

Handfuls On Purpose

Studies in the Book of Ruth

Chapter Twenty-two

The Restoration of the Nation of Israel

“¹⁴ And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman {redeemer}, that his name may be famous in Israel. ¹⁵ And he shall be unto thee a restorer of *thy* life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. ¹⁶ And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. ¹⁷ And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David. ¹⁸ Now these *are* the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron, ¹⁹ And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, ²⁰ And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat **Salmon**, {Salmah} ²¹ And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, ²² And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David” (Ruth 4:14-22).

Palm Sunday is the Sunday Christians celebrate the triumphant entry of Christ into the city of Jerusalem. However, it was not triumphant. If it would have been triumphant, Jesus would have restored the nation of Israel and gathered her together from all the nations of the world. Contrary to the anti-Semitism of Covenant (Reformed) Theology, Christ loves the children of Israel and longs for their salvation and restoration.

“³⁴ Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: ³⁵ That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. ³⁷ Q Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! ³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. ³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:34-39).

The religious leaders of Judaism rejected the Kingship of Christ, rejecting Him as their Messiah and had Him crucified. By religious leaders of Judaism I mean the “chief priests” and “scribes” of apostate Judaism. Because the priesthood of Israel rejected their promised Messiah, God opened the door for a new priesthood of all who would become His children (“whosoever will”) out of both the nation of Israel and all nations (ethnic groups) of the world.

“¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:11-12).

“¹⁷ And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, ¹⁸ Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, ¹⁹ And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again” (Matthew 20:17-19).

When Israel followed their apostate priesthood in the rejection of the Messiah, God scattered them into every nation of the world through persecution. Although there have been times in history when Israel returned to the Promised Land, in most part they have remained scattered. James addresses his epistle “to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad (diaspora)” (James 1:1). The Epistle of James was written prior to the dispersion of the Jews and the destruction of the Temple in 70 A. D. Therefore, James confirms that God viewed the nation of Israel as still scattered even though they occupied the Promised Land and the Temple.

God has scattered Israel on numerous occasions. The final scattering of Israel was in 70 A. D. with the destruction of the Temple by the Roman armies of Titus. Israel remains scattered today. This scattering was foretold on numerous occasions and has been continual. All of the returns of the people of Israel after the dispersion of Nebuchadnezzar (including the present) have only been partial.

“⁸ Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:* ⁹ But *if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there*” (Nehemiah 1:8-9; about 446 B.C.).

“¹⁵ Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways *from* the ancient paths, to walk in paths, *in* a way not cast up; ¹⁶ To make their land desolate, *and* a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. ¹⁷ I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity” (Jeremiah 18:15-17; about 601 B.C.).

“¹⁴ And I will scatter toward every wind all that *are* about him to help him, and all his bands; and I will draw out the sword after them. ¹⁵ And they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries” (Ezekiel 12:14-15; about 594 B.C.).

Ruth 4:14-15 is in contrast to Ruth 1:19, which reveals the fallen state of the nation of Israel.

“So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, *Is this Naomi*” (Ruth 1:19)?

“¹⁴ And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. ¹⁵ And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him” (Ruth 4:14-15).

The word “restorer” in Ruth 4:15 is a key to what will be happening on earth for those seven years while the Church is celebrating the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven. God will be restoring the nation of Israel as promised throughout Scripture. There are over 50 passages that assert the restoration and regathering of Israel *after* the second coming of Christ.

“¹ And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call *them* to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, ² And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; ³ That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. ⁴ If *any* of thine be driven out unto the outmost *parts* of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: ⁵ And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. ⁶ And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live” (Deuteronomy 30:1-6).

The Scriptures are clear that this regathering will take place *after* the second coming of Christ.

“¹⁶ Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel his companions: ¹⁷ And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. ¹⁸ And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these? ¹⁹ Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. ²⁰ And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. ²¹ And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, 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: ²² 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: ²³ Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. 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. ²⁵ And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto 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. ²⁶ Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. ²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ²⁸ And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore” (Ezekiel 37:16-28).

Although the Church is composed of “born again” Jews and Gentiles from the Day of Pentecost to the Rapture, the restoration of the nation of Israel will begin on earth during the Tribulation period. Christ will rule the world from the Throne of David in the city of Jerusalem. Although Israel was proclaimed a nation May 14th, 1948, *that is not* the fulfillment of the prophecies regarding restoration.

The Temple site has never been reclaimed and the sacrificial offerings have not been restored. This actual restoration of the nation and regathering of the children of Israel will not happen until the second coming.

The Tribulation lays the groundwork for the second advent of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth. There will be worldwide national repentance of the Jews on earth at the second coming of Christ.

John the Baptist came preaching “repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). The nation of Israel as represented in their priesthood refused to repent. In the priesthood’s refusal to repent, they rejected their King (that is the pattern consistent with all unbelievers).

“⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire” (Matthew 3:7-10).

Only one third of the world's population alive on earth will survive the Tribulation.

⁷ Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. ⁸ And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein. ⁹ 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" (Zechariah 13:7-9).

All of the 144,000 sealed from the 12 tribes of Israel will survive.

⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. ⁵ Of the tribe of Juda *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. ⁶ Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. ⁷ Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand. ⁸ Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand" (Revelation 7:4-8).

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads" (Revelation 14:1).

It is the remnant of the one third, which has accepted Jesus as their Messiah and which constitutes true Israel (Romans 9:6) and is "all Israel" that Paul refers to in Romans 11:26.

⁶ Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷ Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸ That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed" (Romans 9:6-8).

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶ 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: ²⁷ For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Romans 11:25-27).

Today, the focus of the world remains on a seemingly small and insignificant nation in the Middle-East called Israel. This nation is comprised of a people who have miraculously survived by God's protection the world's attempts to annihilate them for thousands of years. God has made a promise to the nation of Israel and God keeps His promises. They will be restored and regathered just as God's Word says will happen.

Yet, like God's conditions on all men, only those who repent and believe will be saved. It is God's goodness that continues to patiently lead men to repent and believe.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

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1. Discuss why the so called Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40) was really not triumphal. _____

2. Read Matthew 23:34-39. What does this portion of Scripture reveal about Christ's attitude toward the nation of Israel? _____

3. Read John 1:11-12. What is the significance of these verses regarding the first advent of Christ and the "whosoever will" of Romans 10:13? _____

4. Read James 1:1. What is the significance of this statement compared to the fact that Israel still occupied the Temple and a portion of the Land at the time of this writing? _____

5. Read Nehemiah 1:8-9; Jeremiah 18:15-17 and Ezekiel 12:14-15. Discuss the significance of these verses as they relate to the nation of Israel's position before God today. _____

6. Read Ruth 4:15. Discuss the theological significance of the word "restorer" as it relates to the future promise of God to Israel. _____

7. Read Deuteronomy 30:1-6. Discuss the relevant issues relating to the restoration and regathering of Israel as revealed in this text. _____

8. Read Ezekiel 37:16-28. Discuss the relevant issues relating to the restoration and regathering of Israel as revealed in this text. _____

9. Why can we be sure that May 14th, 1948 (when Israel was once again proclaimed a nation) is not the fulfillment of the prophecies regarding restoration and regathering? _____

10. Read Zechariah 13:7-9. Discuss the significance of this prophecy to the restoration and regathering of the nation of Israel. _____

11. Read Romans 9:6-8 and 11:25-27. Discuss the significance of these Scriptures as they relate to the restoration and regathering of Israel. _____
