

The Jewish Problem-David Baron

THE JEWISH PROBLEM: ITS SOLUTION OR ISRAEL'S PRESENT AND FUTURE

1891

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Introductory comments: [David Baron \(bio\)](#) (1857-1926) was a Jewish believer who wrote extensively about the Nation of Israel many many years before dispensational teaching became popular and most importantly many years before Israel became a nation. Minor corrections in grammar have been made to the original manuscript. In addition many Scripture references (NAS unless otherwise designated) have been added (as well as links to notes on those passages) where appropriate to allow the reader to examine the original Biblical text. In [May 14, 1948 \(read how the Arab nations attempted to destroy the new nation... talk about odds stacked against you! Clearly God was behind the scene/seen! As an aside the United States recognized Israel as a nation 11 minutes after Israel was reborn! Ever wonder why the US is so blessed?\)](#) see Ge 12:3) Israel again became a nation in **one day** (cp Isa 66:8) after almost 2000 years without a homeland!

Why is it important to understand the "Jewish Problem" from a Biblical perspective? Because Israel and the city of Jerusalem continue to be at the center of the world's attention, hardly a day going by when newspaper headlines do not have some mention of this tiny nation. Indeed, Israel and Jerusalem will continue to be "a cup that causes reeling" to all the world until the triumphant **Second Coming of Christ** (Zech 12:1, 2, 3, Zech 14:1-2, 3, 4, 5-9). It therefore behooves all peoples of all nations to be familiar with the Scriptural texts that deal with Israel's past, present and future. This little booklet by David Baron presents a will done Old Testament summary of God's plan for Israel.

If you are like many people (even many Jewish people), who are uncertain about what will happen to Israel and Jerusalem in the End Times, this short book, although written over a century ago in 1891, will give you a good overview on a timely subject which is ever near and dear to God's heart as shown by His comforting words to the chosen people in exile for their disobedience...

**I have loved you with an everlasting love.
Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.**
Jeremiah 31:3-note

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PREFACE

THIS is the fifth English edition of this little book, which has also been translated into several other European languages, including Danish, Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, and French.

Dr. Pierson's most kind introduction to the original American Edition, printed when I was in Palestine in 1891, tells its history; and I

retain his kind words, not because I think his eulogy on myself personally deserving, but as a reminiscence of my visit to America, and of the most happy fellowship it was my privilege to enjoy with some of the choicest of Christ's servants in that vast country.

That it may still speak the praises of Him Who is the "Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of His people Israel," (Isaiah 49:6) and that a blessing may come to every one into whose hands this little book may fall, is the heartfelt prayer of the writer.

[David Baron](#)

[Northfield, Massachusetts,](#)

Chorley Wood, Herts.

INTRODUCTION

THOSE who were present at the summer conferences at Northfield, Mass., in the months of July and August, 1890, will not soon forget DAVID BARON and his Bible Readings and Addresses. He is a converted Jew ; and is well named David Baron, for he is a true prince of the Davidic House. There was an indescribable charm about the man. His knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures and his deep insight into them; his keen discernment of the exquisite shades of meaning by which the original words differed and were distinguished, and the perfect familiarity he exhibited with both the original Word of God and all the light which the Jewish customs, manners, and religious and national life cast upon that Word, together with a peculiar unction which qualified his whole manner—all these peculiarities contributed to render his services doubly interesting and helpful. After the Conferences closed, there were still at the hotels and boarding-houses a large number of visitors who clamored for a continuance of the feast; and Mr. Baron gave daily Readings in the Parlor of the large "Northfield," or in the Congregational church.

At my earnest entreaty, Mr. Baron wrote out one of his best Bible addresses for publication, and it is herewith put into printed form. It lacks only the personal presence of its author to make it a perfect reproduction of one of the most charming and effective addresses I ever heard.

It is not too much to say that, to understand this address and to grasp its great expository argument, is to get the key to all Scriptures pertaining to the past, present, or future, of God's ancient people.

This little brochure is called the "**Jewish Problem**"; it deserves to be called the "**Problem Solved**"—for it is the solution of the historic and prophetic enigma. I commend it to every candid student of the Word of God, and especially to all who pray for the restoration of Israel. [ARTHUR T. PIERSON \(bio\)](#)

Jeremiah 30:1-17 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book. 3 'For behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' The LORD says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'"

4 Now these are the words which the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah,

5 "For thus says the LORD,

'I have heard a sound of terror, Of dread, and there is no peace.

6 'Ask now, and see If a male can give birth.

Why do I see every man

With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth?

And why have all faces turned pale?

7 'Alas! for that day is great,

There is none like it;

And it is the time of Jacob's distress,

But he will be saved from it.

8 'It shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts,

'that I will break his yoke from off their neck

and will tear off their bonds;

and strangers will no longer make them their slaves.

9 'But they shall serve the LORD their God

and David their king,

whom I will raise up for them.

10 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant,' declares the LORD,

'And do not be dismayed, O Israel;

For behold, I will save you from afar

And your offspring from the land of their captivity.

And Jacob will return and will be quiet and at ease,

And no one will make him afraid.

11 'For I am with you,' declares the LORD, 'to save you;

For I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you,

Only I will not destroy you completely.

But I will chasten you justly

And will by no means leave you unpunished.'

12 "For thus says the LORD,

'Your wound is incurable

And your injury is serious.

13 'There is no one to plead your cause;

No healing for your sore,

No recovery for you.

14 'All your lovers have forgotten you,

They do not seek you;

For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy,

With the punishment of a cruel one,

Because your iniquity is great

And your sins are numerous.

15 'Why do you cry out over your injury?

Your pain is incurable.

Because your iniquity is great

And your sins are numerous,

I have done these things to you.

16 'Therefore all who devour you will be devoured;

And all your adversaries, every one of them, will go into captivity;

And those who plunder you will be for plunder,

And all who prey upon you I will give for prey.

17 'For I will restore you to health

And I will heal you of your wounds,' declares the LORD,

'Because they have called you an outcast, saying:

"It is Zion; no one cares for her."

I. THE JEWISH PROBLEM.

Is there a yet future restoration?

UNTIL all the writings of the prophet were compiled in one book as we now have it, Jeremiah 30-31 formed a distinct prophecy, and was doubtless in circulation amongst the people in a separate prophetic book; and in Jer 30:2 we read that it is a "book" dictated by God Himself. The subject, then, with which it deals must be one concerning which He is especially anxious to reveal His thoughts. Whatever man may think of it, He considers this matter of immense importance, so that every word must be preserved.

**"Write thee all the words
that I have spoken unto thee in a book."
Jeremiah 30:2KJV**

This book, dictated by God Himself, is a very remarkable one; for though it concerns Israel, it is addressed chiefly to the Gentile nations.

For thus says the LORD, "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chief of the nations; Proclaim, give praise and say, 'O LORD, save Your people, The remnant of Israel.' 8 "Behold, I am bringing them from the north country, And I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth, Among them the blind and the lame, The woman with child and she who is in labor with child, together; A great company, they will return here. 9 "With weeping they will come, And by supplication I will lead them; I will make them walk by streams of waters, On a straight path in which they will not stumble; For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn." 10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare in the coastlands afar off, and say, "He who **scattered** Israel will **gather** him and keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock." (Jeremiah 31:7-10).

It is a testimony, then, not so much to Israel as to the Gentile nations about Israel. Just as, in the epistle to the Romans, we find, as it were, an epistle within an epistle ; three chapters, Romans 9-11 ([see recommended resource](#))—expressly indicted by the Spirit of God, for the purpose of enlightening Gentile Christians with regard to God's purposes in Israel.

The apostle is most impressed with the importance of the Church having correct views on this subject; and feels that he cannot leave them "ignorant of this mystery" (Romans 11:25-note), lest, through the erroneous notion that God hath cast away His people Israel which He foreknew (Ro 11:1-2KJV-note), and that the special promises and privileges reserved to Israel nationally in the Word of God have been transferred to the Church, they should fall into the danger of self-conceit (Romans 11:20-note)

So here, through the prophet Jeremiah, there is a definite message, a proclamation, a warning, to the chief of the Gentile nations, and to the isles afar off, to the same purport, viz., that God is not yet done with Israel—that...

"He that scatters Israel will gather him

and keep him as a shepherd doth his flock."

Jeremiah 31:10

In this special book, written at the express dictation of God, we have the only true solution of the apparently more and more difficult Jewish question. Apart from God's revelation, the Jew is an enigma, a problem beyond the vain attempts of man to solve; and attempts of the kind, if not based upon the Word of God, are futile and impious. The future of Israel is one of those subjects concerning which the great God has deigned to speak; and however difficult or improbable to man that future may appear, it behooves us to believe and receive, and not to speculate or rebel.

**"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways My ways, saith Jehovah."
(Isaiah 55:8KJV)**

Let us examine this special proclamation addressed to the Gentile nations with regard to Israel. It contains, I believe, a program of events drawn up in chronological order, with regard to the future of that people, so wonderful and "terrible (feared) from their beginning hitherto." (Isaiah 18:2KJV).

The first item in that program is

Restoration.

For behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people [Israel](#) and [Judah](#).' The LORD says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.' (Jeremiah 30:3).

Note the frequent reiteration of the august and glorious name **Jehovah** in this, as in the other verses of this prophecy; as if to give credibility to the announcements made, and to test our faith in the accomplishment of those things for which the eternal, unchangeable name, **Jehovah**, stands pledged.

Now, what are we to do with this and other prophecies of a Restoration of the people of Israel to the land of their fathers?

THREE METHODS OF INTERPRETATION

There are several methods of interpretation (Baron briefly refutes three methods) which seem alike unsatisfactory, and are perhaps responsible for a great deal of Jewish and Gentile unbelief.

(1). There is, first of all, the old-fashioned way of so-called spiritualizing the prophecies—making Israel and Zion to mean the Church, and The Land to signify heaven ; but I confess this system of interpretation has no consistency about it, and makes the Word of God the most meaningless and unintelligible book in the world. For instance, we read here

"I will bring again the captivity of My people [Israel](#) and [Judah](#)...and I will cause them to return to [the land](#) that I gave to their fathers." (Jer 30:3KJV)

If Israel be the Church, who is Judah? If Judah be the Church, who is Israel? What is the "*captivity*" the Church has endured? And where is "the land" from which the Church has been driven out, and to which it will return? At the end of the prophecy we read:

"Behold, days are coming," declares Jehovah, "when the city shall be rebuilt for the LORD from the Tower of [Hananel](#) to the Corner Gate. And the measuring line shall go out farther straight ahead to the hill [Gareb](#); then it will turn to [Goah](#). And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook [Kidron](#), to the corner of the [Horse-gate](#) toward the east, shall be holy to Jehovah; it shall not be plucked up, or overthrown anymore forever." (Jeremiah 31:38-40)

In what particular locality in heaven are the tower of [Hananel](#) and the corner gate? And what will our [allegorical Interpretations](#) make of the hill [Gareb](#), and [Goah](#), and the brook [Kidron](#)? All these are known to me in the environs of the literal Jerusalem in Canaan; but I confess some difficulty in locating them in heavenly places. If Israel does not mean Israel, and "the land God gave to the fathers" does not mean Palestine, then I do not know what is meant.

