

Modern Christianity Astray From The Bible

Popular Church Tradition Explored The Nation of Israel Persecuted, Scattered and Restored

Concluding in the previous study that “the Kingdom of God” existed in the past, we recognize the nation of Israel was governed by God’s laws with certain a king sitting “upon the throne of the LORD”—David’s throne, in Jerusalem (1Chr 28:5; 29:23). We also concluded that we are currently living in the “times of the Gentiles,” which is a period when the kingdom of Israel is dissolved and the Jews are dispersed among the nations. However, the overthrow of the nation of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 does not mean that God has forever cast them aside. Sadly, this theory is incorrectly taught by many sects among *modern Christianity*. Many churches incorrectly assert that Abraham’s natural seed has been cast away by God and replaced with Christians. “The gospel” preached in the Bible requires a restoration of the nation of Israel.

THE GOSPEL AND THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Since “the gospel” is so closely connected with Abraham (Gal 3:8) it is only appropriate that the nation of Israel is also prominent throughout the Word of God.

Romans 11:25-28 “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. 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: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. AS CONCERNING THE GOSPEL, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes”

In simple language, the above reference demands that Israel’s temporary spiritual blindness will ultimately cease at the return of Christ. The apostle Paul connects this critical doctrine with “the gospel.” The reason: “for the father’s sake.” In other words, because of God’s covenant with Abraham, Israel will be restored at the conclusion of the Gentile times.

To fully appreciate the restoration of the Jewish people we must understand God’s covenant with Abraham as it relates to his natural offspring: the Jews.

Genesis 12:1-3 “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: And (1) I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: (2) and IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED”

In the previous study we realized the Bible teaches that the redemption of both Jew and Gentile is connected with “the gospel” and the covenant with Abraham—“in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gal. 3:6-9). When we study the other portion of the covenant with Abraham—“I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION”—we will conclude it is a vital

part of God's covenant to restore the nation of Israel, Abraham's natural descendants. This doctrine is referenced time and again throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

ISRAEL: GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE ABOVE ALL NATIONS

The Jews are rightly referred to as "God's chosen people." The Bible plainly declares them to be so, and defines why they are given this lofty title.

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth"

Deuteronomy 14:2 "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth"

Exodus 19:5-6 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel"

Deuteronomy 26:18-19 "The LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments; And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken"

ISRAEL: CHOSEN BECAUSE OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

Of all nations, the Jewish nation of Israel has been drawn out specifically by God Himself. It was a nation deliberately created by God when He called Abraham to separate himself from his people for the purpose of developing a "holy nation" unto God (Gen 12:1-4).

Deuteronomy 7:7-8" The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 10:14-16 "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked"

Romans 11:25-28 "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. 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: For this is

my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes”

The word “fathers” is a Bible expression that refers to the patriarchs; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (see: Exo. 3:15-16; 4:5; Deu. 1:8, 35; 6:10; 9:5; 29:13; 30:20).

Psaalm 105:7-11 “He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance”

The reason for Israel’s scattering among the nations is explained throughout the Bible, as well as their necessary gathering back in the Land. It requires no additional words from men to explain this very certain Bible doctrine (1Pet 4:11).

ISRAEL: SCATTERED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Leviticus 26:41-45 “I (God) also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes. And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God. But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD” (read entire chapter)

Historic Persecution of Jews:

This in addition to the widespread persecution recorded throughout Old & New Testaments—

-38 BC: Jews killed in riots in Alexandria (Egypt)

-19 AD: Emperor Tiberius expels Jews from Rome and Italy

-66 AD: 50,000 Jews killed in Alexandria Egypt

-70 AD: Jerusalem destroyed, Jews dispelled from Land

-325 AD: Ecumenical Council, Nicaea, sets policy of Jewish seclusion and humiliation

-438 AD: Rom. Emperor Theodosius, II, (east) legalizes Jewish civil inferiority

-470 AD: Persecuted and many Jews killed in Babylonia

-624 AD: Jewish tribes in Arabia destroyed by Muhammad

-628 AD: Dagobert I, expels Jews from Frankish Kingdom

-632 AD: Jews forced to be baptized in Byzantine Empire

-694 AD: Jews under Visigothic rule in Spain made slaves

2 Kings 13:22-23 “But Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet”

The apostle Paul references himself as an example that God will not “cast away” his people.

