

JUDAH IN PROPHECY

Many extremely important events are taking place in the Middle East that will dramatically impact every inhabitant of this planet, its governments, and its religions. And many of these events were all foretold centuries ago and recorded in the Bible.

But, does it really matter if you understand these prophetic events? Well it only matters if you want to be forewarned about what lies ahead for you and your loved ones as these events unfold and climax in the return of the Messiah. Otherwise, it does not matter.

As the biblical prophecies about Judah are examined, it becomes clear that we are living in the end of an age. It is also clear that the inhabitants of the modern Jewish nation of Israel are the focal point of many prophecies in the Bible.

The Historical Jew

In order to fully understand what Bible prophecy says about the Jews, one must first understand that there is a difference between the Jews and the other ten tribes of Israel.

King Solomon was the last king to reign over national Israel consisting of all the tribes of Israel. After his death, there was a civil insurrection that resulted in national Israel being divided into two separate nations called the House of Judah and the House of Israel..

Because the temple of God was located in Jerusalem, which is within the boundaries of Judah, the tribe of Judah, the priesthood, most of the Levites, and many from the tribe of Benjamin remained loyal to Solomon's son, Rehoboam. These southern tribes were called the House of Judah and are the Jewish people of the end time prophecies.

The northern tribes who followed Jeroboam of the tribe of Ephraim and became known as the House of Israel and formed their own government, worship system, and religious system in Samaria.

Although there are people from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi also scattered among the tribal

nations of Israel, the House of Israel is not Jewish. The ten tribal nations of Israel are predominantly comprised of the eight single tribes of Asher, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Nephtali, Ruben, Simeon, Zebulun, and the two half tribes of Joseph Ephraim and Manasseh. These ten tribal nations are the peoples who are commonly called the lost tribes of Israel.

Secular history and the Bible tell us that the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrian Empire in 721-718 B.C.. Subsequently, its people were scattered throughout the world and lost their national identity.

Today, the descendants of the so called Lost Ten Tribes of Israel can be easily be identified in existing nations. Most of these people are located in the geographical areas of North America, northwestern Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

The southern kingdom of Judah (the Jews) also rebelled against God and was taken captive by the Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar. Some of these people returned to the area of the Holy Land during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Then, in 70 A.D., Judah was completely destroyed as a nation by the Roman Empire and its people were scattered throughout the nations of world.

Although the Jews were scattered among the nations as were the descendants of the other tribes of Israel. Since 1947 A.D., Jewish people from all over the world have been relocating to nation of Israel in the Holy Land.

This relocation of the House of Judah to the Holy Land is a fulfilment of biblical prophecy, because prophecies in both Joel and Jeremiah tell us that in the end times, just before the return of the Messiah, the House of Judah will again be established in the Holy Land.

Joel chapter 3, verse 1 says:

"For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem" (KJV). See also Joel 2:29-32.

Jeremiah 30, verse 3 says:

"For in the days to come, says the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, says the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it" (Jer.30:3 KJV).

Both the prophet Joel and Jeremiah use the expression "to bring again the captivity," which means to bring them from a previous captivity and location back to the Holy Land. But, when will all of the tribes of national Israel be brought back to the Holy Land? Today, we only see the Jews in the Holy Land.

The prophet Zechariah is very clear in stating that in the end of the age the House of Judah will be instruments of war. This provides an interesting insight into how God does things; he sometimes uses the evil in people to accomplish his purpose. The Jews have been given special favor militarily because God has a task for them to accomplish. What we see prophetically is that the Jews were gathered into the nation of Israel and given control over the city Jerusalem in order for God to fulfill the prophecies that surround the return of Christ:

Zechariah chapter 10, beginning in verse 3 says:

"My anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the Lord of hosts has visited his flock the house of Judah, and has made them as his majestic horse in the battle. Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together. And they shall be like mighty men, who tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the Lord is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded" (Zech.10:3-5 KJV). See also Zech.9:11-13.

In Zechariah chapter 12, the prophet confirms that the Jewish nation of Israel, and Jerusalem are the focal point of biblical prophecy concerning many of the events that lead to the return of Christ:

Verses 2 and 3 say this:

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling to all people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (vs.2-3).

Recent history and continuing events in and around the nation of Israel show the validity of verses two and three. Since 1947, everyone that has meddled with the nation of Israel has had nothing but trouble. Their Islamic attackers have been cut off and defeated in every conflict.

Devouring Flame

No one can dispute the fact that the Israeli leaders and the Jews have been like a fiery torch among the dry wood. They have devoured their Islamic neighbors since 1947 as a fire devours wood. The Jews should have been instantly overwhelmed by their enemies when they declared independence in 1947, because the odds were heavily stacked against them; however, they survived as a nation because God has purposed that they survive in order to fulfill many prophecies that must be fulfilled before Christ returns:

Continuing in verse 4

"In that day, says the Lord, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the Lord of hosts their God. In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem" (vs.4-6).

