

FULFILLED PROPHECY & ISRAEL TODAY

In Deuteronomy 32:8-9, Moses declared: "When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance".

God has an overall prophetic program that we often subdivide into 3 distinct plans: a plan for Israel, a plan for the Church, and a plan for the Gentile nations, all three of which center around the Jewish people.

As for Israel, God's sovereign purpose is accomplished through the eternal, conditional covenants God made with the Jewish people (the Abrahamic, Land, Davidic, and new Covenants).

But how does God's program as far as the Church, relate to Israel? Paul teaches that the spiritual blessings the Church enjoys are actually Jewish spiritual blessings of the Jewish covenants (Eph. 2:11-16; 3:5-6; Rom. 11:17; 15:25-27). The KEY PURPOSE of the RAPTURE is to remove the Church from the earth before God pours out His wrath upon Israel and the unrepentant Gentiles.

While the outpouring of God's wrath upon the Gentile world is due to the violation of the Noah Covenant (Isa. 24:5-6), God's outpouring of judgment upon Israel is to bring its people to national repentance.

How God deals with the Gentile nations has consistently been the outworking of a principle within the Abrahamic covenant: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" (Gen. 12:3). In fact, in the judgment of the Gentiles (the sheep and goats of Matt. 25:31-46), only the sheep, those believing Gentiles whose faith will be evidenced by their positive treatment of the Jews during the Tribulation, will enter the Kingdom.

The goats, (unbelieving Gentiles), will be excluded from the kingdom and go into eternal punishment (see also Joel 3:1-3). How God deals with the future Gentile nations in the Kingdom, will be based upon their relationship to Israel in the past. His judgments upon them and the fulfillment of His prophecies concerning these nations are often based upon his statement to Israel in Zechariah 2:8, "He who touches you touches the apple of His eye."

One of the most famous prophecies related to the issue of time, prophecy and chronology is the "seventy weeks" prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27. God tells Daniel these 70 weeks are decreed "for your people" and "for your holy city," that is, Israel and Jerusalem. This prophecy does NOT apply to the Church. Israel is truly God's timepiece of history and prophecy. God's overall prophetic program, be it for Israel, the Church, or the Gentile Nations, works its way out directly or indirectly through the Jewish people.

Too often believers have attempted to see where they are in God's prophetic program based upon how world events affect their particular country. The true determination however, as to where we are in history, is based upon how world events affect Jewish history and the Jewish people. Thus when world shaking events take place, the criteria for their relation to Bible prophecy is not how they affect the Church, or any particular Gentile nation, no matter how great and powerful it may be, but how they are affecting Jewish history and the people of Israel.

ISRAEL TODAY

Although the regathering of a people once scattered among the nations of the world is evidence that God is at work in fulfilling His prophetic word, this is only the beginning of a most marvelous story for Israel. The continuing immigration of Jews to their ancient homeland has earned the attention of the entire world, as well as students of biblical prophecy. This ingathering, each stage of which is known among the Jewish people as an aliya, has populated a young nation with the cross-section of humankind needed to build, plant, harvest, educate, and even defend themselves from the surrounding nations that are determined to destroy re-gathered Israel.

An alignment of nations described in the Bible, who will come against Israel in the Last Days, is placing the actors on the stage in possible preparation for the final act to begin. Syria, Egypt, Iran, Libya, Sudan, and Russia have formed loose alliances that may become the fulfillment of the prophecies of both Daniel and Ezekiel.



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FULFILLED PROPHECY & ISRAEL TODAY

Pastor Harlan & Doris Stilwell Snr.



ISRAEL TODAY

(continued from within)

The European Union, Iraq, and the nations of the “Far East” are all in position to be at least the foundational “infrastructures” of the prophesied revived Roman Empire, Babylon, and the “kings from the east” respectively (Rev. 16:12).

Because of the desire of many international leaders to remove the Jewish people from the land of their forefathers, some have been doing all they can to put together comprehensive peace agreements for the region; namely, the Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel during the late “70s and the 1993 Oslo Accord, a peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis. None of these treaties are working as they were intended. The impasse in peace negotiations sets the stage for a world personality to come on the scene to enforce these and other agreements. Daniel 9:27 says the Antichrist will eventually “confirm” the agreements (covenants), evidently making them stronger, and giving him a sense of legitimacy. The peace will not last long, however, as Antichrist will violate his own covenant with Israel. The most exciting, documented evidence that the Lord’s return could be close at hand is the activity surrounding preparations for the rebuilding of the temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. There are Jewish men who now believe they are qualified to serve as “priests”. Their priestly garments are made and in storage; all the implements to be used for the sacrifices and worship at the temple are ready; biblical harps are being handmade for the Levite orchestra; and a “red heifer” is even available for the “purification” of everything for the temple.

Ezekiel 40-46 gives detailed instructions for the temple that will stand on the Temple Mount during the Millennium. However, Daniel 9:27 states that an earlier temple, preparations for which are in process, will exist in Jerusalem during the Tribulation Period.

These 4 major trends — the aliya of the Jewish people, alignment of the nations, anticipation for peace, and arrangements for the temple — were actually mentioned by the ancient Jewish prophets up to 2,500 years ago. These are the “signposts” along the way that the prophets and Jesus alerted the Jewish people to anticipate at the time of the end, the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Since Christ’s return takes place only 7 years after the Rapture, how close must the Rapture be?