Romans 11:1 “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.”

ISRAEL: SCATTERED BECAUSE OF DISOBEDIENCE

There can be no mistake, the people of Israel were removed from the Land and scattered among the nations because of disobedience to God’s Word.

Deuteronomy 4:25-27 “When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you” (Lev. 26:21, 33)

Deuteronomy 28:58-66 “If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD... ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldst not obey the voice of the LORD thy God. And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And 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: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life”

- 1012 AD: Henry II of Germany expels Jews from Mainz
- 1096 AD: First Crusade. Crusaders massacre Jews of Rhineland
- 1146 AD: Sec. Crusade. Anti-Jewish riots in Rhineland
- 1147 AD: Brutal Jewish persecution in North Africa (until 1212)
- 1182 AD: Jews expelled from France, real estate confiscated
- 1190 AD: Massacre of Jews at York
- 1290 AD: Expulsion of Jews from England
- 1298 AD: Massacre of thousands of Jews in Germany
- 1320 AD: Persecution of Jews in central France
- 1348 AD: Black Death Massacres in Spain, Germany, France and Austria; Jews accused of poisoning wells that killed Christians
- 1389 AD: Massacre of Prague (Bohemia)
- 1391 AD: Massacres in Spain, Balearic Isle.
- 1421 AD: 270 Jews burnt at stake, and Jews expelled from Vienna
- 1438 AD: Jewish ghettos established in Morocco
- 1480 AD: Inquisition in Spain, Jews killed
- 1483 AD: Jews expelled from Warsaw
- 1492 AD: Jews expelled from Spain
- 1493 AD: Jews expelled from Sicily
- 1495 AD: Jews expelled from Lithuania

Zechariah 7:11-14 “But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom

they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate” (see: Amos 3:1-2; Deu. 29:28; Luke 19:43-44)

ISRAEL: NOT ALWAYS TO BE SCATTERED

Although punished and scattered among the nations, the Bible predicts Israel’s certain regathering back in the Land.

Jeremiah 30:10-11 “Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished”

Jeremiah 32:37-38 “Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God”

Jeremiah 23:3-6 “And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Ezekiel 36:19-24 “And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, *These are the people of the LORD*, and are gone forth out of his land. But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye

- 1496 AD: Jews expelled from Portugal
- 1510 AD: Jews expelled from Brandenburg (Germany)
- 1531 AD: Inquisition set in Portugal
- 1541 AD: Jews expelled from Naples
- 1551 AD: Jews expelled from Bavaria
- 1569 AD: Jews expelled from Papal States
- 1648 AD: Massacre of 100,000 Jews (Ukraine)
- 1655 AD: Massacre of Jews during wars of Poland against Russia and Sweden
- 1745 AD: Jews expelled from Prague
- 1788 AD: Massacre of Jews of Uman (Poland)
- 1805 AD: Massacre of Jews in Algeria
- 1827 AD: Compulsory service of Jews in Russian military
- 1879 AD: Wilhelm Marr, in Germany, coins term Anti-Semitism
- 1882 AD: International (1st) Anti-Jewish Congress convenes in Germany
- 1885 AD: 10,000 Jews expelled—Germany
- 1891 AD: Jews expelled from Moscow, Rus.
- 1917 AD: 8,000 Jews die in Ukraine & Poland
- 1917 AD: The Balfour Declaration: permitting Jews to return to homeland.
- 1919 AD: 3,000 Jews killed in Hungary
- 1921 AD: Hebrew language revived: language of British- ruled Palestine

have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. *For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land*”

It must be acknowledged that the gathering of many Jews back in the Land since 1948 is only a partial application and precursor to the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Ezekiel 37:21-22 “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: 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*” (Amos. 9:14-15; Joel 3:1-2; Zep. 3:19-20; Jer. 23:1-8).