Verse 8 tells us that it is God who defends the Jews

"In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And he who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David; and the house of David shall be like God, like as the angel of the Lord before them" (v8).

Think back to 1947 when the Jews declared their independence. Their enemies came against them with superior manpower and equipment, yet the Jews were like David fighting against Goliath. And like David, the Jews had God on their side of the conflict. Over the years, many incredible things have occurred, which benefitted the Israelis in battle. Although the Israelis may not have recognized it, the evidence of God's intervention on their behalf is abundant. It is not because the Israeli's are righteous, because they are not. They are blood-thirsty and brutal, just like many other nations. They only exist as a nation because God has a purpose for their existence.

Zechariah chapter 12, verse 7 says:

The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.

History has shown a love-hate relationship exists between the Jews and the British, whose royal family are direct descendants of King David. This sort of relationship also exists between the Jews and the inhabitants of North America and northwestern Europe who are predominantly the so called Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.

Among the promises that the Creator God made to King David, was a promise that his royal blood line would always sit on a throne over national Israel.

The fact that the Kingdom of Israel does not occupy the Promised Land today and a descendant of King David has not always occupied a literal throne over a functioning civil government of Israel does not mean that David's royal bloodline ceased to exist. The historical record clearly shows that almost all the royal families of Europe are related in one way or another to the royal house of David through marriage.

The biblical and historical record also clearly show that whoever occupies the British throne has the

scepter of Judah and is the only lawful ruler of the Kingdom of Israel. But, how can a monarch of national Israel rule when there is no territory, no active government, and no subjects to rule over? The answer is that the monarch maintains the office of rulership while in exile from the homeland and waits for the kingdom to be reestablished.

National Israel still exists today. The land that God gave to Israel still exists although it is mostly occupied by foreigners. Israel's lawful government still exists, but its monarch is in exile. Israel's laws still exist and are codified in the Torah. And there are hundreds of millions of Israelites scattered throughout the world. Yes, national Israel exists today, but its monarch and most of its citizens are in exile waiting to be returned to their homeland after the Messiah returns to establish God's government on earth.

Those of the House of Judah who live among the various nations of the Ten Tribes of Israel tend to be in positions of influence and power, and they control much of these nations' wealth. Because of their power and wealth there is a considerable amount of enmity between those of the other tribes and the Jews, yet there is a feeling of kinship toward the Jews of the nation of Israel.

Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 11, verse 13, looks to a time after the return of Christ, when those of the House of Israel and the House of Judah will be at peace with each other and Ten Tribes will lose their animosity toward the Jews.

The Temple in Jerusalem

The first major prophetic event leading up to the return of Christ, was the return of the Jews to the holy land in 1947 in order for them to occupy the land and to eventually control the city of Jerusalem. The second major prophetic event is the building of the temple in Jerusalem and the institution of the sacrificial system of worship.

Before the next Jewish captivity, the Jews will be allowed to build a temple in Jerusalem for the worship of God. As a part of this worship they will institute the sacrificial system, which they will do for

a short time before they are conquered and taken into captive by an alliance of nations described in the Book of Revelation as the Beast.

Prophecies seem to indicate that an agreement will be made between the Beast alliance of nations and the Israelis to guarantee their protection. After this agreement is made, there will be peace and prosperity in the Middle East for a short time while the Beast alliance negotiates with Israel and her neighbors to calm the volatile political situation that exists among them.

This period of peace will allow the Jews to build a temple in order to worship their God in Jerusalem. When this temple is completed, the Jews will institute the Levitical Priesthood and the sacrificial system at this temple. When this happens, the political scene will take a dramatic turn for the worse.

By instituting the Levitical Priesthood and the sacrificial system, the Jews will be unwittingly implying that the god of their Islamic neighbors is a false god and that the Jews are worshiping the only true God; therefore, Israel's neighbors will become very hostile toward her and will again openly seek to destroy her.

The prophecy in Daniel 11: 40 to 45 reveals that the nations to the north and south of Israel will stir up trouble by threatening to break their agreement of peace with Israel. Then, the king of the north who is the prophetic Beast and its alliance of nations will move against Egypt in order to honor its agreement to guarantee the peace. Egypt will be crushed along with several other Islamic nations in that geographical area. However, the prophecy specifically says that the ancient nations of Amon and Moab (who are the Jordanians) will escape. As prophecy shows, these people are going to offer protection to the Jews that flee from Jerusalem and Israel during this time. See Isa.16:1-5.