The announcement is: "He that scatters Israel will gather him." (Jer 31:10) Now, when it comes to [scattering](#)—of course, this is allowed to refer to literal Israel, to the Jews, "scattered and peeled"; but when, in the same sentence, a [gathering](#) of the same people is mentioned—oh, this is the gathering of the spiritual Israel. What consistency or honesty, I pray, is there in such interpretations!

To quote **Bishop J C Ryle**...

To what may we attribute the loose system of interpreting the language of the Psalms and prophets, and the extravagant expectations of the universal conversion of the world by the preaching of the Gospel, which may be observed in many Christian writers?

To nothing so much, I believe, as to the habit of inaccurately interpreting the word "Israel," and the consequent application of promises to the Gentile churches, with which they have nothing to do.

The least errors in theology always bear fruit. Never does man take up an incorrect principle of interpreting Scripture without that principle entailing awkward consequences, and coloring the whole tone of his religion.

I do not deny that Israel was a peculiar typical people, and that God's relations to Israel were meant to be a type of relations to His believing people all over the world. I do not forget that it is written, "As in water face reflects face, So the heart of man reflects man." (Proverbs 27:19) and that whatever spiritual truths are taught in prophecy concerning Israelitish hearts, are applicable to the hearts of Gentiles. I would have it most distinctly understood that God's dealings with individual Jews and Gentiles are precisely one and the same. Without repentance, faith in Christ, and holiness of heart, no individual Jew or Gentile shall ever be saved.

What I protest against is, the habit of [allegorizing](#) plain sayings of the Word of God concerning the future history of the nation Israel, and explaining away the fulness of their contents in order to accommodate them to the Gentile Church.

I believe the habit to be unwarranted by anything in Scripture, and to draw after it a long train of evil consequences. (From "Scattered and Gathered" by the late Dr. Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool) (Ed: [Click for similar quote from C H Spurgeon in 1864](#))

Like thousands more, the writer has in the infinite grace of God been brought out of the darkness of Rabbinical Judaism (Ed: [David Baron](#) is referring to himself) into the marvelous light and liberty of the glorious Gospel of Christ. He accepted Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah of Israel and Saviour of the world, on the ground of a literal interpretation of the prophecies concerning Him; and he cannot consistently, without doing outrage to his convictions, accept one principle of interpretation for one set of prophecies which have already been fulfilled, and another principle of interpretation for another set of prophecies not yet fulfilled. Rather, he honestly believes that the manner of fulfillment of those prophecies which are now history, supplies the only sound basis for the interpretation of those prophecies with regard to Israel and the kingdom which yet await their fulfillment. "Though He tarry, wait for Him" (cp Hab 2:3); and when the fulness of time (Gal 4:4) is come, it will be seen that though man's systems and principles of interpretation be diverse, God's manner of fulfilling His promises is one.

(2) Another way of dealing with these prophecies of a Restoration is to make them refer to the gathering of the Jews into the Church. But this position also is untenable. The Jews will not be nationally gathered into the Church; for even in the New Testament we have the Jews, as well as the Gentiles, as nations, running parallel with, and continuing separate from, the Church throughout all the period of its history on earth; (1Corinthians 10:32); and in Ro 11:25-note, the inspired apostle is commissioned to announce to the Gentile believers the fact that all Israel will not be saved; that the "partial hardening" which has befallen that nation will continue until after the "fulness of the Gentiles has come in."

"He that scattered Israel": From whence? From the Church or Gospel blessings? No, no; but from Palestine. "Will gather him:" (Jer 31:10KJV) Where to? why, surely, to the land which He gave to their fathers, from which Israel, on account of disobedience, was banished and scattered.

(3) But perhaps the most plausible way of explaining such predictions is to represent them as having had their fulfillment at the restoration from Babylon, since they were given before the Babylonish captivity. To this I reply that this and other predictions are in terms of which we vainly seek an adequate fulfillment at that period. It may be as well to give here a few reasons in justification of the position that there is a future Restoration of the literal Israel to the land which by unconditional promise and covenant was given to them as an everlasting possession. (Ge 15:7-21; Ge 18:7, 8, 19, 21)

SIX REASONS FOR A LITERAL RESTORATION

I. The Restoration promised here is a complete one:

"I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel and Judah;" and the number who will return shall be "a great company," (Jeremiah 31:8) so that even the whole of the promised land will not be large enough for them. (Zec 10:10, Isa 44:19-20) The same appears in that remarkable prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-16 (note), which, on whatever system of interpretation we adopt, is admittedly future in its application, where "the outcasts of Israel" and "the dispersed of Judah" are to be gathered together. The same appears again in Ezekiel 37:1-28 (note), where there is a future announced for the whole twelve tribes reunited in one kingdom. Many more passages might be cited which speak of a complete Restoration of the entire nation in terms most unequivocal and minute; which certainly could not be said to have received their fulfillment in the—comparatively speaking—mere handful who returned from Babylon.

II. After the Restoration predicted in this and other prophecies, Israel is to enjoy at least national independence, if not supremacy.

'For it shall come to pass in that day, saith Jehovah of Hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him " (Jeremiah 30:8KJV).

Backsliding Israel, because he served not Jehovah with joyfulness and with gladness of heart for the abundance of all things, was to be taught a lesson by comparison ; and was given over by God to be in servitude for a time to the Gentiles.

"Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies, which Jehovah shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in want of all things; and He shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck" (Deut 28:47-48KJV).

But this iron yoke of Gentile oppression was not to last forever. This is clear even from the solemn words of the Lord Jesus, when, after announcing the fact that Israel "shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations;" (Lk 21:24a) He suspends in the midst of the darkness of threatened judgment the bright star of hope which ultimately shall banish the darkness, and cause judgment to be forgotten in the abundance of mercy; inasmuch as He announces a limit to the time of Israel's servitude to Gentile oppression :

"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles **UNTIL** (crucial time phrase) the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."" (Luke 21:24).

And when they be fulfilled, the yoke will be broken, and Israel will once more not only be free and independent, but nationally supreme among the nations.'

But has this ever yet taken place? Let those who point to the restoration from Babylon as an exhaustive fulfilment of these prophecies compare, for instance, such a passage as Isaiah 14:1-3, where we read that

"Jehovah will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of Jehovah for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives whose captives they were ; and they shall rule over their oppressors."

Let them compare this with Nehemiah 9:36, 37, which describes the actual condition of the people after their restoration :

"Behold, we are slaves today, And as to the land which You gave to our fathers to eat of its fruit and its bounty, Behold, we are slaves in it. Its abundant produce is for the kings Whom You have set over us because of our sins; They also rule over our bodies And over our cattle as they please, So we are in great distress."

III. According to the express declaration of the prophet Isaiah, there is to be a "second" Restoration, which is to be universal in its character.

"And it shall to 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**" (Isaiah 11:11-12-note).

Now, there has been no second Restoration as yet; neither could the return from Babylon be said to be a gathering from the "four corners of the earth"; that captivity having been local in its character, and of short duration. Never before the dispersion inaugurated by Titus, could the scattering of the people be said to have been universal; hence they could never before have been gathered from the four corners of the earth.

IV. Israel has never yet in all its fulness possessed the land which God has promised them; and Palestine may still be said to be " the land of promise."

Its boundaries are given in Ge 15:18; Ezek 47:13, Ezek 48:1. Dr. Alex. Keith, author of "[The Evidence of Prophecy](#)" has given us the results of his personal investigations and measurements in his book called "[The Land of Israel](#)," according to which the extent of the promised land is 300,000 square miles.

The infidel [Voltaire](#) is said to have scoffingly remarked on Ex 3:8, where God says that He has come down to deliver Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land into a "good land and a large," that the God of the Jews must have been a petty God, because He gave them a land not larger in size than Wales, and called it a " large land." But this is only in keeping with the style of infidel scoffers in general, who find it easy to ridicule things about which they know very little. It is only ignorance that could represent the land called in Ex 3:8, a "large land " as being no larger in size than Wales. Why, it is twice and a half as large as Great Britain and Ireland. And yet Christians who do not believe in a future possession by Israel of the whole land which God has promised them, really give occasion to the enemies of God to blaspheme ; for if there be no future occupation of the land by Israel, the solemn word of God, on which His oath is staked, would fail of fulfillment.' (Genesis 15:8-18)

What though generations may pass, and instead of the fathers may be the children: "heaven and earth shall pass away," (Mt 24:35) but God's oath and promise cannot fail.

It is very remarkable that when we come to the future re-division of the land in the last chapters of Ezekiel, it is no longer merely from Dan to Beersheba with which the prophet deals; but faith and inspiration combine to claim all the promised land contained within the boundaries of the original covenant in Genesis 25. This, by the way, is a sufficient answer to those who ask whether there is room enough in Palestine for the 12,000,000 Jews at present in the world. Note also that according to these same last chapters of Ezekiel, there is to be a different location of the twelve tribes at the re-division of the land. What can we make of this, if there be no future Restoration of Israel to the promised land?

V. Leaving out for the moment the brief ordeal and baptism of suffering which awaits Israel immediately on their return to their land, with which we shall deal presently, the Restoration announced in this and other prophecies is to be followed by a National Conversion (Jer 30:8-10).

Israel nationally is then to enter into the blessing of the New Covenant announced in this very prophecy; (Jeremiah 31:31-34) **Ed:** See also New Covenant in the Old Testament) which the election of individuals from all nations now enjoy, as it were, by anticipation. The same is clearly announced in Ezek. 36:24-28 (note):

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 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 a 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."

And by the same prophet in the following chapter—Jer 32:21-23; and in many other passages of Scripture. Now, such a **national conversion** has surely never yet taken place. The restoration from Babylon was followed by the most appalling and universal national apostasy, which culminated in the rejection of the Son of God, and the consequent dispersion of the people into all the four corners of the earth.

VI. There is to be a gathering of Israel to the land of their fathers, which is to be final.

This is announced in this very prophecy, where, at the end of Jeremiah 31, after describing with the greatest minuteness and geographical exactness the rebuilding of the Holy City, it closes with the declaration "it shall not be plucked up nor thrown down any more forever." (Jer 31:40) The same is again emphatically proclaimed by the prophet Amos :

"I will bring again the captivity of My people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof ; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God" (Amos 9:14, 15).