Isaiah 11:10-12 “And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that *the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth*”

Jeremiah 31:35-37 “Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: *If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD*” (Israel’s permanent existence assured) see: Jer. 16:14-15; Eze. 11:14-17; 20:33-41; 28:25; 37:25.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">-1933 AD: Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. First concentration camps- 1938 AD: Kristallnacht. Nazi anti-Jewish outrage in Germany, Austria. Jews properties attacked. Jews sent to concentration camps-1939 AD: World War II, Holocaust begins-1940 AD: Auschwitz camp established, mass shootings of Jews-1941 AD: Germany invades Russia; murder, deportation of Jews in France-1943 AD: Transport of Jews from all over Europe to death camps-1944 AD: Extermination of Hungarian Jews-1945 AD: Germany surrenders; 5.8 million Jews die in Holocaust-1946 AD: 42 Jews killed in Poland-1948 AD: Jews declare Independence; create <i>State of Israel</i>-1952 AD: Jews killed, sent to work camps in Russia-1967 AD: Following Six-Day War, Israel captures Jerusalem, claims entire city-Today: Israel remains the center of international controversy
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ISRAEL: RESTORED AND CONVERTED WITH A NEW HEART

The full restoration of the Jews requires a conversion of heart and acceptance of Messiah, whom they once rejected.

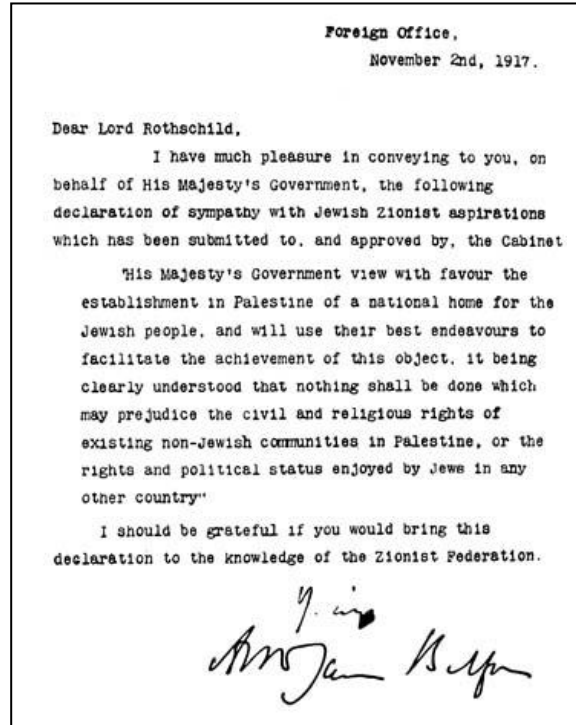
Ezekiel 36:25-36 “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God... Then shall ye remember your own

evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord GOD; *In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.* And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it”

Zechariah 12:9-10 “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 upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”*

Romans 11:25-28 “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. 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: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.* As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes”

Jeremiah 33:7-9 “And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. *And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby*



they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it”

Jeremiah 31:31-34 “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”

ISRAEL’S RESTORATION: NEW TESTAMENT PROOF

While many of the prophecies concerning Israel’s gathering from the nations where they have been scattered are found in the Old Testament, the New Testament Scriptures harmonize with this doctrine. Note what Christ told his 12 disciples:

Luke 22:28-30 “Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, *and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel*” (see: Isa. 1:25-27; Jer. 33:7-8—Israel to be restored “as at the first.”)

Matthew 19:27-28 “Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, *in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel*”

Obviously, for the fulfillment of these Scriptures the Jews must be restored to the Land.

Acts 1:6-8 “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, *Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?* And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”

ISRAEL’S CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE DESTINY

The plan and purpose of God with the nation of Israel is fully revealed in the apostle’s clear exposition recorded in the Book of Romans. We reference the specific details here—

Romans 11:1 “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin”

Romans chapter 10 ends with these words: *“Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people” (10:20-21)*. Here the apostle is showing that God extended the gospel invitation to the Gentiles, “that sought me not,” while Israel remained a “disobedient and gainsaying people.” Accordingly, Paul is compelled to answer the obvious question: “Then, Hath God cast away his people?” The response is an emphatic “God forbid.” Paul makes it abundantly clear that God has not abandoned Israel in favor of the Gentile believers. He uses himself as an example, demonstrating that he is a follower of the gospel even though he is “an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham.”

