

GOD'S PROPHECIES

FOR

PLAIN PEOPLE

by William L. Pettingill

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Chapter Twelve -

When the Jews Become Mankind's Glory

Thirty thousand Jews were slain in the Ukraine during the six months from November, 1918, to June, 1919. As I begin this article my attention is drawn to an announcement by the Zionist Organization of America, published in the newspapers of October 10, stating that, according to exact records gathered by the Jewish National Secretariat in the Ukraine country, "pogroms and bloody excesses" took place at one hundred and twenty-seven points in that region during the period mentioned, with the result that at least thirty thousand Jews were murdered by Russian troops.

So it goes, and it is ever thus. The Gentile nations owe more to the Jews than to any people in the world, and yet they go on hating them and killing them. For a long time **"they have taken crafty counsel against"** GOD's chosen **"people, and consulted against"** His **"hidden ones."**

"They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance" (Psalm 83:3, 4).

Israel must have disappeared long ago from the face of the Earth but for GOD's promise.

"Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the Lord; If Heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

Man Proposes; GOD Disposes

There you have it, in "deadly parallel."

Man says: "Let us cut them off from being a nation."

GOD says: They shall not "**cease from being a nation before me for ever**" (Jeremiah 31:36).

Thus the issue is sharply drawn, and the struggle has been fierce and long; but, as, in the days of Pharaoh, who sought to destroy the seed of Jacob through conspiracy with the midwives, "**the people,**" nevertheless "**multiplied, and waxed very mighty,**" even so is it to-day. They thrive upon persecution. The more they are afflicted, the more they multiply and grow (Exodus 1:12, 20).

The sufferings of Israel had been in fulfillment of prophecy, as well as the miraculous preservation of the nation from the utter destruction which the other nations have sought to accomplish. We have seen something of this in the former studies of this series.

We are now to look at the marvelous future which the GOD of Jacob has planned for Jacob's seed. Listen to His Word, as it is found in the forty-sixth chapter of Isaiah:

"Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors.

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory" (Isaiah 46:3-13).

That is GOD's name for the Jews: "*Israel my glory.*"

One day they shall be so manifested, for His love is upon them, and He has promised who is faithful. For the present they are "stouthearted," or stubborn of heart. They are "far from righteousness," for, as Paul explains in the tenth chapter of Romans, "**they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of GOD. For Christ is the end of the law for**

righteousness, to every one that believeth." They failed to recognize their MESSIAH when He came to them, though His name for them is "**THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**" (Jeremiah 23:6). But GOD is by no means through with His people. His faithful promise is sure of accomplishment: "**I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.**"

The promises of GOD are never outlawed. It will not do to say that Israel's faithfulness absolves the LORD from the obligation to fulfill His promises. It is a New Testament promise that as soon as "**the fulness of the Gentiles be come in**" then "**all Israel shall be saved: as it is written**" (Romans 11:25-27). Israel's restoration and national salvation awaits only the completion of the church. Israel's failure does not set aside GOD's eternal purpose to bless the world through Israel His glory. He cannot deny Himself. At the proper time in the program -

"He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit" (Isaiah 27:6).

Let us now examine some Scriptures showing how GOD proposes to thus bless the world through His people Israel. We will begin with two passages which should be considered together, one in the Old Testament and one in the New. They are Deuteronomy 32:8, 9 and Acts 17:24-27.

"When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance."

GOD's Strategic Nation-Planting

This is the Deuteronomy passage. Notice that it has to do with inheritances. The Gentiles have their inheritance, the nation of Israel has Palestine for its inheritance, and GOD Himself takes the nation of Israel for His inheritance. Israel is in the midst, and the Gentiles are grouped and placed with reference to "**the number of the children of Israel.**" Now look at the passage in Acts. It is in Paul's sermon to the Athenians:

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of Heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us" (Acts 17:24-27).