Now, supposing that since these inspired announcements by Amos and Jeremiah there had already taken place a hundred dispersions and a hundred restorations, we would still be justified in believing in yet another gathering, after which there should be no more scattering.

II. THE TIME OF ISRAEL'S TROUBLE

THE second item in the Divine program of the future of Israel, as given in this divinely dictated "book," is, to use the language of inspiration, the **"time of Jacob's trouble."**

"Now these are the words which the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah, "For thus says the LORD, 'I have heard a sound of terror, Of dread, and there is no peace. 'Ask now, and see If a male can give birth. Why do I see every man With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale?' Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it." (Jeremiah 30:4-7-note).

"What!" you say, "will not all the sufferings of Israel through all these centuries suffice? Is there a yet future baptism of fire, through which they must pass?" Yes, this is clear from this prophecy, as well as from many others. Listen to this declaration of the prophet Ezekiel

"And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to Me; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead in the furnace; they are the dross of silver. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because all of you have become dross, therefore, behold, I am going to gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. As they gather silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into the furnace to blow fire on it in order to melt it, so I will gather you in My anger and in My wrath and I will lay you there and melt you. I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you will be melted in the midst of it. As silver is melted in the furnace, so you will be melted in the midst of it; and you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out My wrath on you.' (Ezek. 22:17-22).

Here, too, the terrible fiery furnace immediately succeeds the gathering into the midst of Jerusalem.

(Editorial Comment: I disagree with Baron's interpretation of Ezek 22:17-22 as necessitating a future fulfillment, for it could just as easily have been historically fulfilled when Babylon defeated Judah and sacked and burned the city of Jerusalem. I am also surprised that Baron did not mention the Great Tribulation that Jesus warned about in Mt 24:21-note. The Great Tribulation is a clear parallel with the time of Jacob's trouble.)

But may not this "time of Jacob's trouble" refer to the awful calamity which befell the nation at the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus,

which was repeated with perhaps still greater severity about sixty-five years later in the time of [Bar Kokhba](#) and Hadrian? No! The ordeal announced here through which Israel is to pass is terribly sharp, but brief in its duration, as suggested by the very figure employed—which is that of a woman in travail ; and it ends in their salvation (Jer 30:7b): while the sufferings at the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus (70AD) only inaugurated a long series of dispersions, massacres, spoliations, and oppressions, which has already continued for more than eighteen centuries. Of course, it is not denied that these long-enduring sufferings were predicted in the Word of God, and have their place and relation to Israel's apostasy and future glory; and, in one sense, "the time of Jacob's trouble" may be only a summing up, a culmination, of all that has preceded: but it is clear that there is a time of purging by fiery judgment awaiting Israel after the return to their land, which will immediately precede their national conversion and the revelation to them of the Messiah, whom, as a nation, they have so long rejected.

ZECHARIAH 13-14

What have we in the last chapters of Zechariah? —Israel in their land; not necessarily the entire nation, but the bulk of it, evidently restored in a state of unbelief. Then comes this awful announcement :

"Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city (Zech 14:1-2)

"It will come about in all the land," Declares the LORD, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" (Zech 13:8-9) .

This is the immediate prospect after restoration to Palestine of the people who rebelled against the Most High, and rejected His Son, and always resisted the Holy Spirit—a furnace seven times heated (cp Lev 26:18, 21, 24, 28), and anguish as acute as are the pangs of a woman in travail. Alas! poor Israel, who desire the day of the Lord, to what end is it for you? Shall not the Day of the Lord be darkness and not light, even very dark and no brightness in it?' (Amos 5:18,20) But, blessed be God, His anger will not endure forever ; though weeping may endure for a night, joy will come in the morning.' And even when Israel sits in darkness—a deeper darkness than they have ever been in yet— the Lord shall be a light unto them;" (Micah 7:8) and, although their tribulation and anguish shall be so great that there has been none like it, in the midst of wrath God will remember mercy; and, according to His promise, He will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob. (Amos 9:8)

Suddenly, when the cloud will be thickest, and the anguish most acute; when even the small **remnant** that shall be left of Israel shall despair of hope, and Israel's enemies be most certain in their own minds of accomplishing their purpose of utterly exterminating that people whom they will think has been given over to them as a prey; when the proud spirit of the haughty Jew shall be broken, and humility and penitence take the place of stubbornness and pride; when the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, saying, Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach' (Joel 2:17); and when the whole people, brought to such extremities that they will be willing to receive help from whatsoever quarter it may come, cry "Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, That the mountains might quake at Your presence... 9 Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD, Nor remember iniquity forever; Behold, look now, all of us are Your people." (Isaiah 64:1,9) —then, suddenly, with the speed of lightning, and attended by all His saints and hosts of angels, shall the same Jesus, who ascended bodily and visibly on a cloud from the Mount of Olivet, so and in like manner, be revealed again ; but this time in a special and peculiar manner, as Israel's King and Deliverer. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east,' and from thence He shall 'go forth and fight against those nations (Israel's enemies) as in the day of battle." (Zechariah 14:3-4) And the Lord shall utter His voice before His army' and He will go forth

'in fire And His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire. For the LORD will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on all flesh, And those slain by the LORD will be many.' (Isa 64:15-16, cp Joel 2:11).

Just as that shepherd of Bethlehem—himself one of the most perfect and beautiful types of Him who is his great Son, as well as Lord— slew both the lion and the bear,' and saved from their jaws the lamb which was taken possession of by them as their prey: so will the Shepherd of Israel 'save' the remnant of His people from the hands and jaws of those who are stronger than they ; and slay them who devoured, broke in pieces, and stamped with their feet, His chosen, with a fierceness exceeding even that of the bear and the lion." (From "[Rays of Messiah's Glory Christ in the Old Testament - online](#)" by David Baron)

III. ISRAEL'S CONVERSION

THE third item with regard to Israel's future as given in this chapter is *Israel's Conversion and the establishment of the throne of*

David.

"that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves. 'But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. (Jer 30:8-9)

It is unnecessary to prove that by "David their King," is here meant their Messiah. Even the Talmud says, " David their King, whom I will raise up unto them"; and not "whom I have raised up unto them"—showing that it is not king David, who reigned in Jerusalem some four hundred years before, who is meant, but the Messiah who is to be "of David's seed." (Jeremiah 23:5-6) In truth, He is the true David, the Beloved; the King after God's own heart, in whom the promises of God centre. (Ed Comment: ["Click for another interpretation on "David"](#))

There are a number of passages where the name David is applied to the King Messiah in the Old Testament ; but two are especially remarkable. In Hosea 3:5, after that wonderful prophecy delivered nearly eight hundred years before Christ, and which answers exactly to the present state of Israel, it is stated, "afterward"—that is, when their present condition of banishment from their land and apostasy from God shall come to an end -

"Afterward (Ed: important time phrase!) the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days." (Hosea 3:5)

"They shall seek Jehovah their God, and David their King." "They shall serve Jehovah their God, and David their King": so that there is neither true seeking nor true serving of Jehovah God, if we do not also seek and serve David (Messiah) the King, notwithstanding all that poor Israel now thinks to the contrary.

And note the more than human character and dignity of this great David. He claims equal allegiance with God; for whatever is implied by " they shall serve Jehovah their God," must be meant also in the words "and they shall serve David their King." But there is a glorious truth wrapped up in these two passages, which must not be overlooked. In foretelling their state during the time when Israel shall neither serve God nor yet fall into idolatry, the prophet says that "the children of Israel shall abide many days"—the Hebrew idiomatic expression meaning a long, indefinite period—"without a king and without a prince." (Hos 3:4KJV) How wonderfully true has this proved; and with what wonderful accuracy has the inspired announcement been fulfilled!

Just about the time of [Zedekiah](#) (597-586BC) the last prince who ever sat on the throne of David, the prophet Ezekiel came with this startling announcement: "Remove the miter (diadem) and take off the crown ; it shall not be (or, this is no more it): exalt the low, abase the high (or, let anarchy and usurpation of the throne of David continue). I will overturn, overturn, overturn it ; this shall be no more until (important time phrase) He come Whose right it is (Ed: Referring to Messiah); to Him it shall be given." (Lit. Hebrew, Ezek 21:26-27) And so it has proved. For all those centuries before Christ, and for all these nearly nineteen centuries since Christ—a fact which only inspiration could have foreseen—in spite of every effort and Jewish ambition, there has been no re-establishment of the throne of David.

It is true that in the second century B.C. a kingdom existed for a short time in Judea ; but the kings were not of the house of David, nor even of the tribe of Judah, and are not recognized as kings by God, who by oath appointed David and his seed to be the only legitimate kings in Zion.

"Until He come, Whose right it is : to Him it shall be given." (Ezekiel 21:27)

Who is this but Jesus of Nazareth?"—"the King of the Jews," (Mt 27:37) concerning whom it was announced at His birth: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest ; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end." (Lk 1:32-33) According to the commonly received view, there is indeed no importance in the title "Son of David " as belonging to Christ; except, perhaps, as proving that He descended from David ("the son of David" Mt 1:1), and enabling us to trace His genealogy. But it is evident that the announcement of the angel attaches to it far greater importance than this, inasmuch as it asserts for Him, as Son of David, "the throne of His father David." (Lk 1:32) And what throne is that? Not the throne of heaven, nor yet the throne of God's spiritual kingdom; for neither of these was, or could have been, occupied by David, or could be inherited by Christ as Son of David.' The throne intended, then, must be the throne of the kingdom of Israel, and that it is so, the words of the angel testify; for having said, 'The Lord God shall give to Him the throne of His father David,' he adds: 'And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever.'" (Lk 1:32-33)

The idea now generally entertained is that the throne on which Christ now sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high is that meant by the angel in this announcement to Mary; but this view is not based on a comprehensive and mature study of the Word of God. Take, for instance, Rev 3:21:

"To him that overcomes (Ed: [Who is the Overcomer?](#)) will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." (Rev 3:21-[note](#))

Here the Lord Himself tells us that the throne over which He now sits is not His (e.g., Heb 12:2), but the Father's, who invited Him to share it with Him as a token of His perfect satisfaction with the finished work of His beloved Son; and that He only occupies this place until He takes possession of His own throne, on which He will grant the privilege of sitting with Him to all those who have been faithful to Him in this rebellious world (**Ed: Overcomers**). When Christ appeared for the first time, had Israel but known the day of His visitation, the kingdom might have at that time been restored to them; but "His own received Him not." (Jn 1:11) They rejected Him, and sent a messenger after Him, saying: We will not have this man to reign over us.

