

Study three – End Time Studies, Events immediately preceding and subsequent to Christ's return.

In our original study in 1991 at the time of the first Gulf War, these sections were the agreed breakdown areas as to how the matter could be investigated.

- A The pre-advential colonisation of Palestine and National Resurrection.
Ezekiel 37v22 v8 Eze 38v8 Dan 7v21,22 Luke 21v29-32 Rev 16v16
- B Gathered from the North & South & East & West
Isaiah 43v5,6 Is 49v12 Is 11v12
- C Territorial expansion – dwelling in safety.
Is 11v11-15 Obadiah v18,21 Zech 12v6 Exodus 38v14
- D The invasion of Israel, stages and developments.
(See also study 11) The reason Ezekiel 38v10-12 Suez Canal
- E Two parts cut off and die; refuge of the Remnant.
Zechariah 13v8 Jeremiah 16v16-18, Deuteronomy 28v68 Dan 12v1 Jeremiah 30v7
- F The deliverance of Jerusalem and Judah first.
Zechariah 12v7
- G Israel's reaction to their Messiah
Zechariah 12v10 Psalm 24v7-10 Rom 11v12-15
- H The work of Elijah
Malachi 4v5,6 Matthew 17v 10-13 Contrast Rom 11v2 (See study no 10)
- I The second Exodus
Isaiah 19v1 18-21 Isaiah 66v20 Ezekiel 20v33-38 (See study no 16)
- J Israel obtains the first dominion.
Genesis 15v18 Isaiah 19v23-25 Micah 7 v15-20

For many years the anticipation of Jewish emancipation and a restoration of that people to their ancient homeland in fulfilment of Bible prophecy has been a hall mark of those who have championed the Truth. It is the greatest sign of modern times and should be thoroughly understood by all who wish to be realistic in warning their fellows of the coming crisis. Any lack of awareness as to how the Jewish nation heralds the nearness of the return of Christ distracts from this key indicator. It is the sign of the son of man.

The apostle Paul argues this under inspiration in Romans 11 using the following points

"If the fall of them be the riches of the world..... how much more their fulness?"

"For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be but life from the dead".

Their fulness and receiving then are explicitly linked with end time matters and the resolution of worldwide problems. That this is also expressly linked to the return of Jesus is seen by verse 26

"There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer and shall turn ungodliness from Jacob." Jesus, the deliverer cannot come out of Sion to effect this unless he has returned from heaven to the earth where Sion is found.

Dr John Thomas correctly understood the importance of a pre-advential colonisation of Palestine as unless there Jews were back in their ancient homeland the return of Jesus to Jerusalem would not provide a solution for them if they remained scattered everywhere.

Jerusalem will be saved before all Israel. This is demonstrated by the following statement and seeking the way it can be correctly understood together with what it said in Romans. Matthew 23v37- 39 *"O Jerusalem.....you shall not see me henceforth till you shall say Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord"*. In this passage Jesus will not return to that city unless they acknowledge him. The lack of acknowledging their Messiah is the main element in their present ungodliness. If He comes out of Sion to turn away that ungodly then the conversion of Jerusalem Jewry must precede that of the rest of the nation.

Jerusalem then must have at least a significant presence of Jews if not be a Jewish city itself for this to be so. Zechariah 14v2 which talks about half the city going into captivity, may imply a mixed ethnic composition of the city or just a terrible unfair division of those Jews that go into captivity and some who do not. Today Israel is threatened to be torn into two with a divided city in many proposed peace plans seeking to provide a capital for both the Jewish and a Palestinian state.

Earlier in Zechariah, the saving of Judah is stated as being even before that of Jerusalem in 12v7. As there are no separate nations of Judah and Israel today, indeed Ezekiel in chapter 37 states that the old division will be done away. Verse 21 gives the conclusion of such a union under God.

"I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one King shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations , neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:" The information is clear that Israel will in part remain out of the land and scattered as they have been down the long years of the diaspora, when for centuries, the majority of Jews have been found amongst the gentiles rather than be living in the Land of Israel. In recent times this trend has been reversing as more Jews return to their ancient homeland.

This returning back to the land of Israel has been hastened whenever persecution and opposition has arisen. The dreadful affliction of God's people by the Nazis and others in the 20th century spurred the Jews to return in significant numbers after the end of the second world war. This seems to fit the language of Jeremiah 16v15-18 where fishers and hunters are sent by God to force them back and includes the horror of the double recompense for their previous sins. Note the expression used *"And first I will recompense"* which follows after the statement *"I will bring them again into their land..."* showing the divine requirement for such a dreadful persecution to take place prior to their return. The horrors of Deuteronomy 28v65-68 appear to cover that period including the ignominious bringing into Egypt by the British forces who were desperately seeking to prevent Jewish immigration into Palestine just after the war.

My uncle Earnest was actually killed by wounds resulting from an explosion set off by Jewish terrorists in Haifa in 1947 where he was serving in the British Mandate as a Military Policeman, so I have some personal family history with such events. My father became a committed Zionist in his latter years even though he had this personal tragedy in his twenties. The power of the Bible was able to penetrate such normal prejudice.

Jews were scattered everywhere. All the cardinal points of the compass are included in the prophecy in Isaiah 43v5,6. So Jews came back from Iran in the East, Europe in the West, Ethiopia in the South, and Russia in the North; amongst others. It is a matter of public record and Bible students should be able to open the eyes of the people to this wonderful fulfilment of prophecy.

After the initial return which gathered pace between and wars and became a flood with the declaration of Independence by the Zionist Council in May 1948, there has been the anticipated territorial expansion of which the scriptures speak. The prophet Obadiah has much to say about the territorial expansion of Israel but it is debated how much is post and how much pre the return of Jesus. The areas to be absorbed and those doing the absorbing are listed as

The south	Mount Esau	The East bank
The plain	The Philistines	The Gaza strip
	The fields of Ephraim	The West Bank
	The fields of Samaria	The West Bank
Benjamin	Gilead	The East Bank
Israel	Canaanites unto Zarephath	Lebanon
Jerusalem	the cities of the south	Southern Jordan and Sinai?

The areas doing the conquest are those areas which need to be obtained by the Jews first and perhaps imply a limitation of the final division of the land in any future Jewish Arab peace deal to those areas which roughly equate to the pre 1967 borders of Israel. The expansion not only of all lands west of the Jordan to the east bank and into Lebanon and the further south requires another expansion which can be linked with the saviours of verse 21 who seem to be the Immortal saints after judgement who will bring peace after victory to greater Israel.

God willing, there is to be a separate study on the Gogian invasion of Ezekiel 38 & 39 so I will restrict my comments on this to the setting up of that scene to the land brought back from the sword, the mountains of Israel. Mountains mentioned here require the invaded nation to include the hilly backbone of the country not just the fringe seacoast, Galilee and the Jordan valley.

The war-torn county is to know some temporary peace but only under the Lord Jesus Christ will it find the true and lasting peace it longs for. The disturbance of the invading hordes will overflow and pass over but return to Israel after it humiliates Egypt particularly. Those that heed the warns of the Bible will flee to Moab, another of the East bank areas now occupied by the modern state of Jordan. There God's people will find some refuge from the storm as Isaiah 16 informs.

The miracle of the restoration of Israel should rightly be a significant part of our preaching efforts as its verification of Bible prophecy is so powerful.



Immigration Minister Pnina Tamarelli (l) greets 100 Falashmura who arrived in Israel, May 21, 2020. (Flash90)