Taking these two passages together, we learn that, according to GOD's eternal purpose, the boundaries of the various nations - "**the bounds of the peoples,**" "**The bounds of their habitation**" - are arranged by the Most High GOD (1) for a very definite purpose; namely, "**that they should seek the Lord.**" And, in order that they should thus "**seek the Lord,**" these Gentile nations are geographically located in relation to the children of Israel. The conclusion is irresistible that the seeking of the LORD on the part of the Gentile nations is to be brought about

through the ministry of Israel.

As we have already seen in these studies, this is the revealed program of GOD throughout the Scriptures. As soon as the present elective dispensation closes, with the completion of the church, then GOD again takes up the Jewish nation as such, and through that nation brings universal blessing to **"all the Gentiles"** upon whom His name is called: **"And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world"** (Acts 15:13-18).

(2) This is GOD's specific title as **"possessor of Heaven and Earth"** (Genesis 14:19, 22).

It is to Israel that the word is spoken:

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isaiah 60:1-3).

The divinely appointed center of the Earth is Jerusalem:

"Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her" (Ezekiel 5:5).

and, though Jerusalem failed in her testimony in past days, GOD's determination to make her **"the joy of the whole Earth,"** and Palestine **"the glory of all lands,"** will yet find its fulfillment in the sight of all the nations: **"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King"** (Psalm 48:2) and **"In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands. . . . Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands"** (Ezekiel 20:6, 15).

It is, of course, the presence in Jerusalem of the returned Redeemer that shall make that city the center of worldwide blessing. It was that same Redeemer who said to Ezekiel, in connection with that Prophet's vision of the return of the glory of the LORD by **"the way of the east,"** that is, by the way of the Mount of Olives, **"which is before Jerusalem on the east"** (Zechariah 14:4).

"Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. And it was according to the

appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house. And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places" (Ezekiel 43:1-7).

When the Holy One Tabernacles With Israel

What a time of joy that will be for redeemed Israel, when the LORD shall tabernacle with them and shall be worshipped by them as their LORD and their GOD! Little wonder that the Prophet Isaiah sang the paean of joy addressed to his beloved city, recorded in the twelfth chapter of his prophecy:

"And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee" (Isaiah 12:1-6).

Observe the progression in this chapter.

First, Israel is praising the LORD for pardon and restored fellowship, and then declaring among the peoples the good news, until it becomes "**known in all the Earth.**" And it all comes about through the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel in the midst of the holy city itself.

The picture, with the Holy One of Israel in the midst of His redeemed and restored people, is seen in many places in the prophetic books. See, for example, Joel 2:26, 27; Zephaniah 3:14-17; Zechariah 2:5, 10.

In Zechariah 8 it is written,

"Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain. . . . Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. . . . And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong . . . Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to

pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" (Zechariah 8:3, 7, 8, 13, 23).

The Word of GOD is full of such wonderful promises as these, concerning the future exaltation of Jerusalem and Israel. Surely, no one whose heart GOD has touched can read such promises in cold blood. How glad we should be that Israel, so long downtrodden and persecuted, so long blinded and hardened, is one day to be lifted out of her present low condition, and in fulfillment of the LORD's promise, established in the place of headship among the nations - the "**head, and not the tail**" (Deuteronomy 28:13), and then used of GOD to bring blessing to all the families of the Earth! Let us give heed to the command of GOD's Word in Isaiah 62:6, 7, and obey it: "**I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.**"

"Zion stands with hills surrounded,
Zion kept by power divine;
All her foes shall be confounded,
Though the world in arms combine.
Happy Zion
What a favored lot is thine!

"Every human tie may perish,
Friend to friend unfaithful prove;
Mothers cease their own to cherish,
Heaven and Earth at last remove;
But no changes
Can attend JEHOVAH's love.

"In the furnace GOD may prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright;
But can never cease to love thee;
Thou art precious in His sight:
GOD is with thee,
GOD, thine everlasting light."

~ end of chapter 12 ~