But did Israel's unbelief and rejection of their King frustrate the purposes of God? Did it for ever rob Christ of that to which He has a right as the Son of David, and which is pre-eminently the reward of His humiliation and pouring out His soul unto death? "Yet have I anointed My king on the holy hill of Zion." (Ps 2:2, Ps 2:6-note) Man's unbelief and disobedience may defer, to his own hurt, the accomplishment of the purposes of God; but man's unbelief and the very gates of hell *cannot frustrate them*.

"There is an old saying which Bengel was very fond of: '*Deus habet horas et moras*'—"God has His own times and ways." There are pauses in history; but during those pauses, which are occasioned by the unbelief, the ignorance, and the disobedience of His own people, and are made subservient to the wisdom of God, the great Musician does not forget the melody, and at the proper time it is continued." (Dr. A. Saphir - a well known Jewish believer and Biblical commentator)

The King whom Israel insulted and delivered over to the cross, departed for a season with the awful words :

"Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' (Matthew 23:38, 39 [cp Lk 13:35], Quoting Psalm 118:26).

Or, as we have it in Hosea 5:15:

"I will go away (Ed: See context - Hos 5:14 = mentions both Ephraim [Israel] and Judah) and return to My place until (important time phrase) they (Ed: **Who?** Israel AND Judah - If the Church is "Israel" what do we do with "Judah"?! Perhaps Hosea is referring to a literal Israel and a literal Judah!) acknowledge their guilt and seek My face (Ed: See Deut 4:29-31, Zech 12:10); In their affliction (Ed: Great Tribulation - "time of Jacob's trouble") they will earnestly seek Me." (Ed: cp Hos 6:1-3)

Meanwhile, another underlying parallel purpose of God, even the mystery of the Church, has been revealed, which more than ever makes manifest the manifold wisdom of God. But what about the "Tabernacle of David" (Amos 9:11KJV)? What about Christ's relation to Israel? Did He renounce? Did He say to Israel, "I have done with you? Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, ye shall not see Me henceforth—and for ever." Oh, no ! Behold here too the glorious star of hope suspended right in the midst of the gloom of impending judgment and desolation.

The King's departure, however long its duration, is but for a limited time: 'Until ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.' Till they acknowledge their offence and seek My face; and then, corresponding with what was said above, it is added : "In their affliction—in the time of Jacob's trouble (Ed: the same word in the original being used in both places - Ed: Hebrew word = **tsar**; translate "trouble" and "affliction". The Septuagint = Lxx uses Greek noun *thlipsis* for *trouble* in Jer 30:7 and *affliction* in Hos 5:15. *Thlipsis* is also the word used by Jesus in Mt 24:21 when He describes the coming Great Tribulation - see Mt 24:15 for the definitive, clearly recognizable event that marks the beginning of the "time of Jacob's distress")—they shall seek Me early." And when once they seek Him, that face, which "in a little wrath has been hid from them for a moment," (Isa 54:8 - contrast the two time phrase - "moment" and "everlasting"!) will be lifted upon them in full splendour." "I will return and build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down, and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up;" (Amos 9:11-12) "and the Lord shall yet reign in Mount Zion, and before His ancients gloriously." (Isa 24:23) Till then, and for these many days, "the children of Israel abide without a king and without a prince." (Hos 3:4) Note that they are not only without a king, but also without a prince.

Now, compare this with Ezekiel 37, and see a most beautiful truth about the Lord Jesus in relation to Israel's future.

"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. 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 dwelling-places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them; so shall they be My people, and I will be their God. 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 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 forever" (Ezekiel 37:21-25-note).

"And David My servant shall be king over them... and My servant David shall be their prince forever." (Ezek 37:24-25)

Here is both Israel's King and Prince in the same person. (Ed: [But see discussion below](#))

But, you say, do not the two terms substantially mean the same thing? No; the word in the original translated "prince" in this passage, does not mean prince in an hereditary sense of the word. "Nassi ([05387](#))," the term used, signifies one exalted, or elected by the free will of the people. What a glimpse we get here of the change that will come over Israel at the appearing of Jesus Christ! At His first coming, Israel, as a nation, deliberately rejected Him. "Not this man, but [Barabbas](#)!" (Mt 27:20-21) they said: and as to Christ, "Crucify Him ! Crucify Him!" (Jn 19:6) "We will not have this man to reign over us," (cp Lk 19:14) was their cry. But the national verdict with regard to Jesus of Nazareth will be revoked ; the grand mistake of the Jewish people shall yet be acknowledged and repented of. Instead of "Crucify Him!" they will cry "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Ed: Ps 118:24-26-[note](#)) They will recognize His claims, not only as "the King," the one whose right it is to reign over them; but they will deliberately declare Him their "Nassi," their elected or exalted one.

This simply means that Israel will ratify God's choice. David himself, whose name Messiah bears, is a beautiful type of Christ in this as in many other respects. In 1 Samuel 16:12 we read of his being chosen and anointed as king over Israel by the command of God. But what followed? Did he at once commence his reign? For fifteen years he was a fugitive; his claims were unrecognized; his home was the Cave of Adullam, or the wilderness of Judah. There was another king, who hated David, and disputed his sovereignty.

Meanwhile, instead of a throne on Mount Zion and the hosts of Israel, his court was outside the camp, and his following consisted of his brethren and all his father's house: "And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented"—a strange, typical lot, not numbering altogether more than about "four hundred men." (1 Samuel 22:1-2) But at last, after those years of rejection, the people's heart turned toward him, "and the men of Judah came and"—as if he had never been anointed king before—"there" (in Hebron) "they anointed David king over the house of Judah." (2 Samuel 2:4)

The rest of the tribes of Israel still opposed David, and ranged themselves under the banner of Ishbosheth; until about seven years later the heart of all the people turned toward him, and "all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron, and king David made a league with them in Hebron before Jehovah, and they anointed David king over Israel." (2 Samuel 5:3)

Thus it is with Christ. From His incarnation He was designated King of the Jews. Jehovah Himself has anointed Him as His King on the holy hill of Zion (Ps 2:2, Ps 2:6-[note](#)); and it was even then announced that "the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." (Lk 1:33) But my people knew not the day of their visitation (Lk 19:44); and for all these centuries have resolutely, as a nation, refused to acknowledge His claims. Meanwhile, also, the god of this world, "the prince of the power of the air," (Eph 2:2-[note](#)) is permitted in the infinite wisdom of God to usurp Christ's sovereignty over the nations (1 Jn 5:19, cp Lk 4:6, Jn 12:31, 16:11); and the followers of our blessed, glorious Master are a mere handful of individuals (Ed: cp "few" in Mt 7:14-[note](#) and doctrine of Jewish remnant) from all nations who spiritually are like that motley crowd in the cave of Adullam, "in distress, in debts, and discontented, or bitter of soul" because of a sense of sin and sorrow. These are painfully conscious that Jesus Christ is not yet accepted King over the earth; for instead of a crown which will come by and by, we have to take up His cross and follow Him (Mk 8:34, Lk 9:23), "without the camp bearing His reproach." (Hebrews 13:13-[note](#)) But as sure as there was a Cross planted for Him on that [Golgotha](#), outside the walls of Jerusalem, so surely, if the word and oath of our God stand for anything, is there yet to be a glorious throne for our Redeemer and Master on Mount Zion. "The Stone which the builders have rejected has become the headstone of the corner" (Ps 118:22-[note](#), Mt 21:42, Mk 12:10-11, Lk 20:17, cp 1 Pe 2:4-6-[note](#)); and, however marvelous and improbable in our eyes, Israel shall yet "serve Jehovah their God and David their King," (Ed: [See discussion below](#)) and deliberately elect Him, whom during centuries of unbelief they have despised and rejected, as their "Nassi"—their freely chosen ruler and prince.

IV. THE PRESENT CONDITION OF ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S present state, and the miracle of their preservation (Ed: [See Illustration of the Miraculous preservation of the Jewish race](#)). This is the next item in the divinely dictated message through the prophet Jeremiah.

After proclaiming the fact of their restoration, and describing the glad day when the remnant of Israel, after passing through the purging ordeal, shall "call on the name of Jehovah, to serve Him with one consent," (Zephaniah 3:9) we read in the tenth verse :

"Fear not, O Jacob My servant," declares the LORD, 'And do not be dismayed, O Israel. For (Ed: term of explanation) behold (Ed: This Hebrew word is always used when the writer wants to draw the reader's attention to what follows), I will save you from afar and your offspring from the land of their captivity. And Jacob will return and will be quiet and at ease, and no one will make him afraid." (Jeremiah 30:10)

It is beautiful to note how the people are encouraged to draw consolation and hope in their present desolation and sufferings, from the brightness and glory which is yet to break upon them. "Therefore" (Ed: term of conclusion)—in view of the glorious prospect just dilated on (Ed: See especially Jer 30:7, 8, 9)—"fear not, O Jacob My servant."

"I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." (Ps 27:13)

Gloomy indeed is the prospect of the present state of the Jewish people in its [Dispersion](#) and unbelief, if viewed apart from the bright morn of promise so clearly foretold in the Word of God; but, in the light of the bright future, even the present darkness and gloom become less intense. How full of consolation is the assurance that

*"Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest and be quiet,
and none shall make him afraid!"*

The present state of the peculiar people (Dt 14:2KJV) has been foretold with minute exactness in predictions like the following:

"For lo, I will command, and I will sift ([Hebrew = nua = 05128](#) = lit. toss or shake about) the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is tossed about in a sieve" (Amos 9:9) .

Or, in the words of Jeremiah:

"And I will deliver them to be removed (be tossed to and fro, agitated, subjected to maltreatment) into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt (evil), to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them. (Jer 24:9).

O ye who doubt the inspiration of the Book of books, compare these prophecies of thousands of years ago with what is going on before your very eyes! How can we account for the repeated dispersions, and the continued, unceasing wandering and strange restlessness of the Jew, apart from these ancient inspired utterances? That Palestine should be vanquished, and that Israel should be cast out of their own land, or even be dispersed among the nations, was within the range of human possibility, and mayhap within the power of a shrewd observer to forecast; but, that for centuries and centuries, a people, vanquished and scattered out of their own country, instead of becoming absorbed among the nations—as has been the case with other peoples; and instead of taking root and finding rest in the new soil to which they have been transplanted, should retain a separate existence, everywhere dwelling alone, and not reckoned among the nations, yet in all places kept in a state of unrest, and continually agitated or tossed about: who, but He whose hand has kept up this standing miracle as His witness among the nations could have foreseen or foretold *that*?

