

BASIC BIBLE TEACHING



The Return of
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- **GOD said of the people of Israel, 'Ye are my witnesses'**

*Isaiah 43:12 (KJV) I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore **ye are my witnesses**, saith the Lord, that I am God.*

For many centuries they have witnessed to the truth of God's word by being scattered and persecuted amongst the nations; fulfilling the prophecies in the Old Testament:

*Deuteronomy 28:64... the LORD shall **scatter thee** among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other... 65... among these nations shalt thou **find no ease**, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: 66... thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: 67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.*

*Jeremiah 24:9 And I will deliver them to be **removed into all the kingdoms of the earth** for their hurt, to be a **reproach** and a*

*proverb, a **taunt** and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them.*

In the twentieth century, following intensified persecution, they have returned to their own land. Their achievements in founding agricultural colonies and restoring fertility to its wastes, and their establishment as an independent State, are all evidence that prophecies relating to the 'last days' are being fulfilled.

The return of the people of Israel to their own land has a central place in the purpose of God for the future of mankind.

- **There is ONE HOPE in the gospel preached by Jesus and the apostles.**

*Ephesians 4:4 (KJV)... ye are called in **one hope** of your calling;*

*Colossians 1:23 (KJV) If ye continue in the faith... and be not moved away from **the hope of the gospel**, which ye have heard...*

- **That hope is the 'HOPE of ISRAEL'.**

*Acts 28:20 (KJV)... for the **hope of Israel** I (Paul) am bound with this chain.*

- **Salvation is of the Jews**

*John 4:22 (KJV) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for **salvation is of the Jews**.*

*Acts 26:6 (KJV)... I stand and am judged for the **hope** of the **promise made of God unto our fathers**: 7 Unto **which promise** our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, **hope** to come...*

*Hebrews 3:6 (KJV)... Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the **hope** firm unto the end.*

*Ephesians 3:5-6 (KJV)... it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the **Gentiles** should be **fellowheirs**, and of the same body, and partakers of his **promise** in Christ by the **gospel**:*

*Ephesians 2:19 (KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens** with the saints, and of the household of God;*

Romans 2:29 (KJV)... he is a Jew, which is one inwardly...

- **Gentile believers are described as a wild olive branch grafted on the good olive tree**

*Romans 11:17 (KJV)... thou, being a **wild olive tree**, wert **grafted in** among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;*

- **The hope includes the restoration of Israel's kingdom.**

Acts 1:6 (KJV)... Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Matthew 19:28 (KJV)... in the regeneration (restoration) when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, (that is, when he comes again) ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:29-30 (KJV)... I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Acts 3:20-21 (KJV)... he shall send Jesus Christ... 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The Prophets have plainly foretold the regathering of Israel from their dispersion throughout the world, and the restoration of the kingdom of David which was overthrown. This will happen when Christ (the Messiah) returns to rule the earth in righteousness.

- **Israel were to be SCATTERED and GATHERED.**

Jeremiah 31:10 (KJV)... He that *scattered* Israel will *gather* him...

Isaiah 11:12 (KJV)... he... shall *assemble* the outcasts of *Israel*, and *gather* together the *dispersed* of *Judah* from the four corners of the earth.

Jeremiah 31:28 (KJV)... like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to *build*, and to *plant*, saith the Lord.

Jeremiah 32:42 (KJV)... thus saith the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them *all the good* that I have *promised* them.

Jeremiah 33:14 (KJV) Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that *I will perform* that *good thing* which I have *promised* unto the house of *Israel* and to the house of *Judah*.

- **The saviour of Israel will be the divine son of David.**

Jeremiah 33:15 (KJV) In those days, and at that time, will I cause the *Branch of righteousness* to grow up unto *David*; and he shall execute *judgment* and *righteousness* in the *land*.

16 In those days shall *Judah* be *saved*, and *Jerusalem* shall *dwell safely*: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, the *Lord our righteousness*.

- **God will do it for the sake of his holy name.**

Ezekiel 36:22-24 (KJV)... I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine *holy name's sake*, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went... 24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and *gather* you out of *all countries*, and will *bring* you into your *own land*.

Isaiah 54:7 (KJV) For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I *gather* thee. 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness *will I have mercy* on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

Micah 4:7 (KJV)... I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a *strong nation*: and the Lord shall *reign* over them in *mount Zion* from henceforth, even for *ever*.

Romans 11:26 (KJV) And so *all Israel* shall be *saved*: as it is written, there shall come out of *Sion* the *deliverer*, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Zechariah 8:23 (KJV) 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*.

Malachi 3:12 (KJV) And *all nations shall call you blessed*: for ye shall be a *delightful land*, saith the Lord of hosts.

- **There will be peace in the earth at last.**

Isaiah 2:4 (KJV) And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Those who believe and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ share in the hope that belongs to the 'commonwealth of Israel'. For those who do not believe, there is no hope; for in that position we have 'no hope' and are 'without God in the world'.

Ephesians 2:12 (KJV)... at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- **The hope of Israel pertains in the first place to the people of Israel.**

It Romans 9:4 (KJV) Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

- **But it is offered through the Gospel to all men and women, on grounds of faith.**

Gentile believers, once 'afar off', have been

'brought near' through Christ so that they too may share in that salvation which is 'of the Jews'. This theme is expounded by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians chapter 2.

Ephesians 2:13 (KJV) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

The receiving back into favour of the people of Israel will coincide with the resurrection of faithful men and women from death to life.

Romans 11:15 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?

The return of the people of Israel to their own land is an indication that we live in the 'last days' and the return of Christ to the earth is not far away.