Jerusalem Surrounded

While the army of the Beast is busy crushing the Arabs in Egypt and in North Africa, the Islamic nations to the north and east (Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, etc.) will begin indicating that they are also

about to break their peace agreement with Israel. When this happens, the Beast alliance of nations will send its army to Israel and Jerusalem under the pretense of protecting Israel from an invasion. The Israelis will welcome the protection of their allies' powerful army and they will feel secure from their neighbors' threat of invasion. However, the intentions of the Beast and its allies are more sinister; they intend to invade and destroy Israel and remove her as an obstacle to their plans of world domination.

To complicate matters, biblical prophecies show that, shortly before or shortly after the invasion and occupation of the Jewish nation of Israel by the Beast and its allies, the Sovereign God's Two Witness and his holy nation of earthly ambassadors and priests will be declaring his good news message of salvation for mankind and warning the world that the Messiah is coming back to earth to pour out God's wrath on all nations before he brings his army of spirit-beings to conquer the earth and establish the Kingdom of God to rule it forever.

Witnesses

As these Two Witnesses deliver God's message to the world they will cause tremendous destruction on the earth through the use of their supernatural spiritual power, in order get people's attention and to prove that what they say is from the Sovereign God. These two men will have God's protection and have the spiritual power to destroy anyone who attempts to stop them from completing their mission.

Notice what Revelation chapter 11 Verses 5 and 6 says about these two men:

"And if anyone desires to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. And if any one desires to harm them, so it is right for him to be killed. These have the authority to shut up the heaven, that no rain may rain in the days of their prophecy. And they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire"

Throughout the 3 ½ year ministry of these two men, God will bring various types of plagues upon the

earth and specifically upon nations that comprise the Beast system, the Jewish nation of Israel, as well as the other tribes of national Israel who are scattered among the nations of the world today. These plagues and the destruction that follows them are all a part of God's warning for them to repent in order to be saved from his wrath that will soon come in great fury upon all of humanity.

Shortly after the death of the Two Witnesses, there will be a great earthquake that clearly shows that the God of the Two Witnesses is not finished with his punishment of the wicked and that there is more death and destruction to come.

As these events unfold in rapid succession, the festive attitude of the people because of the death of these two men will suddenly turn to terror and panic as they realize that more devastating plagues are coming.

It is also during this same time frame that the Sovereign God's earthly ambassadors and priests will also be delivering his message to the world with tremendous spiritual power.

It is during this time that Jesus' promised that those who truly believed him would do greater works than he did. Jesus said:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater, than these shall he do; because I go to the Father" (Jn.14:12 KJV).

As powerful as the apostolic era of the church was, and as awesome as their great acts and miracles were, they did not do a greater work than Jesus. However, the prophecies clearly show that this greater work will be done by those of the Sovereign Father's holy nation during the time shortly before the Messiah returns.

The prophet Joel tells us this about the power of God's people during the end time:

"And I will pour out my spirit on my slaves and on my slave-girls in those days. And I will give signs in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and

columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord" (Joel 2:29-31 Para.).

Just prior to the return of Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords, the prophecies show the dynamic power of the holy spirit again being manifested through the Father's holy people.

During the time of the end, the Sovereign God's representatives on earth will have all of the spiritual and physical authorizations that Jesus and the early church had and more. There will be a unified dynamic body of the Father's Children who will be filled with tremendous physical and spiritual power with which they can defy the very laws of the physical universe.

No spiritual or physical power will be able to stop them from performing their God-given task to proclaim the entire gospel message, teach God's truth, and announce the good news of the coming Kingdom of God.

Zechariah chapter 13, verses 8 and 9 tell of a time of great of trouble for the Jews:

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land [Israel/the holy land], says the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God" (Zech.13:8-9 Para.). See also Ezk.5:12; Zeph.1:1-18.

A time is coming when the Jewish nation of Israel is going to be conquered, the nation destroyed, and its people taken captive.

According to Biblical prophecy, this event will occur 3 ½ years before Jesus Christ returns as King of kings. With the conquering of Israel, captivity and severe trials will come upon the Jews. It is clear from the prophecies that the Jews will go through another holocaust at the hands of the nations that swore to protect them against aggressors and at the hands of

their Islamic neighbors. According to chapter thirteen of Zechariah, at least 66% of the Jews will die and 33% will go into captivity.

Only those who heed the warnings of God to flee when they see the armies surround Jerusalem (Lk.21:20-21) will escape the invasion of Israel and the captivity that will follow. It is not known how many Jews will ultimately survive this captivity but it is clear that less than 33% will live to see the return of Christ. That means over 67% of their entire population will perish.

Those whom God has called to salvation along with any of the Jews who understand the ancient prophecies concerning these warnings should make sure that their attitudes and behaviors are correct before God and they should be well prepared to leave Jerusalem and Israel on a moments notice when the prophetic armies of the Beast alliance of nations surrounds Israel.