Before even their first settlement in Palestine, Moses predicted that, if Israel sinned, and was disobedient, "Jehovah shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other ;... *and among all these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot find rest.*" (Dt 28:64, 65) And as the mouth of the Lord has spoken, so it has been all these centuries. What is the monkish legend of the "Wandering Jew" but a parable of the whole Jewish nation? The original version of the legend is as follows:

Joseph Cartophilus (Ed: [See note on this legend](#)), a Jew, was door-keeper at the Praetorium of Pontius Pilate when Jesus was led away to be crucified. As Jesus halted upon the threshold of the Praetorium, Cartophilus struck Him on the loins, and said, " Move faster. Why do you stop here?" Jesus turned round to him, and said: " I go, but you will wait till My return." Cartophilus, who was then thirty years old, and who has always returned to that age when he has completed a hundred years, has ever since been awaiting the coming of the Lord and the end of the world. This wretched man, who must exist in spite of his longing for death, and desperate efforts at self-destruction, is further said to be possessed with a spirit of restlessness which makes him ceaselessly wander over the face of the earth.

Who cannot see the application of this legend to the whole tribe of the "wandering foot and weary breast"? More than eighteen hundred years ago, when Israel insulted their Messiah, and hastened Him to the cross, Jesus, with a pitiful but disappointed look, turned to them, and said: "The Son of Man is going on as it has been determined" of Him (Lk 22:22, just after Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant in His blood - Lk 22:20) ; but "this generation will not pass away until all these things take place (be fulfilled) (Lk 21:32); "for I say unto you, ye shall not see Me henceforth till ye shall say : Blessed be He that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Mt 23:39) Forthwith Israel, taken possession of by a spirit of restlessness, had to take staff in hand, and gird his loins, and commence his wanderings amongst the nations.' (Hosea 9:17) Still they are on their weary march, which has already extended over a period of nearly two millenniums.

How often has not my people built a nest for itself; and said : "Here let us rest!" But, as often has God put His hand under the nest and said : "Arise and depart, for this is not your resting-place!"

You say, "We want to be like the nations, like the peoples of the world, who serve wood and stone." But what you have in mind will

never happen." (Ezekiel 20:32NIV).

If God had cast away His people which He foreknew (cp Ro 11:2-note), He would have let them alone to go to national destruction and amalgamation, which they courted; but no, even in these repeated dispersions and long - continued wanderings and chastisements, we see God's faithfulness to His covenants, and love for His people. Israel gives us the picture, on a national scale, of God's dealings with a backslider. And surely it is in love and mercy that rest and peace are taken from those that wander from God. If the prodigal in the far country had found what his heart desired, he might never have turned his thoughts to his father and his home (cp Lk 15:17, 18, 19, 20).

"Thou dost turn man back into dust, And dost say, "Return, O children of men!" (Psalm 90:3)

Each stroke, each separate edict of banishment from one country or the other, which has, as it were, been God's word of command to the nation to resume its long march, each calamity and wrong which has befallen the dispersed people, has been a call from God: "Turn ye! turn ye! from your evil ways ; for why will ye die, O house of Israel ?" (Ed: Cp Jer 25:5, 27:13, Ezek 18:31, 33:11)

"If then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled (Ed: Compare Dt 10:16 Dt 30:6 Jer 4:4 Jer 9:25, Col 2:11-12-note, Ro 2:24, 25, 26-note, Ro 2:27, 28, 29-note; See also Circumcision of the Heart), and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: then (Ed: then = important time phrase) will I remember My covenant with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham will I remember (Ed: Covenant with Abraham); and I will remember **the land** (cp Ge 15:18)" (Leviticus 26:41, 42).

But the day is not far distant when God will heal their backslidings (apostasy); (Hos 14:4) and then at the Cross, where they commenced, Israel's wanderings and dispersions will cease. "Jacob shall return, and be in rest, and be quiet and none shall make him afraid." (Jer 30:10) Meanwhile, though scattered and peeled, tossed about among the nations, and finding no rest for the sole of their feet (Dt 28:65), **Israel's preservation is guaranteed.**

'For I am with you,' declares the LORD, 'to save you. For (Ed: term of explanation) I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, only I will not destroy you (Ed: Who is He addressing? See Jer 30:3) completely. But I will chasten (discipline, correct) you justly, and will by no means leave you unpunished.' (Jer 30:11).

This agrees with what the same prophet says in another place :

"Thus hath Jehovah said, The whole land shall be desolate, yet will I not make a full end" (Jer 4:27).

And again, in giving His mandate to the nations to "go up upon her walls and destroy," He is careful to put in the reservation clause, " but make not a full end." (Jeremiah 5:10)' We also read in Amos 9:8:

"Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, **I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,**" Declares Jehovah."

Let the miracle of the continued existence of the Jewish people bear witness to Jehovah's faithfulness to His promises, as well as to His threatenings. By the word of God was this nation first brought into existence; and by the word of God it continues to exist, and nothing can move it.

It surely is not necessary to remind the world that there are no thanks due to the Gentile nations—especially not to professed Christendom—that there is such a being as a Jew now left on the face of the earth. What force or influence is there, which might be supposed to tend .to the utter extermination of the people, which has not been brought to bear upon them with terrible severity for many centuries? On whatever else the nations of the earth were divided, they were at one on this point; and, to use the language of Psalm 83:4, which will be the war cry of the final great confederacy of the nations who will assemble against Jerusalem "They have said

"Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, That the name of Israel be remembered no more." (Psalm 83:4)

Popes, councils, bishops, monks, kings, and peoples, seemed equally enraged against them, and equally determined on their extermination (Ed: E.g., [1] [Spanish Inquisition and Jewish persecution](#); [2] [The Crusades & Jewish persecution](#), [3] [The Russian "pogroms" against the Jews](#), [4] [The Holocaust \[Greek = "whole burnt"\]](#), [5] Haman's decree to exterminate all the Jews = Esther 3:13-note, etc).

To effect this, every expedient has been tried,
but all have equally failed.

Let me remind the reader of a few typical actions on the part of the great representatives of the Gentile world, to illustrate their attitude to Israel.

Pharaoh, the head of the Gentile world of his time, conceived the idea of a policy of extermination against the chosen people, and he tried the expedient of water. "Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river," was the stern edict (Exodus 1:22). But what was the result? Israel ultimately passed the water ordeal in safety; not only the River Nile, but also the Red Sea. But note the retributive justice of God: the very means which he had planned for the extermination of God's people were chosen for his own destruction. Pharaoh and his hosts were drowned (Ex 15:4, 14:13-28)!

Once again Israel was in bondage, though for a short period ; and the great head of the Gentile world at that time, **Nebuchadnezzar**—with whom pre-eminently began the "times of the Gentiles" (Lk 21:24) tried how it would do to destroy these Jews by fire (Da 3:16-18-note, Da 3:19-note). Three Hebrew youths, because they would not serve his gods, nor worship the golden image which he had set up, were cast into the "burning fiery furnace," heated one seven times more than it was wont (Da 3:20-22-note); however, the fire had no power over the bodies of these Jewish men, nor was a hair of their head singed (Da 3:23-28-note), but the flames slew those men who threw them into the furnace (Da 3:22-note).

Darius, another great monarch of the Gentile world, tried the expedient of throwing one Jew, the representative of his people, to wild beasts (Da 6:16-18-note). But God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they did not hurt him (Da 6:20-note); although these same lions had the mastery of Daniel's enemies, and brake all their bones in pieces, or ever they came at the bottom of the den (Da 6:24-note).

Were these occurrences mere chance? Oh no! They were in fulfillment of that wonderful promise, primarily given to Israel as a nation :

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with thee and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon you" (Isaiah 43:2).

Coming to more modern times, it may well be said that no weapon that was formed against Israel prospered, and every tongue that rose up against them in judgment was condemned (Isa 54:17). Whenever there arose a [Haman](#), who planned their destruction, there was an Esther or a Mordecai foreordained (Ed: see Esther 8:1-2-note). Behold, He that keeps Israel did neither slumber nor sleep (Ps 121:4-note). Hence it comes to pass, that after nearly two thousand years of dispersion, untold and unheard-of sufferings, confiscations, violence, tortures, massacres, banishments, and systematic oppressions, the Jewish nation has proved indestructible; and not only exists, but exists in larger numbers to-day than in the most palmy (prosperous) days of David and Solomon, and shows no symptoms of an exhaustion of the early vigor of their national life (Ed Note: Jewish population has increased but still not to the numbers prior to the holocaust! See [Historical Jewish population comparisons](#)).

Note the eloquent appeal of a Jew :

"Braving all kinds of torments—the pangs of death, and still more terrible pangs of life—we have withstood the impetuous storm of time, sweeping indiscriminately in its course nations, religions, and countries. What has become of those celebrated empires, whose very name still excites our admiration by the idea of splendid greatness attached to them, and whose power embraced the whole surface of the known globe? They are only remembered as monuments of the vanity of human greatness. Rome and Greece are no more ; their descendants, mixed with other nations, have lost even the traces of their origin ; while a population of a few millions of men, so often subjugated, stands the test of revolving ages, and the fiery ordeal of eighteen centuries of persecution. We still preserve laws that were given to us in the first days of the world, in the infancy of nature. The last followers of a religion which had embraced the universe have disappeared these eighteen centuries, and our temples are still standing. We alone have been spared by the indiscriminating hand of time, like a column left standing amid the wreck of worlds and the ruins of nature. The history of our people connects present times with the first ages of the world, by the testimony it bears to the existence of those early periods. It begins at the cradle of mankind ; it is likely to be preserved to the very day of universal destruction." (Michael Beers, Appeal to the Justice of Kings)

HOW CERTAIN IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE JEWS?

Thus says Jehovah, Who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts (**Jehovah Sabaoth**) is His name:

"If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares Jehovah, "then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever."

Thus says Jehovah, "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done," declares Jehovah." (Jeremiah 31:35-37-[See note "5" on how this passage is often interpreted](#))

V. A DARK PICTURE

Or a Contrast between the human and the Divine Side of the Jewish Problem

For thus says the LORD (Addressed to Israel and Judah), 'Your wound is incurable, and your injury is serious. 'There is no one to plead your cause. No healing for your sore, no recovery for you. All your lovers have forgotten you. They do not seek you. For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the punishment of a cruel one, because your iniquity is great and your sins are numerous. Why do you cry out over your injury? Your pain is incurable. Because your iniquity is great and your sins are numerous, I have done these things to you.'" (Jeremiah 30:12-15).

