tribulation is preceded by the Rapture of the Church.

### **God's Vengeance on Gentile Powers and Mercy on Israel**

Israel is reassured, "*yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished,*" Jeremiah 30:11. When the wicked see this correction and declare her as "*outcast*" by God, Jeremiah 30:17, then He will "*have mercy on his dwelling places,*" Jeremiah 30:18. Though "*no man seeketh*" her, Jeremiah 30:17, God promised to "*have mercy.*" Israel's rescue, spiritual salvation and the destruction of gentile aggressors concludes the second prophetic event in this text.

### **The Messianic Kingdom**

The Kingdom, the grandest monolith of these peaks, comes into view in this final section, Jeremiah 30:17-24. David Larsen astutely comments: "The whole bulk of Old Testament prophecy points to the establishment of a kingdom of peace upon earth when the law will go forth from Mount Zion (Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:2-5)."<sup>10</sup> Before global peace is established, individual Shalom, literally spiritual wholeness must be experienced. "*I will heal thee,*" Jeremiah 30:17, indicates that Israel's "incurable" spiritual condition will be remedied. Isaiah spoke of this provision, "*he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*"<sup>11</sup>

### **The Messiah King**

The identity of the Messiah is revealed. He is to be both divine and human, "*the Lord their God, and David their king,*" Jeremiah 30:9. "Christ's name is closely associated with David's in the Word, so that He is called the Son of David and is said to sit on David's throne."<sup>12</sup> A royal palace will be built in "Zion," Jeremiah 30:17, for David's Messianic seed. Jerusalem will be "*builded upon her own heap,*" Jeremiah 30:18. "The city that was the center of David's government will become the center of

government of David's greater Son."<sup>13</sup> *"Their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them,"* Jeremiah 30:21. *"Out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry,"* Jeremiah 30:19. Their worship will no doubt exceed the worship during the dedication of Solomon's Temple, as the presence of the glorified Jesus inhabits the Temple. The surviving remnant will be fruitful and be multiplied by God.

### **The Redemption of Israel**

The promises in the Abrahamic covenant concerning the land and the seed are fulfilled in the millennial age. God will *"glorify them and they shall not be small,"* Jeremiah 30:19. Their population will *"be as aforetime,"* Jeremiah 30:20, as large as at Israel under Solomon's rule. The phrase, *"their congregation shall be established before me,"* Jeremiah 30:20, is reminiscent of the first time they were gathered as a "congregation" before the newly erected Tabernacle in Leviticus chapter eight. A savior is implied in verse seven, and fully developed in the following chapters, *"but he shall be saved out of it."* How are the remnant of Israel saved? Individually and simultaneously, *"Who is this that has engaged his heart to approach unto me? Saith the LORD. And ye shall be my people and I will be your God,"* Jeremiah 30:21b-22. There will be a personal repentance of their rejection of Jesus and the placing of their faith in Him.

### **The Later Day Focus**

God concludes with the promise that once this threefold sequence begins, it will not cease but rather spin like a *"continuing whirlwind,"* Jeremiah 30:23. The storm will not stop until God has *"performed the intents of his heart,"* Jeremiah 30:24. Once Israel has returned to the land - *"in the latter days ye shall consider it,"* Jeremiah 30:24. Israel's time of judgment is imminent and her salvation is sure. We join His Jewish disciples in praying with anticipation, *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."*<sup>14</sup> Maranatha!

1 J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things To Come*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan 1964), p. 504

2 Jeremiah 16:14,15

3 Genesis 15:18-21

4 Ezekiel 36:23

5 J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things To Come*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan 1964), p. 237

6 Luke 21:22-24

7 [https://hymnary.org/text/mine\\_eyes\\_have\\_seen\\_the\\_glory](https://hymnary.org/text/mine_eyes_have_seen_the_glory)

8 Revelation 5:5

9 Matthew 24:33

10 David Larsen, *Jews, Gentiles, & the Church: A new perspective on history and prophecy*, Discovery House Publ. 1995, pages 310-311

11 Isaiah 53:5

12 J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things To Come*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan 1964), p. 499

13 J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things To Come*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan 1964), 508

14 Matthew 6:10