Article Offer

If you live in the nation of Israel or the Holy Land and want to know exactly what the Warning Signs To Flee Israel Are, get a copy of my article Warning Signs To Flee Israel.

Zechariah 12, verses 9 through 10 speak of the great battle in the valley of Armageddon.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of prayers: and they shall look on me whom they have pierced..." (Zech. 12:9-10 Para.).

In verses nine and ten, "in that day" refers to a time near the return of Christ when the Beast alliance of nations gather in the plain of Megeddo to do battle with Christ who will be ready to conquer the earth as foretold by Enoch, Jesus, and Joel:

Jude verses 14-15 say this:

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten

thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Revelation chapter 19, beginning in verse 11:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

In this vision, John sees Jesus Christ in battle dress, ready to invade the earth and make war with the nations who have not heeded the warning to repent of their wickedness.

Continuing in verse 14:

"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall Shepard them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The Prophet Joel tells us::

"Let the nations be wakened, and come to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the nations all around. Put in the sickle for the harvest is ripe: come down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their light. The Lord will roar from Zion, and his voice from Jerusalem: and the heavens and earth shall quake: but the Lord is a refuge for his people, and a fortress to the sons of Israel" (Joel 3:12-16 Para.).

The valley of Jehoshaphat is just outside Jerusalem where the armies of the Beast alliance of nations will gather their forces to fight the Messiah on the plains of Megeddo.

The armies that gather to do battle at the coming of Christ will be completely destroyed.

The prophecies of Zechariah chapter 14 and Revelation chapter 14 tell us that this great battle will be horrific, Christ will unleash his mighty power and the flesh will melt off the bones and out of the skulls of those who are gathered to fight him. The account of this battle in the Book of in Revelation, says that the blood from this battle flow up to a horse bridle, for sixteen hundred furlongs. Joel 3:11-16; Zech.12:11; Rev. 14:14-20; 16:12-16

After these powerful events happen the Jews will repent (Joel 2:12-13) and turn to God. Jesus will then gather the Jews and the other tribes of Israel who survive the seven last plagues and bring them to an area near the holy land in preparation to relocating them in the Land of their inheritance.

Before Jesus was crucified he lamented over Jerusalem and said:

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me! And so your temple will be abandoned and empty. From now on, I tell you, you will never see me again until you say, "God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matt.23:37-39 GNB).

When Christ returns and his feet touch the Mount of Olives he will begin to save the Jews out of the hands of their captors and bring them back from wherever they have been scattered throughout the world.

Zechariah chapter12, beginning in verse 7:

"The Lord also shall save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not be magnified against Judah" (Zech.12:7 Para.).

The glory of the house of David does not refer to the Jews; rather, it refers to the other tribes of Israel who will be a part of the Beast alliance of nations and will have consented, if not participated, in the destruction of the Jewish nation of Israel. The glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem is more than likely a reference to the conquerors of the Jews who have occupied Jerusalem. At the time of Christ's return, there will be very few Jews living in Jerusalem because most of them will have been either killed or removed as captives.

Continuing in Zechariah chapter 12, verse 10:

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zech. 12:10 Para.).

It is after Christ's return and the destruction of the Beast alliance of nations that the promise made to King David concerning his dynastic rule of Israel and the promises to the disciple of their rulership of the tribes of Israel will be fulfilled.

In Ezekiel chapter 37, The Creator God who became the Messiah promised the following to David and the descendants Jacob, who are the Israelites:

Beginning in verse 24:

"And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever." vs.24-25

To the twelve apostles Jesus said:

"Truly I say to you, That you which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the

throne of his glory, you shall also sit upon twelve thrones, and judge the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt.19:28).

The prophecies clearly show that the Israelis will remain a sovereign nation until the time that God withdraws his protection and allows them to go into captivity about 3 ½ years before Christ's return. The city of Jerusalem and the Israelis have been and will continue to be a cup of trembling to the whole world up to and including the time of Christ's return and the great Battle of Armageddon takes place.

The Sovereign God claims that what is recorded in the Bible by his servants and prophets are his words to humanity. Within this book God claims sovereignty over all things that exist and over all humans and their eternal destiny.

The Bible is the only book on planet earth that can demonstrate that its inspiration is supernatural in origin and that it is from a being that exists outside this physical realm. One way it does this is by predicting with incredible accuracy personal and world events before they happen and then bringing these events to pass in every detail within a specified time frame. The fulfillment of prophecy is a major proof of God's existence and that he has sovereign authority and power over his creation.

I see that my time is up, but if you want to know more about the prophecies concerning the end of this age or more about the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible Research org.

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