But, lest the Gentiles should mix themselves in God's controversy with His people, and say, as they have done: " God hath cast them off; come, let us destroy Israel from being a nation," there is put in, as a parenthesis, the warning :

"Therefore all who devour (destroy) you (Israel) shall be devoured (destroyed); And all your adversaries (enemies), every one of them, shall go into captivity (exile); And those who plunder you shall be for plunder, and all who prey upon you I will give for prey. For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds,' declares Jehovah, 'Because they have called you an outcast, saying: "It is [Zion](#); no one cares for her." (Jeremiah 30:16-17) .

What a picture of Israel! Some people are fond of drawing gloomy outlines of the present state of the Jews; and this may suit their tastes, for surely they could not present a darker one than what is here portrayed by God's own hand. The Jew is represented here as in a *helpless* and *hopeless* condition. He is *helpless*. The figure is that of a sick man lying, bruised and wounded, and having no remedy within reach. I say, "a sick man lying," because the words translated, " thou hast no healing medicines," may literally be rendered: "Thou hast no medicines to raise thee up."

Behold this bruised and wounded man, O church of Christ ; and may God give you the heart of the Good Samaritan and the compassion of Jesus! Do you realize the present helplessness of poor Israel? We sometimes hear the Jews spoken of by Christians of a certain stamp, after this manner:

"After all, they are not so bad off as the heathen. They are a moral, God-fearing people; they have the Old Testament Scriptures in their possession. They are intelligent, clever, influential, and certainly not so low and degraded as the heathen."

The answer of God to all this is: "Thou hast no healing medicines." The Jew has the Scriptures; but what if they testify not to him of Jesus Christ, in Whom Alone, and not in the letter of the Scriptures, is eternal life?

And, think of it, whoever you are, who have some such thoughts as the above in your mind! Is not the Jew a sinner? Has not God said: "The soul that sins, it shall die?" (Ezek 18:4, 20) Has not Jesus Christ said: "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (Jn 8:24) Must the Son of God come down from heaven to die on the Cross in order to save you, and can the Jew be saved by morality? Must you have a Savior to comfort you in your sorrow and in the hour of death, and can the Jew do without Him?

Out of Christ, it is not a question what a man *has*; but what he *has not*. If a sick man were lying in a room fitted up with shelves full of bottles of all sorts of drugs, what avail would it be to him if the only remedy which could alone save him were wanting? "He that hath the Son, hath life ; and he that hath not the Son " (be he never so moral, wise, and influential), "hath not life." (1Jn 5:12KJV)

You say: "Granted Israel's case is *helpless*; but have you not just said that it is also *hopeless*?" Does not God say: "Thy bruise is *incurable*; thy wound is grievous" (Jer 30:12KJV): and again, in the fifteenth verse: "*Thy sorrow is incurable* for the multitude of thine iniquity!" (Jer 30:15KJV)

Yes, altogether *hopeless*, as well as *helpless*, from the human standpoint; but search and see: you will not find either of these words in the vocabulary of God. Helpless! Hopeless!—Is "Jehovah's hand... so short that it cannot save?" (Isa 59:1, cp Isa 50:2) the arm of Jehovah shortened at all that it cannot save?" "Behold," says God, through Jeremiah, in relation to this very subject, "I am Jehovah, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jer 32:27, cp Jer 32:17, Ge 18:14) "Call unto Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty (or "hidden," "fortified," or "inaccessible") things, which you know not." (Jer 33:3) "Thy bruise is incurable, thy wound is grievous," says man. " I will restore health unto thee, and will heal thee of thy wounds," says Jehovah.

Is not the Church of Christ guilty in this matter of limiting the "Holy One of Israel"? Has it not been guilty of skepticism and unbelief in the declaration of the inspired Apostle to the Gentiles, that "the Gospel is the power of God for salvation... to the Jew first "? (Ro 1:16-note) Who speaks of hopelessness on God's part in the matter of a sinner's salvation? Search and see! Has Christ ever sent away any case because it was beyond His power to cure? There were many hopeless incurables who came to Jesus when He was on earth. There were many such at the Pool of Bethesda. I suppose that poor woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years,

and who spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, was as hopeless a case as you might wish; but she only touched the hem of His garment, and immediately she was healed (Mt 9:21, 22).

Look again at Israel. In this chapter which we are considering, he is likened to a hopelessly sick man. When you come to Ezekiel 37:1ff, the sick man has died ; and, like Lazarus in the' grave, by this time he not only stinks, but his flesh has rotted away and all there is left of him is a heap of dry bones strewn over the open valley.

"Son of man, can these dry bones live?... So I prophesied as He commanded me ; and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Ezekiel 37:3-note)

Look at another figure of unbelieving Israel, in Romans 11. They are compared to broken-off branches of the brittle olive-tree. Can these broken-off fragments be made once again to live and bear fruit? Yes,—

"God is able to graft them in again. For if thou (Gentile) were cut out of the olive tree, which is wild by nature, and were grafted, contrary to nature, into a good olive tree, how much more shall these (Jews) which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!" (Romans 11:23-24-note).

"For I will restore you (Israel) to health and I will heal you of your wounds,' declares Jehovah, 'Because they have called you an outcast, saying: "It is [Zion](#); no one cares for her." (Jeremiah 30:17) .

Those not acquainted with the original (Hebrew) lose very much of the force of this last verse. Some Christians are very fond of the term "[Zion](#)" as a name for the Church, and they speak of "our Zion." They may be surprised to learn that [Zion](#) in the Hebrew means a "desert," "barrenness," or, as it is translated in Isaiah 25:5 "a dry place." Now, note the force of this taunting reproach. "They," (the Gentiles), "called thee Zion"—a barren desert, good for nothing, and which therefore, "no man seeks after." Now, just because it is so unpromising a plot of ground, God is going to take it in hand, and once again "the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." (Isa 35:1KJV) Blessed be God, it is just like Him! He always takes the most unpromising materials to accomplish most glorious ends.

Look at Israel in the past. Why did God choose them? Was it because they were more in number than other peoples? Was it because of their goodness or righteousness? No: they were the fewest of all people; and as Moses solemnly testifies to them:

"Know, then, it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn (stiff-necked) people." (Deut 9:6).

But Israel's very stiff-neckedness and barrenness gave occasion for the greater display of God's power and the infinitude of His grace. All the greater glory and credit to the great Husbandman, that the unpromising vine which He brought out of Egypt flourished so wonderfully, that

The hills were covered with its shadow,
And the mighty cedars with its boughs.
She sent out her boughs to the Sea,
And her branches to the River.
(Psalm 80:10-11NKJV)

Can any good thing come out of Zion? Yes: an Abraham, a Moses, a David, an Isaiah, a Paul—a CHRIST (Jn 1:46)!

Alas! In a moment of God's righteous anger, this garden of the Lord has become withered, as if smitten by some [sirocco](#) blast. "The boar out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast of the field doth devour it." (Ps 80:13KJV) They called thee "an outcast," saying, "This is Zion, whom no man seeks after" (Jer 30:17KJV) but the miracle of the past will yet be repeated and intensified. [Zion](#), in God's hand, is yet to be turned into the very "perfection of beauty" (Ps 50:2); "and the barren fig-tree shall again "bud and blossom, and fill the face of the earth with fruit." (Isa 27:6KJV)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH?

"But," some will say, "Israel's restoration and conversion, according to your own showing, is a work which can only be accomplished by the power of God. What then ought to be the attitude of the Church in relation to this matter? What can we do?"

True, Israel's restoration depends not on anything man can do, "He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock." (Jeremiah 31:10) We may well leave this in the hands of Him in whose power alone are the times and seasons, and whose counsels and purposes shall stand forever (Ps 33:11, Isa 46:10, Isa 14:24KJV), and are independent of all human strength and human means. Although God specially proclaims the fact of Israel's restoration to the Gentile nations, and in the

isles afar off,' showing that it is most important for them to know it, yet He nowhere commands them to bring it about.

Again, the work of conversion—whether of individuals or of nations, whether of Jews or of Gentiles—is always a work which only the power of God can accomplish; but that does not mean that the Church of Christ is to fold her hands as she has done for many centuries, and do next to nothing. What your attitude to Israel should be, is plainly shown in the Word of God.

(1) It should be an attitude of prayer. Do you aspire to be one of Jehovah's remembrancers? Then hark to His command :

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves. And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7) .

Let there be the heart's desire and believing prayer unto God for Israel that they may be saved. (Ro 10:1note)

And lest you should not know how to pray about this matter, God Himself has condescended to supply you with a form of prayer for Israel :

"For thus says the LORD, "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, And shout among the chiefs of the nations. Proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save Thy people, The remnant of Israel.'" (Jeremiah 31:7).

Has compassion, has gratitude for the wonderful blessings which you have received through them as the channel (Ro 11:17note), yea, has God's clear word of command, ever made your heart to go out after this manner in the prayer of faith for poor sick Israel? (Ed: cp Ps 122:6!)

(2) It should be an attitude of service. When Ezekiel was made by the Spirit of God to pass through and round about the "dry bones" in the valley of vision, the Lord put the question to him, "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" And the prophet's answer was: "O Lord God, Thou knowest!" as much as to say: "It is certainly beyond the power of man to do anything in such a case. The giving of life, whether physical or spiritual, is Thy prerogative and in Thy power; Thou alone must do it--O Lord God, Thou knowest!"

But there followed a command from the great God which must have seemed strange to the prophet. "Yes," said Jehovah, "life is My prerogative, and I am going to bestow it : 'Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves... and will put My spirit in you, and ye shall live.' But, son of man, there is something which you must do, so that the life which I alone can give may come to these dead bones. 'Prophecy unto these bones, and say unto them, O ye thy bones, hear the word of Jehovah.'" (Ezek 37:4)

Now, this is precisely what the Church has neglected to do; and yet it wonders that there has been no noise, no mighty shaking, or many signs of life among the dry bones.

O ye Christians who are fond of speaking of "Jewish unbelief," and have a pious aversion to poor Israel, because he calls not on the name of Christ, "How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe on Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher" (Ro 10:14-note) Know ye not that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God? (Ro 10:17-note) And know ye not that for centuries and centuries the Gospel of their own Messiah has been withheld from them; and the name of the Blessed Saviour was made to be blasphemed among them by the terrible cruelties which have been perpetrated on them, and the awful caricature of Christ which has been presented to them by those who have professed His name; and that to this day, in spite of a few recent, inadequate, and not always wisely-directed efforts, the great mass of the Jewish nation is left perfect ignorance of the holy name of Christ, and of the very existence of such a book as the New Testament? (Ed: [Read what happened in the Israeli Parliament in July, 2012](#))

You believe that Gentiles can only be born again by the Spirit of God: yet you do not expect those to whom the Gospel has not been preached to believe and call on the name of Christ! Those among Israel who have heard the glad tidings of salvation through their crucified and risen Messiah have not all disbelieved it ; and it is a matter of fact—which, however, those not informed on this subject may be surprised to hear—that, in spite of difficulties and terrible disappointments, there is no modern mission so hopeful, or which has produced such glorious results in conversion, or the converts from which have, by their usefulness and service to the Church universal, so abundantly rewarded all the efforts put forth, as the Jewish field.

