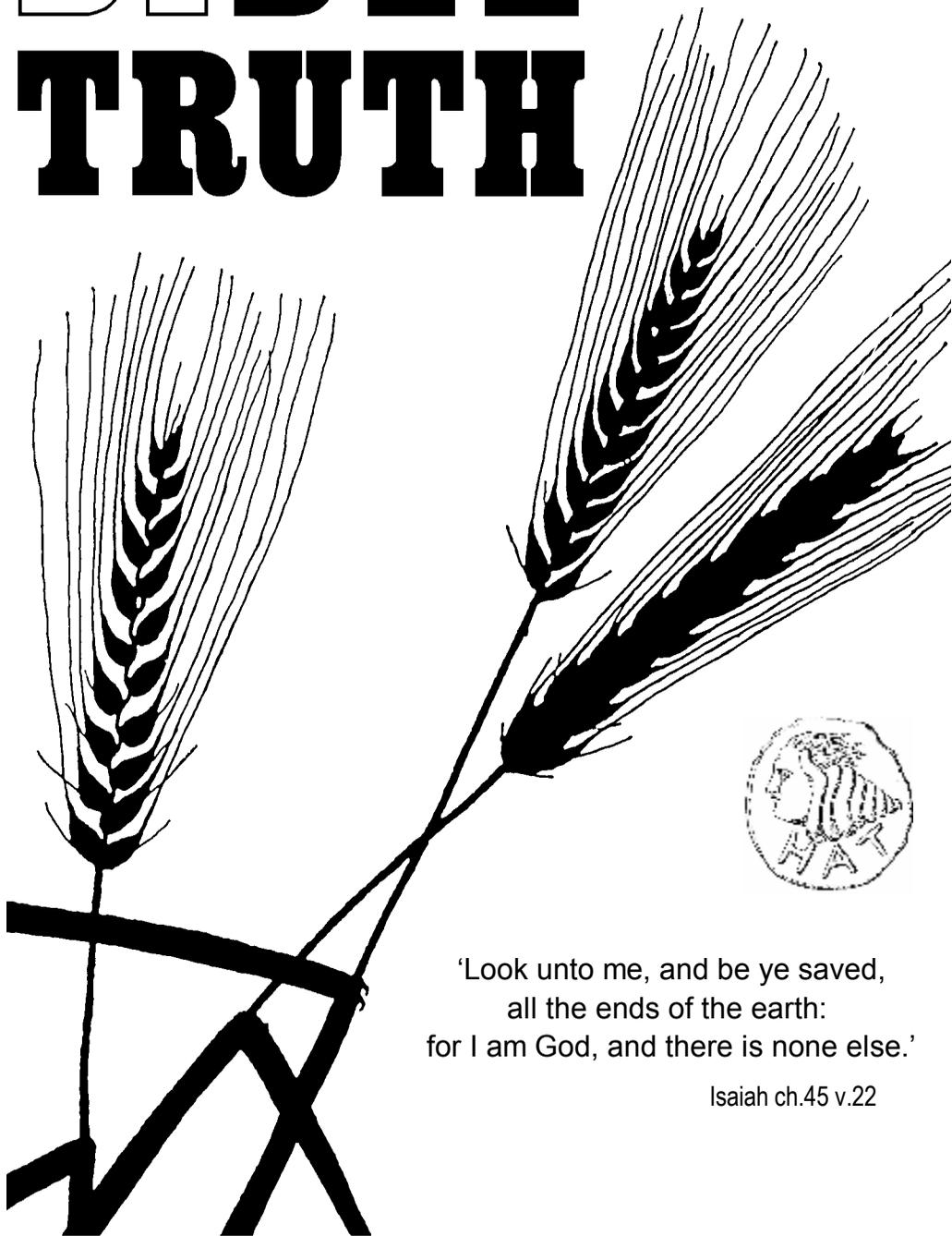


BIBLE TRUTH

No. 256
October/December
2009



'Look unto me, and be ye saved,
all the ends of the earth:
for I am God, and there is none else.'

Isaiah ch.45 v.22

ISRAEL IN THE LAST DAYS - THE TIME FACTOR

by the late Jon Ellis

Editor's note: Though this article was written prior to the recent withdrawal of troops from Iraq, it still has relevance to the world scene.