Romans 11:2 “God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying”

Paul continues in his quotation of Old Testament prophecies, which indicate that God foreknew Israel would turn from Him. However, the apostle again stresses “God hath not cast away his people.” Notice in the first two verses of this chapter Israel is called “His people,” even though the gospel message would be extended to the Gentiles.

Romans 11:3 “Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life”

Romans 11:4 “But what saith the answer of God unto him? *I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal*”

Romans 11:5 “Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace”

Building on his own example (Rom. 11:1), Paul uses the account of Elijah to show that even in a state of deep spiritual corruption there remained a remnant among Israel who were faithful (1Kin. 19:10-14). “Even so then at this present time also,” he says, “there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” These comments continue to add inspired proof that God has yet to complete His work with the Jewish people.

Romans 11:8 “(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day”

Israel is currently in a spiritual condition of slumber and blindness. This has been given to them by God, because of disobedience.

Romans 11:11 “I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy”

The NIV has “Again I ask, Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?” Paul’s answer is, “certainly not!” The inspired apostle is careful to continually emphasize that Israel’s present condition of spiritual weakness is not permanent. In fact, God has extended the Gospel message to the Gentiles for the purpose of “provoking Israel to jealousy” (Acts 13:46).

Romans 11:12 “Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?”

The language is quite clear: if Israel’s temporary slumber has resulted in the riches of the Gospel being spread throughout the world, how much more glorious when they are restored; styled “their fullness.” This process, of course, requires a restoration of Israel.

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?”

Two things are mentioned concerning Israel: their temporary “casting away,” and the future “receiving of them.” We have witnessed the former, but not the latter. When it happens, however, it will result in “life from the dead.” Eze. 37:11-12 describes the revival of Israel in terms of the physical resurrection of a dead body. Prophecies such as Mat. 24:30-32 also reveal that Israel’s modern revival is a significant sign of the times pointing to the literal resurrection of the dead (see: Dan. 12:1-3; Psa. 102:13-22).

Romans 11:16 “For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches”

Romans 11:17 “And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree”

Romans 11:18 “Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee”

Romans 11:19 “Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in”

Romans 11:20 “Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear”

Romans 11:21 “For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee”

Romans 11:22 “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off”

In these verses the apostle is clear to point out that the Gentiles ought never to boast in the fact that they have been afforded the opportunity to be “grafted in” to the Abrahamic covenant: “the root.” He warns that if God did not hesitate to break off the “natural branches” (the Jews), the “wild” Gentiles could be broken off even more easily. These verses should ever keep clear in our minds that the Bible is all about the Hope of Israel, into which Gentiles must be grafted.

Romans 11:23 “And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again”

Romans 11:24 “For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?”

The analogy is clear and the conclusion is without confusion. Israel, the natural branches, will be “graft in again.” The apostle says, in fact, the restoration of Israel is an easier process than that of the Gentiles, because they are “wild by nature.” We must not forget the Jews are the “natural” seed of Abraham, and therefore, more easily “graft in” to the root and tree.

Romans 11:25 “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”

Romans 11:26 “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”

Romans 11:27 “For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”

Romans 11:28 “As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes”

By quoting Old Testament prophecies (Isa. 59:20; 27:9; Jer. 31:33), the apostle demonstrates that to be “ignorant of this mystery” concerning Israel and the Gentiles, is to be, in fact, “wise in your own conceits.” Paul goes on to say that the Bible teaching concerning Israel’s fall, the calling of the Gentiles, and Israel’s future restoration form a vital part of “the Gospel.” The spiritual conditions that are evident today are only “until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.” Thereafter, “all Israel shall be saved” (see: Luke 21:24). This will occur when Christ, as the Deliverer from Zion reveals himself to God’s chosen people.

Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”

Romans 11:30 “For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief”

Romans 11:31 “Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy”

Romans 11:32 “For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all”

Using simple logic, the apostle shows that God does not change his mind. His purpose with Israel will be accomplished. Paul calls upon the Gentiles to remember that they too were once in unbelief (Eph. 2:12; Rom. 5:10), but obtained mercy. And so it is, and will be with Israel.