But how, some may ask, does this advocacy of the evangelization of the Jews tally with what has been shown in an earlier chapter—that Israel, as a nation, will not be converted until after their restoration and the re-appearance of their Messiah upon whom they shall look and mourn?

Why, in the same manner as the evangelization of all the *Gentile* nations is consistent with the plain teaching of the Word of God: that not one of them, as a nation, will be converted before Christ's return, and the conversion of Israel.

Our commission is not to *convert* any one people or nation, but to evangelize all—to "go into all the world, and preach the gospel to

every creature" (Mk 16:15); and the results of this work of universal evangelization have been already foretold. As far as Israel is concerned, "a remnant according to the election of grace (according to God's gracious choice)" will be called out to call Jesus "blessed" now; while all Israel shall be saved by and by, when the Redeemer comes out of Zion to turn away ungodliness from Jacob. (Romans 11:5-note, Ro 11:26-note) And, as regards the Gentiles, God has visited them in this dispensation by the preaching of the Gospel, "taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name" (Acts 15:14); while "all the Gentiles" are left over to the time when the same Jesus Who was taken up into heaven shall so, and in like manner, come back from heaven.

Oh, fellow Christian, time is short! Already there are abundant signs that long scattered and long neglected Israel is hastening back to his land to pass through ere long that fiery ordeal and furnace awaiting him in Zion (Ed: Remember this was written more than 50 years prior to Israel becoming a nation in May 14, 1948!). Perhaps the most significant fact in this connection, is the now almost universally known, and rapidly spreading, [Zionist Movement](#), which seems destined, after centuries of dispersion, to bind all the scattered fragments of the people into one national force, with the ostensible aim of regaining possession of the land of their "fathers." "The Land " also is now being rapidly opened up, after all these many centuries, during which it was kept locked, and in its desolate condition as a stereotyped Commentary on "The Book." The distant sounds of our Master's chariots are already heard, and Jesus Christ is coming quickly to render to every man according to his work (Rev 22:12-[note](#)).

Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds? (Pr 24:11-12NKJV-[comment by William Arnot](#))

Who will be up and doing? Who will rise to the Lord's help against the mighty? Who by their prayers and substance will help to carry the gospel message to poor scattered Israel? "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:33-36-note)

For a full account and examination of Zionism, Anti-Semitism, etc., see my [The ancient Scriptures and the modern Jew \(online\)](#) (Hodder & Stoughton, 1901).

ADDENDUM: EDITORIAL COMMENTS

(1) The following statement regarding the nation of Israel was made by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon** in 1864 (84 years before Israel became a sovereign nation for a second time)

He surely ought to have known his own mind, and led by the Holy Spirit he gives us as an explanation of the vision, not— "Thus saith the Lord, my dying Church shall be restored," but—" I will bring my people out of their graves, and bring them into the land of Israel... The meaning of our text, as opened up by the context, is most evidently, if words mean anything, first, that there shall be a political restoration of the Jews to their own land and to their own nationality; and then, secondly, there is in the text, and in the context, a most plain declaration, that there shall be a spiritual restoration, a conversion in fact, of the tribes of Israel. (From his sermon entitled [The Restoration and Conversion of the Jews - Ezekiel 37:1-10](#))

John Weldon adds...

Never before in human history has a sovereign, unified, independent nation been reborn after the passage of some 2900 years, let alone in a single day, just as prophesied 2700 years ago in the Old Testament (Isaiah 66:8) and fulfilled on May 14, 1948.

From the division of the nation of Israel around 930 BC under king Rehoboam into two kingdoms (1 Kings 12: 20-24; the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah) -- and the nation's complete destruction (beginning in 70 AD, ending under the Roman Emperor Hadrian ca. 135 AD), until 1948 there was no sovereign, unified, independent nation of Israel. But in 1948 all that changed in one of the most staggering fulfillments of biblical prophecy ever. Israel's return to the land was in direct or indirect fulfillment to the divine (and sometimes dual) promises to Abraham and Isaac, David and Solomon and others (see esp. Genesis 12:1-3; 17:7; 18:19; 22:18; 26:3-4; 28:13-15; 46:2-4; Jeremiah 31: 35-36, 40; Isaiah 11: 10-12; 43:5-7, 66:7-10; Ezekiel 36:24, 33-36; 37:11-14,21-28).

Israel's national rebirth has no parallel in human history, but it is virtual proof of both the existence and the everlasting covenants of the God of the Bible...

Isaiah 11:11-12 specifically identifies the return he speaks of as a "second" return, where the people are gathered from the four corners of the earth. "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people... He will... gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth." (Isaiah 11:11-12, emphasis added) Again, this cannot refer to the return from the Babylonian captivity, which was not a second return and would have been limited only to a return to Israel from Babylon, not a return from nations around the world. In their regathering to create modern Israel, Jews came from almost 110 nations -- an incredible number of nations-- how can something like this possibly be considered a mere coincidence of history, as some argue?...

Comparing the desolate agriculture of the land for the last 2,000 years against modern Israel, the nature of the agricultural revolution is a miracle for all to see. The nation did not bloom until its people returned, despite all attempts to make it do so. (On the Internet, anyone who wishes can find Mark Twain's picturesque comments about Israel's utter desolation [[Mark Twain in the Holy Land](#)] -- hardly a bush seen anywhere -- which he noted as he traveled through the land See also [Mark Twain and The Jews](#).) Indeed, Europe today apparently gets most of its agriculture from Israel. (Recommended read = [John Weldon's book - God's Heart for Israel and Us](#)) ([Online Version](#))

British historian Paul Johnson wrote of the Jewish State

In the last half-century, over 100 completely new independent states have come into existence. Israel is the only one whose creation can fairly be called a miracle.

Dave Hunt observed

Nothing else in all of history comes even close to the preservation of the Jews as an identifiable ethnic group.

(2) Dr. Charles Dyer on the value of prophecy...

"God's promises for the future are anchor points to keep us stable, and to give us hope in times of personal distress and difficulty. The more we understand what God has promised for the future, the more we can endure our problems today."

(3) Who is David about whom the prophets speak?

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I shall raise up for **David a righteous Branch**; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'

Comment: Note that **David** and the "**Righteous Branch**" are distinguished as distinct individuals here (if one reads the text in its plain, normal sense), the Righteous Branch clearly referring to the Messiah (see also Isa 4:2; 11:1; 53:2; Jer 33:15; Zec 3:8; 6:12) Who will reign as King, indeed as "**King of kings**" (Rev 19:16-note) implying that there are **kings** subject to King Jesus' rule which will be elaborated upon in the passage below! One also needs to ask when are the days that **Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely**? Has that been fulfilled? Clearly not, for even as I write this note (7/25/12) rockets were fired at Israel by the Palestinians! And so this phrase has to refer to the future salvation of the Jews when one-third will be saved by grace through faith at the time of Messiah's return (Ro 11:26-27-note, Zech 12:10, Zech 13:8-9).

Jeremiah 30:8-9-note 'And it shall come about **on that day (What day?)** See context = "time of Jacob's distress" Jer 30:7),' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck, and will tear off their bonds; and strangers shall no longer make them their slaves. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

Comment: Baron and many other conservative commentators interpret "David" as referring to Jesus. My simple question is what does the text say? Who will the "liberated" Jews serve? Two descriptions are given: (1) the LORD their God and (2) David their king. The text does not say "the LORD their god "even" David their king" which would clearly equate these two designations. But you ask "How could David be king in the future? He is dead." Yes, David died but the text says "whom I will raise up." Who will God raise up? The nearest antecedent is David. While one might say the word "raise" in this context simply means to "exalt", the literal root meaning of the Hebrew verb qum is to raise up from a prostrate position. While I cannot find qum used in the OT to describe resurrection from the dead, it is notable that the Greek verb chosen here is anistemi, which is the NT verb used to describe resurrection from the dead, including Jesus' resurrection from the dead (Mt 17:9, Mt 20:19, Mk 8:31, Mk 9:9, 10, 31, 34, Lk 18:33, Lk 24:7,46, Jn 20:9, Acts 2:24,32, Acts 10:41, Acts 13:34, Acts 17:3,31, 1Th 4:14). Is it therefore unreasonable to think that David will be resurrected from the dead in the future? And if he is resurrected, why is it so difficult to envision him as King over Israel and subject in turn to the King of kings? Finally, while Jesus is repeatedly referred to as the "Son of David", I can find no place in Scripture where Jesus is called "David." In summary, if one reads the text in its

plain, normal sense, it is at least reasonable to consider that David will be resurrected and will reign as king under Christ, the King of kings.

John Walvoord comments: According to Jeremiah 30:9, 10 it is predicted that Israel will be free from Gentile oppression and will serve the Lord and David their king. Jeremiah writes:

“But they shall serve Jehovah their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. Therefore fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith Jehovah; 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 quiet and at ease, and none shall make him afraid.”

As in other passages, the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant is linked with the return of Israel to the land following their time of Jacob's trouble, as indicated in the preceding context. Here it is stated that they will serve Jehovah and **David their king. There is no good reason for not taking this exactly as it is written, namely, that David will be raised from the dead and will with Christ reign over the people of Israel in the millennium.** Even if David is understood to refer to Christ as David's greater Son, it is still a clear reference to a future millennium rather than to a situation that exists today.

Related Resources:

- [Discussion of Identity of David in commentary on Hosea 3:5](#)
- [Discussion of Identity of David in Jeremiah 30:9](#)

John Walvoord's related series on **Israel in Prophecy** is highly recommended...

- [Chapter I The New State Of Israel](#)
- [Chapter II The Promise To Abraham](#)
- [Chapter III Israel's Future As A Nation](#)
- [Chapter IV The Promise Of The Land To Israel](#)
- [Chapter V The Kingdom Promised To David](#)
- [Chapter VI The Suffering Of Israel](#)
- [Chapter VII The Glorious Restoration Of Israel](#)
- [Selected Bibliography](#)

(4) The preservation of the Jews a sign of God's covenant faithfulness, despite their frequent faithlessness!

God is always faithful to His covenantal promises. The eighteenth century German emperor, **Frederick the Great** asked his personal physician, Zimmermann: "Zimmermann, can you name me a single proof of the existence of God?"

Zimmermann succinctly replied, "Your Majesty, the Jews!"