Elsewhere it has been stated that, 'Israel' must consist of a group of at least three related nations. They must be living in places of safety, and some of them must be in islands, north-west and/or 'north and west' of Palestine. They must be military powers and in some ways have acted as God's servant people. They must include a monarchy with a continuous history. The only people who satisfy these conditions are the people of Great Britain, the USA and Canada together with those who departed to Australia, New Zealand, and so on. These Anglo-Saxon Celtic people are the only ones who completely fulfil the prophecies given to and about the Northern House of Israel.

Now we must look at an important prophetic time factor which shows when many of these prophecies are fulfilled in history. This adds confirmation to the conclusions that are reached. Israel was to be restored as the Servant Nation after 2,520 years. In the law given to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, God promised that if they obeyed His laws they would have national prosperity. However, God also warned them that if they were disobedient, they would experience a punishment period of 'Seven Times'.

'And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.'

Leviticus ch.26 v.18

Now a period of 3½ 'times' = 1,260 years (see Revelation ch.12 vv.6 &14 with Ezekiel ch.4 v.6). Thus, 7 'times' is 2 x 1,260 = 2,520 years.

During the period of obedience to Divine Law, for example, during the reigns of David and Solomon, the people enjoyed national blessing, but when they turned from God's ways He allowed them to be taken into captivity. God had promised in Leviticus ch.26 vv.44-45 that during Israel's captivity He would not cast them away, but that He would remember His covenant with Abraham. The Apostle Paul dealt with this subject in his letter to the Romans (see ch.11), teaching that Israel was not cast away, that they would be restored, and that their restoration would result in blessing being brought to the world.

Thus Israel was to have a 2,520 year period of chastening and correction, after which the Nation would be fitted for God's service. Now the majority of 'Israel' were taken captive from 732 BC to 721 BC and therefore the 2,520 years ended in the period AD 1789 - AD 1800.

732 BC	2520 years	AD 1789
Israelite tribes east of Jordan including half of Manasseh, carried away captive.		The first central United States government formed.
721 BC	2520 years	AD 1800
Inhabitants of Samaria, the Israelite capital, and Israelites including the tribe of Ephraim, taken to Assyria and Media.		Union of Ireland with Great Britain to form the United Kingdom

Note: in computing the time period, a year is added to account for there being no year '0' AD.

From this time, i.e. 1789 to 1800, the two insignificant nations of Britain and America whose constitution has been rooted in Scripture, began to expand and develop into two of the greatest nations in the world. Before that time the British Empire did not exist, and most of Britain's colonies were empty lands until their discovery, e.g. Australia was not discovered until 1770.

In spite of their many faults, God has used Britain and America as military powers to fight tyranny e.g. in World Wars I and II, against Nazi Germany and Japan. During that period there were a number of miracles that saved our nation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came as the Saviour of men and the Redeemer of Israel (see Luke ch.1 vv.68-69), and Britain and America have been at the fore of the nations to embrace the Gospel of Christ and carry it to every corner of the earth.

The Baptist Missionary Society was formed in 1793, followed by the London Missionary Society in 1794 and the Church Missionary Society in 1800. In 1813 the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society was formed, and the British Government passed a resolution altering the Charter of the East India Company to allow missionaries to enter that country. From that time forward, Britain (and America) have poured an endless stream of missionaries, doctors and teachers into all the world.

The British and Foreign Bible Society was formed In 1804 and 12 years later, 128 different denominational Bible Societies in America amalgamated to form the American Bible Society. From that time, Britain and America have sent forth the Scriptures in hundreds of millions of copies and in more than a thousand different languages or dialects.

‘Israel’ in the Last Days

In the last 50 years, and in particular since World War II, the Anglo-Saxon Celtic nations have undergone many humiliating experiences. Britain has lost her Empire and is now embroiled with the European Union.

Looking at the present situation, Bible students familiar with prophecies concerning the fall of Babylon, look for further signs of collapse in Babylonian power. Many Christians have long prayed for deliverance from government by Europe, and the loss of our ancient freedoms, sovereignty and separate identity. A President of France threatened to veto our resolution in the UN Security Council showing implacable opposition to the Anglo-American policy.

We have seen Britain, the USA, and Australia unite in one coalition and go to war with Iraq which was opposed by another coalition of France, Germany and Russia. Nothing could show us more clearly that Britain could not rely on one EU army, given two such diametrically opposing views over war with Iraq. Had this step already been taken, it would have been impossible for Britain to ally with, or to fight alongside the USA, if France and Germany were against it. A lesson on the dangers of committing to a united Europe.