BIBLE PROPHECY: PROOF OF GOD’S EXISTENCE

The purpose of Bible prophecy is to affirm our belief in God. Prophecy authenticates that God alone possesses the wisdom to know future events *and* the power to bring it to pass. This ability is a witness to the very existence of God Himself.

John 13:18-19 “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. *Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.*”

John 14: 28-19 “Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. *And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*”

ISRAEL: GOD’S WITNESS TO HIS EXISTENCE

The disobedience of Israel, which resulted in their scattering among the nations, as well as their ultimate restoration are profound subjects of Bible prophecy. In fact, the detailed predictions concerning the nation of Israel are set forth in the Bible as God’s “witness” to all people to substantiate His very existence!

Isaiah 41:8-16, 21-24 “**But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee (i.e. Israel’s enemies) shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel... Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons (RSV: your proofs), saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together. Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you**”

The bold, detailed and absolute prophecies concerning Israel are God’s challenge to all other so-called gods to “produce” their own “proof” of their existence. From ancient times, God has predicted and brought to pass the destiny of His people, Israel. This is not a vague reference to a single event—as some men claim as “predictions”—but the movement of an entire nation (Israel) and many other nations associated with them to affect them for good or bad (oppression or favor).

Isaiah 42:8-9, 24-25 “**I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new**

things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them... Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart”

Even the dispersion of Israel into the hand of their enemies was foretold by Yahweh—the God of Israel—for the very purpose of proving His power and His existence. This He did “before” it came to pass.

Isaiah 43:1-2, 9-11 “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee... LET ALL THE NATIONS BE GATHERED TOGETHER, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and show us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior”

The above reference shows that Israel, called “the seed of Abraham” (Isa. 41:8-9), is God’s “witness” in the earth; the very nation revealing His ability to foretell the future and His power to bring it to pass. In fact, Yahweh, the God of Israel, extends a challenge to all other gods, saying “let them bring forth their witnesses, that they might be justified” or as the NIV reads: “to prove they are right.” Yahweh’s wisdom to predict events before they come to pass, especially regarding His people Israel, demonstrates His true existence.

It has been correctly observed that other books of faith, from various religions, contain almost no “prophecy.” Furthermore, when future predictions are made they are generally quite vague and not very significant.

Isaiah 44:1-2, 6-8 “Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen... Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the (my) ancient people? and the things that are coming (NIV: what is yet to come), and shall come, let them show unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye (Israel) are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any” (Isa. 45:1-7; 14-25)

Again, Israel constitutes Yahweh’s “witnesses,” having declared what and when He will manipulate events associated with the people He “formed.” If the language seems hard to follow we suggest referencing more modern translations, which state the case perhaps even more clearly.

Isaiah 46:9-13 “Remember the former things of old: *for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it. Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness: it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory*” (see: Isa. 48:1-13).

By these straight forward prophecies we can be convinced that the Word of God is true (see: 2Peter 1:19-21). The movement of Israel, and even other nations, are predicted long before they came to pass. The permanent fall of Babylon (Isa 13), the destruction of Tyre (Eze 26), as well as the rise and fall of other nations has been detailed in the Word of God (Dan 2, 7-8).

Isa 48:5 “*I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them*”

The Bible declares that God Himself elevates or reduces political powers for the sole purpose of bringing about God’s own will. Many of Israel’s enemies were raised up as instruments of God to punish them, as recorded in the Book of Judges and Kings. Accordingly, God calls the king of Babylon “my servant” exalted to punish His people, Israel (Jer 25:9; 27:6). To execute His Will, God also calls Cyrus and the Medo-Persian power “my shepherd” (Isa 44:28), as well as His “anointed” (Isa 45:1), with the army styled God’s “sanctified ones” (Isa 13:3). The Romans were called the Lord’s “armies” sent forth to punish the Jews and destroy Jerusalem in AD 70 (Mat 22:7).

Daniel 4:17 “*To the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*”

Romans 13:1 “*For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*”

Jesus Christ told Pilate: “Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above” John 19:11