Throughout the centuries of persecution, discrimination, and genocide, God has preserved His people Israel! Believe in the King of the Jews, the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved! (Acts 16:31-note)

(5) Jeremiah 31:35-37-note - Who is Jehovah addressing? In Jer 31:31 clearly He is speaking to a literal **Israel** and a literal **Judah**. He then goes on to speak of the assurance of their preservation as **anation** writing that "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever." (Jer 31:36). It is amazing and saddening to read otherwise respected commentaries that ignore the plain reading of Jehovah's promise to **Israel** and **Judah** in Jeremiah 31:35-37!

To be sure, Peter describes believers as a **"HOLY NATION,"** (1 Peter 2:9) but to conclude that this fulfills Jeremiah's prophecy that the offspring of Israel will not cease to be a nation would call for one to spiritualize (or allegorize) the text of Jeremiah ([see interpretation](#)) and say he was referring to the Church and not to a literal nation of Israel. While Peter calls believers a **HOLY NATION** they are clearly not a **literal** nation in the sense that Israel was a literal nation, is still a literal nation and will continue to be a literal nation until the return of Jesus, at which time the promises of Jeremiah will be finally fully fulfilled (In addition to many other prophecies - see comments on Zechariah 12-14, where 3 chapters are viewed in context as a "unit" which describe "the burden of the word of the LORD concerning ISRAEL - this prophecy describes in detail what will transpire when Jesus returns at the end of this age. E.g., see notes on incredible prophecy in Zech 12:10+).

Here are several comments from one of the best "older" commentaries (pre-1900) which assiduously avoids spiritualizing (allegorizing) the text and generally tries to discern the plain meaning of a normal reading of the Biblical text - [A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory on the Old and New Testaments](#)" (Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D) -

Jeremiah 31:31. the days ... new covenant with ... Israel ... Judah— The new covenant is made with literal Israel and Judah, not with the spiritual Israel, that is, believers, except secondarily, and as grafted on the stock of Israel (Ro 11:16–27). For the whole subject of the thirtieth and thirty-first chapters is the restoration of the Hebrews (Jer 30:4, 7, 10, 18). With the “remnant according to the election of grace” in Israel, the new covenant has already taken effect. But with regard to the whole nation, its realization is reserved for the last days, to which Paul refers this prophecy in an abridged form (Ro 11:27). (Bolding and color added for emphasis)

Jeremiah 31:32 Not ... the covenant that I made with ... fathers—the Old Testament covenant, as contrasted with our gospel covenant (Heb 8:8–12, where this prophecy is quoted to prove the abrogation of the law by the gospel), of which the distinguishing features are its securing by an adequate atonement the forgiveness of sins, and by the inworking of effectual grace ensuring permanent obedience. **An earnest of this is given partially in the present eclectic or elect Church gathered out of Jews and Gentiles. But the promise here to Israel in the last days is national and universal, and effected by an extraordinary outpouring of the Spirit** (Jer 31:33, 34; Ezek 11:17–20), independent of any merit on their part (Ezek 36:25–32; 37:1–28; 39:29; Joel 2:23–28; Zec 12:10; 2Co 3:16). (Bolding added)...

Jeremiah 31:36. a nation—Israel's national polity (**Ed**: existence as a nation) has been broken up by the Romans. **But their preservation as a distinct people amidst violent persecutions, though scattered among all nations for eighteen centuries, unamalgamated, whereas all other peoples under such circumstances have become incorporated with the nations in which they have been dispersed, is a perpetual standing miracle** (compare Je 33:20; Ps 148:6; Is 54:9, 10). (Bolding added)

(6) Romans 9-11 is the greatest treatise on God's heart for Israel but is often one of the least preached and least understood by many in the NT church. For this reason, the commentary by **Dr Anthony Garland** is highly recommended as one of the best I have ever encountered on the "Jewish Problem." Garland is conservative and approaches the Scriptures from a literalist perspective, but he is "fair and balanced" and presents his exposition in an intellectually honest manner. Below are links to over 12 hours of teaching on Romans 9-11. Each link will in turn give you several choices including an **Mp3 message** and brief transcript notes. The Mp3's are long (average 70+ min) but are in depth and thoroughly Scriptural with many quotations from the Old Testament. Take notes on the tapes as the transcripts are a very abbreviated version of the audio messages. This course is highly recommended for all who love Israel! I think you will agree that Tony Garland, despite coming to faith after age 30 as an engineer, clearly has been given a special anointing by God to promulgate the Biblical truth concerning Israel and God's future plan for Jews. He has also produced more than 20 hours of superb audio teaching in his verse by verse commentary on the [Revelation](#) (in depth transcripts also available) which will unravel (in a way you did not think was possible considering the divergent interpretations) God's final message of the triumph and return of our Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

- [Romans 9:1-5 Paul's Sorrow Concerning Israel](#)
- [Romans 9:6-13 Children of the Promise](#)
- [Romans 9:14-24 The Potter and the Clay](#)
- [Romans 9:25-33 A Remnant Will be Saved](#)
- [Romans 10:1-13 The Righteousness of God](#)
- [Romans 10:14-21 Has Israel Not Heard?](#)
- [Romans 11:1-6 God Has Not Cast Away The Jews](#)
- [Romans 11:7-15 Life from the Dead](#)
- [Romans 11:16-24 Two Olive Trees](#)
- [Romans 11:25-36 The Salvation of Israel](#)

(7) Related Resources:

- [Romans 11 Does God Have a Future for Israel? - Gil Rugh - 46 page booklet](#)
- [Israel of God - Is God "Finished" with Israel in His prophetic plan?](#)
- [Off Site - Table Comparing/contrasting Israel & Church](#)
- [Off Site - Does the Church Fulfill Israel's Program? - John Walvoord](#)
- [The Jewish People, Jesus Christ and World History - S Lewis Johnson](#)
- [Are Israel and the church the same thing? Does God still have a plan for Israel?](#)
- [Are Jews saved because they are God's chosen people? Will Jews go to Heaven even if they do not trust in Jesus?](#)
- [What is dispensationalism and is it biblical?](#)
- [What does it mean that the church has been grafted in Israel's place?](#)

- [What is Israelology?](#)
- [What is replacement theology?](#)
- [Who are the seed of Abraham?](#)
- [Interpretation of Scripture - includes discussion of the rise of Allegorical interpretation](#)
- [What is replacement theology / supersessionism?](#)
- [What is spiritual Israel?](#)
- [What is New Israel?](#)
- FOLLOWING ARE FROM ARNOLD FRUCHTENBAUM
- [Israelology: Part 1 of 6 Introduction: Definition of Terms](#)
- [Israelology: Part 2 of 6 Israel Present \(Note: Article begins on Page 2\)](#)
- [Israelology: Part 3 of 6 Israel Present \(Continued\)](#)
- [Israelology: Part 4 of 6 - Israel Future \(Part One\)](#)
- [Israelology: Part 5 of 6 - Israel Future \(Part Two\)](#)
- [Israelology: Part 6 of 6 Other Relevant Topics - Illustrations of Israel \(including marriage\)](#)

These are conservative sources that use a literal approach in interpretation of the Scriptures

- [Ray Stedman - Jeremiah 30-31 Commentary - The Secret of Strength](#)
- [Ray Stedman - Jeremiah 32-33 Commentary - Is Anything Too Hard for God](#)
- [David Baron - Notes on Jeremiah 30 from his book "The Jewish Problem"](#)
- [Thomas Constable - Jeremiah 30-33 Commentary](#)
- [A C Gaebele's Annotated Bible - Jeremiah 30-33 Commentary](#)
- [David Guzik - Jeremiah 30-33 Commentary](#)
- [H A Ironside - Jeremiah 30-33 Commentary](#)
- [Holman Study Bible Notes](#)
- [Henry Morris - Defender's Study Bible Notes \(see links on right side\)](#)
- [NET Bible Notes on Jeremiah 30, Jeremiah 31, Jeremiah 32, Jeremiah 33](#)
- [J Vernon McGee Mp3's - Jeremiah 30 Intro, Jeremiah 30, Jeremiah 31:1, Jeremiah 31:2-7, Jeremiah 31:8-30, Jeremiah 31:31-40, Jeremiah 32, Jeremiah 33:1-13, Jeremiah 33:14-26](#)

Commentaries - not free but take a literal approach to interpretation:

- [MacArthur Study Bible](#)
- [F. B. Huey-Jeremiah, Lamentations-New American Commentary](#)
- [Charles Feinberg - Expositor's Bible Commentary-Jeremiah \(1986 Edition\)](#)
- [Michael Brown - Expositor's Bible Commentary-Jeremiah \(2010 Edition\)](#)
- [Moody Bible Commentary- Michael A Rydelnik, Charles H. Dyer](#)
- [The Bible Knowledge Commentary - Old Testament](#)
- [Warren Wiersbe - Be Decisive - Jeremiah - Taking a Stand for the Truth](#)

Journal Articles or other discussions related to Jeremiah 30-33:

- [Jeremiah 30 - A Warning to the Palestinians and the Gentiles! - Mal Couch](#)
- [Jeremiah 30:7 The Time of Jacob's Trouble Approaching - David Cooper](#)
- [Michael Brown - Is the Time of Jacob's Trouble Past, Future, or Both?](#)
- [John Walvoord - Jeremiah 30:5-7 - The Suffering Of Israel](#)
- [John Walvoord - Jeremiah 30, 31 - The Promise Of The Land To Israel](#)
- [John Walvoord - Jeremiah 30-31 - The Glorious Restoration Of Israel](#)
- [John Walvoord - Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The New Covenant with Israel](#)
- [John Walvoord - Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Another Discussion of the New Covenant with Israel](#)
- [S Lewis Johnson - Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The New Covenant and Prophecy](#)
- [Dennis Swanson - Jeremiah 31:38-40 The Expansion of Jerusalem-Never, Already or Not Yet?](#)

Sermons on Jeremiah 30-33

- [Alan Carr - Jeremiah 32:1-15 The Prison Of His Purposes](#)
- [Alan Carr - Jeremiah 32:16-27 The God of the Impossible](#)

- [Steven Cole - Jeremiah 32:1-25 - The Man Who Bought Property In A War Zone](#)
- [Charles Simeon - Jeremiah 30:10, 11. God's gracious Designs towards his chosen People](#)
- [Charles Simeon - Jeremiah 30:17. The Conversion of the Jews—our Duty to promote it](#)
- [Charles Simeon - Jeremiah 31:7–9. The Restoration of the Jews](#)
- [Charles Simeon - Jeremiah 32:37–42. The future Conversion of the Jews](#)
- [Charles Simeon - Jeremiah 33:6–9. Conversion of the Jews of Importance to God and Man](#)