We can thank our God for the opportunity to recognise the value of independence and freedom. Ultimately the EU is flawed, and as Daniel foretold,

‘... but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay’.

Daniel ch.2 v.43

The United Nations’ headquarters in New York, has been likened to a modern Tower of Babel, that stands near where the twin towers of the World Trade Centre collapsed on September 11th 2001, signifying a change in world order. Not only has God split the EU, isolating Britain from the other leading EU powers, but He has also split the so-called United Nations, isolating the Israel nations from most other leading world powers.

Not only has Britain been forced to act independently of the EU, but both Britain and the USA have rediscovered the courage to act independently of the United Nations. Now Britain and the USA are using the right that God gave them to overthrow tyranny, rather than acting in the name of Babel (see Isaiah ch.41 vv.10-15). We saw the UN publicly identified by President Bush as a failing organisation.

Led by the USA, we have moved outside of the humanistic framework we constructed at the end of World War II to now act independently. It seems significant that the issue which God used to split the EU and the UN is Iraq or its ancient name Babylon, being the site of the city of Babylon which was suddenly destroyed when God wrote 'time's up' on the palace wall at Belshazzar's Feast (see Daniel ch.5).

God has spoken of these 'latter days' in the Book of Jeremiah ch.30 v.24, where in v.7 He refers to them as the 'time of Jacob's trouble'.

'Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.'

The following verse (v. 8), and many other passages from the prophets, show that the 'separation of Israel' from the rest of the world is not happening as a punishment, but is completely within the will of God (see Isaiah ch.26 v.20-21 & Revelation ch.18 v.4). During this period, additional troubles arise because of national sin thus there is a need for national and individual repentance and a turning back to God. The separation of Israel is portrayed in many scriptures as the 'death' of the nation (see Ezekiel ch.37 v.1-14, Luke ch.15 vv.11-32 & Revelation ch.11 vv.3-12). These same passages also foretell the subsequent national resurrection, awakening and revival, which will precede the return of our Lord Jesus Christ (see also Hosea ch.2 vv.14-23 & Joel ch.2 vv.27-32).

At the time of the Cold War the nations were aligned in groups closely corresponding to those described in End Time prophecies such as Ezekiel chs 38 & 39. With the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the break-up of the USSR this alignment seems to have disappeared, but recent events have changed things once again.

The new realignment of nations has suddenly shifted back towards that final coalition which the Bible described. So today, France, Germany, Russia, China, are once again all allied against God's two Israelite witnesses,

- Manasseh - a great people, and
- Ephraim - a multitude of nations

(See Genesis ch.48 vv.13-20, especially v.19).

If the USA can lead a coalition to invade Iraq to liberate a people, so can Russia act in a similar way. Russia was weakened by losing the cold war and humiliated by the break-up of the Warsaw Pact, and the USSR. Russia will now seek ways to regain power and world popularity. According to the Bible, one day she will. However, the invasion of Palestine by a Russian-led coalition will not prosper for them. Instead it will mark the end of this age, and quickly lead on to the thousand year reign on this earth of the Lord Jesus Christ after His second coming in glory.

‘And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. ... Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.’

Ezekiel ch.39 vv.21-22 & 29

The Separated Peoples of ‘Israel’ and ‘Judah’ will be reunited in Palestine.

‘Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: ... Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.’

Ezekiel ch.37 vv.16 & 19-22

This prophecy of the reuniting of 'Israel' and 'Judah' has not as yet been fulfilled in history. This, therefore, confirms that 'Israel' exists separately from 'Judah' at this present time, for it would be impossible for God to join two things if they did not both exist!

We have seen some of 'Judah', in the sense of Jews, return to Palestine. When our Lord Jesus Christ returns, many from 'Judah' will repent and turn to Him (see Zechariah ch.12 v.10). Those many 'born-again' people of Israel and Judah will then be reunited and brought back to Palestine (Isaiah ch.51 v.11 and Jeremiah ch.3 v.18).

The believing dead, of all ages, will be resurrected at the time of Christ's return. These, together with the living Christians out of every nation, are incorporated into Israel (see Romans ch.11 and Galatians ch.3 v.29). These 'born-again' people (i.e. Israel) will be servants of Jesus Christ during His millennial reign on earth.

'Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.'

Revelation ch.20 v.6

Jesus Christ will reign in power and righteousness upon the 'Throne of David'.

'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 for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.'

Luke ch.1 vv. 32-33